

HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA

Highlights of the General Meeting - May 10th, 2017

NEXT FLIGHT -- MAY 20: In just another week, we'll be flying a charter of 11 World War II and 58 Korean War veterans for their special day in Washington. Chairman Rick Asper said that Miami Air made a later offer to accept his earlier proposal to fly to Reagan National rather than as previously scheduled flight to Baltimore. Although Reagan National is the preferred destination, the board decided that it was too late to make the change and could lead to confusion with the many details and agencies involved. So Flight 1941 will depart for Baltimore at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 20.

Although the Baltimore arrival means a longer drive to the National Mall, Rick assured that the park police would be ready to lead the convoy of buses through heavy traffic, just as on the last flight day.

Homecoming flyers and a map are available at www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/homecoming/.

"GROUND CREW" VOLUNTEERS: We still need a few more volunteers for both early morning check-in and evening homecoming on May 20. If you can help, email Tom Christensen -- tchristensen720@aol.com.

HOTEL AVAILABLE AT MIA: Ryan Paton has reserved a block of rooms at Miami International Airport Hotel. The hotel is right in the terminal and convenient for the early morning departure. The Honor Flight rate is \$89, plus tax. Reservations for either May 19 or 20 can be made by calling 1-800-327-1276 and asking for the Honor Flight discounted rate under Confirmation 10700.

PARKING: Free parking will be available for guardians and volunteers who are scheduled to work. Departure and arrival will be from Concourse J, the very end of the long "U" of the Miami airport terminal. As you enter the garage, take a ticket. **DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH THE SUNPASS LANE.** Bring your ticket with you and it will be stamped for your exit.

MORE T-SHIRTS FOR SALE: At homecoming, we will be debuting a wider selection of T-shirts. The same design as on the blue veteran/guardian shirts will be available in light blue, sand/tan, pink and green shirts. We will also be selling some military and patriotic shirts.... If you have a device on your phone or another way of taking credit card payments and are available to work at homecoming, please email tchristensen720@aol.com.

GUARDIANS NEEDED: Mercy Iglesias is recruiting guardians for the fall flights -- September 9 and October 28. Rick Asper encouraged everyone to try to be a guardian some time. He said that among the many positive comments he has heard about Honor Flight is one that especially makes him proud -- that so many are willing to give up their time, plus pay the \$400 fee, to serve as a guardian. You can register on the website -- www.honorflightsouthflorida.org.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE: There was some encouraging news both about recent and future fundraising efforts:

-- Honor Flight received \$3,000 in donations at the Lauderdale Small Boat Club's fundraising kickoff event. The drive will continue through 2017 and Rick said there was a possibility of as much as \$30,000 in donations.

-- Mercy Iglesias said that proceeds and donations at the Lincoln's Beard Brewery event raised \$1,941, a very appropriate number in support of World War II veterans.

-- Volunteers raised \$1,759 working the concession stands at the Fort Lauderdale Air Show.

-- Stan Bostic said plans are starting to come together for the August 12 golf tournament and October 14 military gala. Brochures are available for the golf tournament. Stan said that entertainment has been contracted for the gala and he is hopeful that Gen. John Paxton will be the featured speaker. Stan still

needs more volunteers and asked everyone to seek sponsors for the events, including sponsors for beverages and meals and for foursomes of veterans. If you know possible sponsors but are hesitant to ask, contact Stan and he will call. If you have any auction donations or can help in any way, email stanbostic@rickcase.com or kimcou1@yahoo.com.

-- Stan said that the efforts for those two events have already provided several significant donations, including one from former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

MEMORIAL DAY AT BOKAMPER'S: For the second consecutive year, Bokamper's on the Intracoastal is planning a Memorial Day celebration to support Honor Flight and our veterans. World War II and Korean War veterans are encouraged to be at the restaurant by 5:30 for a special ceremony and buffet dinner. Honor Flight will have a table with brochures, application forms, donation bucket and T-shirts for sale. Reservations are needed by Monday, May 22. If you would like to bring your veteran or can work at the table, email tchristensen720@aol.com.

COCKTAILS WITH HEROES: Ryan Paton is planning a special event with World War II veterans at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 10 at Capital Grill in Boca Raton. Veterans will be honored with a police escort. It will be a seven-course meal, with each course plus accompanying wine representing another nation liberated by U.S. troops. Tickets are \$150 with proceeds benefiting Honor Flight. Email ryan@capitollg.com for ticket information or if you can help.

WORTH NOTING: Steve Shapiro thanked John Bridgman and Pompano Legion Post 142 for donating two new Honor Chairs. ... Eighteen veterans visited the USS New York during Fleet Week. ... Tamarac will be issuing a proclamation in recognition of Honor Flight on May 24. ... A presentation at Century Village, Pembroke Pines, resulted in five WWII and four Korean veterans filing applications. For flyers to assist in recruiting veterans, go to www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/supportmaterial/.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Wednesday, May 24: Veterans and drivers needed for special veterans recognition event at Oakridge Elementary School in Hollywood. Contact ryan@capitollg.com.

Saturday and Sunday, May 27-28: Volunteers to work at Honor Flight table at Miami Air & Sea Show. Contact stanbostic@rickcase.com.

Monday, May 29: Honor Flight participating in Memorial Day Parade in Davie. Also volunteers needed to try to recruit veterans at Memorial Day events in Coconut Creek, Coral Springs, Davie, North Lauderdale, Plantation and Tamarac. Contact tchristensen720@aol.com.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 17, 6:30 p.m., with final mail call sorting.

-- Tom Christensen, Volunteer coordinator