

HFSF GENERAL MEETING NOTES - NOVEMBER 4, 2015

SPRING FLIGHTS:

Saturday, April 2, 2016 -- This is our special Honor Flight with Vietnam veterans serving as guardians for World War II veterans. This is a one-time flight with Eastern Airlines out of Miami. Our main focus remains to fly as many World War II veterans as possible. Chairman Rick Asper is working out final plans on how Vietnam veterans will be selected.

Saturday, May 21, 2016 -- This has been rescheduled as a regular-size charter flight. The large (A390 or B747) flight has been postponed until fall, 2016.

REVIEWING OCT. 17 FLIGHT: As after all flights, the board has carefully studied ways to make the experience better for our veterans. Rick Asper listed 29 "audibles" from the flight and homecoming celebration -- quick adjustments to juggle plans as needed. Not every step went as perfectly as hoped, but the consensus was that Honor Flight provided another special day for our veterans. The goal is to keep trying to have the many details coordinated so well that the whole operation can run as smoothly as possible. Thanks to the many volunteers, who served as guardians or on the ground crew. If you have any ideas, don't be hesitant to suggest them.

OCT. 17 PHOTO UPDATE: Jim Naskrent said he and the other photographers took nearly 6,300 photos on the Oct. 17 flight. He plans to mail CDs of photos to veterans and guardians next week. Flight galleries will be available on the web-site soon.

FLIGHTLESS HONOR FLIGHT: We have all met or known veterans who would like to fly but are hesitant because of health issues or other concerns. Those veterans still deserve to have special recognition. Mark this date on your calendar -- Jan. 22, 2016, 6-8 p.m. at South Plantation High School. We will be hosting a special night simulating as much as possible the Honor Flight experience. Jim Naskrent is preparing a video of the day in Washington. Plus there will be other flight day surprises -- Mail Call and Flags of Our Heroes. High school musicians and Junior ROTC cadets will be participating. We will need many volunteers that night. But more than that, we need everyone to invite veterans. And veterans who have flown are invited too, so if you have served as a guardian, invite your World War II friend. If you have a suggestion for another name for the night, email Rick Asper -- ricka@aviation-professionals.com.

SPECIAL DAY AT NORTH BROWARD PREP: Honor Flight is participating at a special day saluting World War II veterans on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at North Broward Prep, 7600 Lyons Rd., Pompano Beach, just north of Hillsborough Blvd. All World War II veterans are welcome and we would like a few more to join in panel discussions speaking about their life before, during and after the war and their Honor Flight experience. Assemblies are at 9 a.m., 10:35 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. Breakfast is available so you can arrive at 8 a.m. If you know a veteran who would like to participate, contact Ryan Paton -- ryan@capitollg.com.

VETERANS DAY FUNDRAISER: Invite your friends to an Honor Flight Veterans Day fundraiser Wednesday night, Nov. 11. Whiskey Tango All-American Bar & Grill in Hollywood will be hosting the event from 6-9 p.m. The \$20 donation includes a drink and appetizers. Whiskey Tango is located at 1903 Hollywood Blvd., near Young Circle.

VETERANS DAY, PART II: Thank you also to other volunteers participating in Veterans Day-related events in Hollywood, Margate and Davie and at the Wounded Warriors Football Game.

TREASURER REPORT: Jed Wolcott reported a "strong bank balance" of \$111,000. He said donations are approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 per month. The three 2015 charters averaged a little more than \$50,000 in total expenses. Many hubs report their expenses at approximately \$90,000 per flight.

BOCA VETERANS: Veterans who reside in Boca Raton can choose to fly with either Honor Flight South Florida or the Southeast Florida hub. Most are choosing to fly with Southeast out of Palm Beach International.

-- Tom Christensen, Volunteer coordinator