

# HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA

## Highlights of the General Meeting - April 27th, 2016

**NEXT FLIGHT:** Saturday, May 21 out of Fort Lauderdale -- 77 veterans are registered. Guardian training is 1 p.m., April 30 and 10 a.m., May 7 at Broward College in Davie. Veterans will visit the Korean War Memorial in addition to the regular stops at the World War II and Iwo Jima memorials and the Arlington Cemetery Changing of the Guard. Lunch will be on the bus.

**FALL FLIGHT:** Final plans are being negotiated for the jumbo-jet flight from Miami to Dulles Airport; tentative date -- Oct. 8. We will be carrying 150-180 World War II veterans. Our veteran list is short, so please encourage any relatives or friends to register.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We will need our usual force of "ground crew" volunteers May 21 -- both early morning and evening for homecoming. But May illustrates the many other needs for volunteers. Please check this list and see where you can help:

- Guardian training: 1 p.m. April 30 and 10 a.m. May 7 -- Sorting and distributing T-shirts, flight bags and caps.
- Air & Sea Show: May 7-8 -- We have a good group of volunteers who will be working at a concession stand on the beach. It will serve a dual purpose -- publicity and fundraising for Honor Flight. Thanks to all who have volunteered; final details on parking, etc. are still to come.
- Davie Memorial Day Parade: 9:30 a.m. Monday, May 30. We will be carrying the Honor Flight banner down Orange Drive to the Bergeron Rodeo (not too far from where we hold our meetings). It's a good chance to promote Honor Flight.
- Memorial Day fundraiser celebration: Bokamper's Sports Bar & Grill will conclude its month-long "Tribute to our Heroes" with a grand Memorial Day promotion. Honor Flight will benefit from donations, such as writing letters to the troops and "buy a veteran a beer." Volunteers are needed in the afternoon and evening May 30 to build support for this benefit. Bokamper's, owned by former Miami Dolphin Kim Bokamper, has restaurants in Fort Lauderdale, Plantation, Miramar and two in Collier County.

If you can help May 21 or with any of these events, email Tom Christensen -- tchristensen720@aol.com

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** With most expenses paid for the May 21 flight, we have more than \$100,000 in the bank, plus an additional donation of \$10,000 from Broward County Schools. The April 2 flight was the least expensive ever for our hub -- \$20,000. The estimate for the May 21 flight is \$30,000. Many hubs, flying similar distances, spend up to \$90,000 per flight. Chairman Rick Asper thanked Eastern Airlines President Ed Wegel for the very reasonable charter rates, estimating that Eastern had saved the hub approximately \$150,000 with its three flights.

**FUNDRAISING:** We are forming a small committee of volunteers

to work with Stan Bostic on fundraising events. Volunteers would brainstorm ideas and research and lead fundraising events. Ideas from all others are always welcome. Stan is working on the joint fundraiser Charity Golf Classic Nov. 5 at Madison Green C.C. in West Palm Beach. He is also planning a tournament in Broward; time and course TBA. If you can help with fundraising, email Stan -- stanbostic@rickcase.com.

**GOING ONLINE:** Donor Snap is operational on the website. Veterans, guardians, volunteers and donors can all register on the website. Also Jim Naskrent has flyers, posters and maps (to print or post on Facebook) for the May 21 homecoming celebration at FLL -- <http://www.honorflightouthflorida.org/may21...> John McCrory has been appointed to explore the possibility of retail sales of T-shirts, caps, etc., on the website.

**ELITE GUARDIANS:** There will be a recognition and debriefing of the Vietnam veterans who served as guardians on the April 2 flight at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 30.

**GUARDIAN ELIGIBILITY:** In answer to a question on whether guardians could be older than 65, Rick Asper explained that we often have taken guardians who are in their 70s. Older guardian candidates must be deemed fit for the responsibilities of the day and receive a waiver from medical director Gabe Nemeth.

**MISSING HONOR CHAIR:** We are still missing one wheelchair from the April 2 flight. If you know where it is, please contact Steve Shapiro -- rags@troyindustries.com.

**WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO:** Rick Asper described that he had gone to a funeral this week for WWII veteran Bud Garner, an author of Pompano history. The central "shrine" was his Honor Flight display from April 25, 2015. Every mail call letter was mounted in a scrapbook. There was also his Honor Flight cap and boarding pass. Several of Bud's relatives were discussing who would get to take it home, before his widow came over to them and said something like "you can see them when you visit me." It's just a reminder of the lasting impact of Honor Flight.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETINGS:** Wednesdays, May 11 and May 18, 6:30 p.m. at Broward College, Davie.

Tom Christensen, Volunteer coordinator