

# HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA

## Highlights of the General Meeting - August 17, 2016

**NEXT FLIGHT:** Saturday, Oct. 29 out of Miami on an Eastern Air Lines flight carrying 154 passengers -- 68 World War II veterans, 68 guardians and 18 staff. Chairman Rick Asper said there is a strong possibility that a larger Eastern plane may be available adding another eight veterans.

**HOW ARE WE DOING RECRUITING WORLD WAR II VETERANS?:** Better, but we need to keep working to register more veterans. The board voted to postpone the October jumbo-jet flight because we would have needed nearly 200 World War II veterans. We will try for the mega-flight again next fall. With two flights likely in Spring, 2017, Chairman Asper said we probably will be carrying more Korean War veterans. He also said there is a possibility of another flight with Vietnam veterans serving again as Elite Guardians. Beverley Engler reported that we currently have applications from 87 WWII veterans with 65 confirmed for the Oct. 29 flight.

**GUARDIAN TRAINING:** 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 21; and 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 24 at Broward College.

**GROUND CREW:** We will need our usual Ground Crew volunteers for early morning check-in and homecoming on Oct. 29. Additionally, if anyone can help arrange buses to MIA, please email Ryan Paton -- ryan@capitollg.com. Also contact Ryan if you have any ideas to build the homecoming crowd and atmosphere. We again expect to have a good rate for the Miami Airport Hotel for those who would like to stay overnight right at the MIA terminal.

**HONOR FLIGHT ONLINE STORE AND SALES:** Our hub is working to increase sales of T-shirts, caps and souvenirs through online sales. We need help from a few volunteers. If you have experience or interest in web-based marketing and sales, please contact Tom Christensen -- tchristensen720@aol.com. Ryan Paton is trying to see if we can sell Honor Flight products at local stores. And if you have any fundraising ideas, never hesitate to suggest them.

**CALENDARS:** Jim Naskrent has designed a 2017 calendar with photos showing the full Honor Flight experience. It needs final approval from the board, but could be available for the Oct. 29 homecoming.

**VIRTUAL HONOR FLIGHTS:** We have more than 40 candidates for the Dec. 7 Virtual Flight at South Plantation High School. We again will simulate the full Honor Flight experience for those veterans who can't make the trip to Washington. If you know or as you meet veterans who are unable to fly, please invite them to the Virtual Flight. We want to honor as many of these veterans as possible. There soon will be an online application form on the

website. The hub is also planning a Virtual Flight for wheelchair-bound veterans at the Miami VA hospital; date to be determined.

**NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR:** Chairman Asper announced that Dr. Phillip Greenberg, who has served as a flight doctor, is the new medical director. Miami-Dade paramedic Gabe Nemeth, who has been so attentive to taking care of all the veterans' needs, plans to continue to assist on flights.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We need several volunteers to help at the Honor Flight table at these events:

\* Trio Bistro fundraiser for Honor Flight -- Thursday, Sept. 8, 5:30-8 p.m., 2861 E. Commercial Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

\* "Decision 2016: America in the Balance" political discussion -- Sunday, Sept. 11, 7-10 p.m., Bailey Hall, Broward College campus, 3501 Davie Rd., Davie.

Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted at the Quarterdeck Beer Bash, drove veterans to the Marlins game and are drivers for next Thursday's women's luncheon at SouthCom in Doral.

**NEXT MEETINGS:** 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Aug. 31, Sept. 21, Oct. 5, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Broward College, Davie. Check website for updates.

-- Tom Christensen, Volunteer coordinator