

HIGHLIGHTS FROM HONOR FLIGHT MEETING ON JULY 22

NEXT FLIGHT: Saturday, Oct. 17. Seats are going fast. Guardian training is planned for Saturday, Sept. 5 (time TBA) at Institute of Public Safety, buildings 21 and 22 on the Broward College campus, in Davie. There's a possibility of a second guardian training if needed.

FUTURE FLIGHTS: The board is considering several ambitious ideas for flights in the spring. Still being discussed is a generous proposal from one airline for a flight of Vietnam War veterans. Honor Flight South Florida's priority remains to try to fly as many World War II veterans to Washington as possible. We have also taken some Korean War veterans and veterans of any era are considered if in grave health but still eager to see their memorials. Ryan Paton said the board is considering a counter-proposal that the flight would include World War II veterans and also a possibility of some Vietnam vets serving as guardians. The board is also still considering the possibility of a jumbo jet flight in the spring. All these flights are being discussed with the emphasis being that Honor Flight's prime mission at this time remains in honoring World War II veterans.

HONORING VETERANS AT MARLINS GAME: The Marlins have invited Honor Flight to bring some of its World War II veterans to be honored at the game against the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday, Aug. 12. We will be taking 15-20 veterans and some volunteers. Thanks for all those volunteers who registered their interest Wednesday night. We probably have more than we can actually take. We hope to have final details and a list of veterans and volunteers soon.

OPERATION ONE LAST MISSION: Most of you are aware that the drive is on to register more World War II veterans. It is estimated that there are as many as 18,000 veterans in our region, but many still do not know about Honor Flight. We want to make sure we have plenty registered early for our spring flights. Many volunteers are asking "what can I do to help Honor Flight?". This is an area where we can all be involved. As Jim Naskrent said, "networking" is the key. Even if you don't have a relative or friend who was a WWII veteran, maybe a friend of a friend does. To help keep spreading the word, Jim has prepared a number of posters and flyers on the website -- www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/POS/ . Print a few out and post them in your office, community, church or temple, wherever. There are even a few that you can post on Facebook. Karin Edelstein, who is always active in representing Honor Flight, said she has been at numerous retirement villages, with more scheduled, trying to sign up veterans. Karin also said that some volunteers have been active in Miami-Dade County with one registering 11 veterans at the Key Largo VA. Jim Naskrent is a regular promoting Honor Flight on local radio stations and volunteers are at many local events, including the upcoming Boomer Expo July 28 at the Hard Rock Hotel.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer Jed Wolcott reported that Honor Flight has approximately \$130,000 in the bank following the two spring flights. He emphasized the need to continue fundraising. Many worthwhile projects have come out of fairly simple ideas. If you have an idea, don't be hesitant in contacting Zasha Rodriguez -- zmr@mydefenselawyers.com. Jed also said that he and intern Gianmarco Parancino are active in developing the new computer system.

NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR: Miami-Dade paramedic Gabe Nemeth is taking on the position of medical director, succeeding John Wagner. We can't thank John enough for his many contributions over the past few years and look forward to him still joining us on flight days. We are still looking for several more volunteers with medical experience to assist Gabe.

HONOR FLIGHT WEBSITE: Jim Naskrent demonstrated some of the new features on the website. Check out the Tributes page and "Flags of Our Heroes" and "My Hero." If you have any other ideas for the website, Jim is always eager to add new features.

SHIRTS: If you are interested in one of those embroidered Honor Flight shirts, they can be ordered through The Gratefull Thread -- www.thegratefullthread.com, 954-572-8383, 10158 NW 47th St., Sunrise.

NEXT MEETING: Scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m.