

# HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA

## Highlights of The General Meeting - December 9th, 2016

Thank you for all who have helped make it a successful year for Honor Flight, with three flights to Washington, a special day at a Marlins game, numerous Veterans Day events and fundraisers and other community events through the year. We had a standing-room-only crowd for our meeting to discuss some exciting events for 2016:

**NEXT FLIGHTS:** April 2 and May 14.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** Early January, date to be announced.

**VIRTUAL FLIGHT:** 5:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 22, South Plantation High School, 1300 SW 54th Ave., Plantation -- We have all met World War II veterans very deserving of the Honor Flight trip to Washington, but hesitant to make the flight because of medical or other concerns. This is the night especially for those veterans. Broward County schools, who have so generously supported Honor Flight, are sponsoring this special night. Veterans and families will have dinner and special entertainment. Jim Naskrent will be premiering the documentary "Virtual Honor Flight -- A Mission of Thanks." There will be Mail Call and other special surprises. The goal is to simulate the entire Honor Flight experience to those veterans who otherwise will not be able to go on one. If you know any of these veterans, please invite them. Attached is a flyer describing the night. A reservation form for the night is available at [www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/POS](http://www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/POS).

High school Junior ROTC cadets will be assisting in this event. We will need some volunteers to help at South Plantation High School and to drive veterans. All volunteers are encouraged to attend the video and performance, especially those who have never been on an Honor Flight. If you can help at the Virtual Flight, please email Tom Christensen [tchristensen720@aol.com](mailto:tchristensen720@aol.com)

**WORLD WAR II-VIETNAM VETERANS FLIGHT:** This unique flight is scheduled on Eastern Airlines on April 2, probably out of Miami but Fort Lauderdale is a possibility. We will be taking 75 World War II veterans with 75 Vietnam War veterans serving as "elite guardians." The normal guardian fee is being waived for these Vietnam era "elite guardians." This is believed to be the first Honor Flight ever with the bonding of these two generations. This is a special opportunity for Vietnam era veterans and Chairman Rick Asper stressed that flying World War II veterans will remain the priority for Honor Flight South Florida. A special application form for "elite guardians" is available at [www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/POS](http://www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/POS).

**SECOND SPRING FLIGHT:** Scheduled for May 14 out of Fort Lauderdale.

**FALL, 2016 FLIGHT:** The proposed jumbo Airbus380 or 747 flight has been moved to the fall, tentatively scheduled for Sept. 24.

**BROWARD SCHOOLS:** Broward Public Schools remain Honor Flight's biggest supporters. Fundraising drives, often involving class competitions, has begun at many schools. With more elementary and middle schools participating, the district is hoping to surpass last year's contribution of \$60,000. Here's a huge thank you to all the schools, students and families. If you can help with school presentations, please contact Mike Miskew - [mikemiskew@gmail.com](mailto:mikemiskew@gmail.com). It's a rewarding experience and you will help provide an important history lesson to the next generation. And no need to be intimidated. You won't be teaching a course. You will basically be introducing a World War II veteran and a video.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION:** Plaques were awarded to those going above and beyond in support of our veterans:

Susan Jowers: Generously provides baseball caps to our veterans.

Cynthia Smilovsky and Key Largo quilters: Designing and sewing blankets for veterans.

Katrina and Mike Hessney, Home Medical Equipment of Davie: Donated supplies to repair 25 Honor Chairs.

**ARMY-NAVY GAME FUNDRAISER:** Are you ready for some football? For many World War II veterans, there was no bigger game than the Army-Navy rivalry. There will be a special Honor Flight fundraiser Saturday, Dec. 12 at Hooters in Boca Raton, Glades Plaza, 2240 NW 19th St., Suite 1101-A. Jeeps Gone Wild and American Legion Riders are sponsoring the event. There will be a 50/50 raffle and a raffle for other items. The event starts at 2 p.m., with the Army-Navy kickoff at 3 p.m.

***Merry Christmas! Happy Chanukah! And hoping for your Honor Flight support through 2016!***

Tom Christensen, Volunteer coordinator