

HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA

Highlights of the General Meeting - September 21, 2016

NEXT FLIGHT: Saturday, Oct. 29 out of Miami on an Eastern Air Lines Boeing 737-800. We will be carrying 174 passengers -- 78 World War II veterans, 78 guardians and 18 staff. Ten of the veterans served in both WWII and the Korean War. Departure is scheduled for 6:30 a.m., with the return flight planned to arrive at 7:45 p.m., a little earlier than usual. Veterans will first visit the World War II Memorial, ride in their Honor Chairs to the Korean War Memorial, then on to the Changing of the Guard at Arlington Cemetery and the group photo at the Iwo Jima Memorial.... Veterans' families are being contacted for letters for "Mail call." Final mail sorting is planned for the Oct. 26 meeting.

GUARDIAN TRAINING: While Stan Bostic was leading the general meeting, guardian training was being conducted in another room. The second guardian training session will be Saturday morning.

HOMECOMING: Ryan Paton reported that arrangements are just about ready at MIA for homecoming. We are trying to build the crowd at MIA and Ryan encouraged everyone to invite friends and contact groups inviting them to the big celebration. You can find flyers to print or post on Facebook at www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/homecoming.

GROUND CREW: We will need our usual volunteer corps both early in the morning for flight check-in and in the evening for homecoming. Morning volunteers need to arrive at Terminal J by 4:30 a.m. A few will need to be there by 4:00 to unload wheelchairs. Evening volunteer "yellow shirts" need to arrive by 6:00 to hang posters, set up the parade route, welcome the crowd and later straighten the terminal, load the Honor Chairs and assist veterans as they wait for their rides. If you can help with either the morning or evening Ground Crew, email Tom Christensen tchristensen720@aol.com. Parking passes will be available for working volunteers and guardians. Reminder: Do not use your SunPass as you enter the parking garage. ... For those who would like to stay Friday and/or Saturday nights at the Miami International Airport Hotel (right in the middle of the terminal), call 1-800-327-1276 and ask for the \$89 Honor Flight discount rate.

VIRTUAL HONOR FLIGHT: Broward schools again are ready to be big supporters of Honor Flight. Mike Roland reported that fundraising begins on Nov. 1 and plans are being finalized for the Dec. 7 Virtual Honor Flight at South Plantation High School. Veterans who are not able to fly will receive the simulated experience of the actual trip to Washington. Students will be writing letters for "mail call," South Plantation band and singers will offer 1940s entertainment and Junior ROTC cadets will be serving as guardians for the night. Dinner will be available for 180. Applications for the Virtual Flight can be found on the website. ...

The Virtual Honor Flight will be one of the final big events for Mike Roland, who is retiring from Broward Schools in January. Mike has been the key guy in leading Broward students in their support for Honor Flight. THANK YOU and good luck, Mike!

FUNDRAISING: Stan Bostic is looking for a team of volunteers to assist with planning fundraising events. If you can help, contact Stan -- stanbostic@rickcase.com.

Stan updated on these events:

- Golf tournament Nov. 5 at Madison Green, Royal Palm Beach Honor Flight will be sharing proceeds with two other charities. Stan is hopeful that HFSF will net \$15,000. There are tee times available for a few more golfers. Tickets can still be purchased for the raffle of a choice of several cars donated by Rick Case Auto. Tickets are \$50 each; three for \$100.

- Spring golf tournament -- This is Honor Flight South Florida's event alone. Stan expects to soon announce a course and date.

- Military gala -- Probably next summer.

Ryan Paton reported that the Quarterdeck fundraiser raised \$2,896 and the Trio event raised \$2,258.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

School and retirement village presentations: Dates and sites TBA. Contact Mike Miskew if you can help with presentations or driving veterans -- mikemiskew@gmail.com

Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 18-19: Veterans Expo at American Legion Post 142, Pompano Beach. Morning and afternoon shifts working Honor Flight table to recruit veterans.

Saturday, Oct. 29: Flight Day; Ground crew at 4:30 a.m. for departure; 6 p.m. for homecoming celebration. Plane scheduled to return at 7:45.

Friday, Nov. 11: Veterans Day; no events yet, but likely to have several as last year. If possible, please be available to help or drive veterans.

Wednesday, Dec. 7: Virtual Flight at South Plantation High School. Drivers will be needed.

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

NEXT MEETINGS:

6:30 p.m., Oct. 5, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Broward College, Davie.

Check website for updates.

-- Tom Christensen, Volunteer coordinator