

HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA

Highlights of the General Meeting - January 24, 2018

SPRING FLIGHTS: Chairman Rick Asper said he expects to have more details on the April 14 and June 2 flights at the next meeting.

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY: Get ready for the biggest day ever for Honor Flight South Florida. This meeting was moved to the Charles F. Dodge Center, site of the Military Appreciation Day on Saturday, June 23. The planned military gala that was postponed in October evolved into a full day to salute the military when the city of Pembroke Pines generously offered use of their beautiful new City Center (see attached photos). Fundraising chairman Stan Bostic said he has been working with five agents trying to secure big-name entertainment, most likely a Country-Western performer, for the concert to highlight the day.

The theater can seat up to 3,200 and Stan said he estimated that the hub had a chance to raise \$150,000. Because of the large auditorium and quest for a prominent performer, this event will not be as dependent on securing prime sponsors as the previously planned gala. However, there are suites available and we will be selling sponsorships for those. "This is an amazing opportunity to fund our treasury for the year," Chairman Asper said.

Rick and Stan each put out a similar plea to the volunteers: **WE NEED EVERYONE TO BE INVOLVED.**

In addition to the main concert, the 13th Army Band is planning to play during the day. There may also be a battle of school bands and display of military vehicles. The full agenda is still in the early stages.

"Our city is all about the veterans," said Pembroke Pines Commissioner Iris Siple, pointing out that a number of Pines residents have been on Honor Flights. "We're honored to be a part of this. It's important to teach our young people what veterans did."

City manager Charles Dodge said that Pembroke Pines officials and employees are ready to help promote the event. "The community is behind you on this," he said.

If you have any contacts or ideas for Military Appreciation Day, please email Stan Bostic (stanbostic@honorflightsouthflorida.org) or Jim Naskrent (jimnaskrent@honorflightsouthflorida.org).

VIRTUAL HONOR FLIGHT: Thirty-nine veterans are confirmed for the next Virtual Flight on Thursday, February 8 at South Plantation High School. This will be our third "Virtual"

at South Plantation and fifth overall. If you know a veteran who will never be able to go on the flight to Washington, D.C., please invite them and contact Elaine Martin (fl54@hotmail.com). Vietnam and noncombat-era veterans are eligible. Students and Junior ROTC cadets will be doing most of the work. We have a good volunteer corps ready as drivers and to assist as needed. Those volunteers will be notified of assignments soon. Veterans and their guests will arrive between 3:30-4:15 p.m., have dinner and then move into the auditorium for entertainment and our Honor Flight movie. Even if you are not on the volunteer list for the night, please try to come out to salute the veterans. The program is scheduled for 6 p.m., with our airport-style homecoming celebration following at approximately 7:00.

PATRIOTIC CONCERT: The American Legion Symphonic Band is planning a concert to benefit Honor Flight on Sunday afternoon, July 1. The hub's main responsibility is to secure a venue for the concert. If you have a contact or know of a large church or city or community auditorium that might host the concert, please email tchristensen720@aol.com.

PAINTING NIGHT: Elaine Martin said there are openings for the Painting with a Twist night on February 7. You can register at www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/davie/event/1181950. The cost is \$35 with Honor Flight receiving a percentage. The studio is located at 5810 S. University Drive, #106, Davie. See attached flyer for more information.

FLEET WEEK: Stan Bostic is looking for 15 World War II veterans to join him at the USS Mesa Verde (LPD19) and receive the French Legion of Merit Recognition. Veterans must provide their DD-214 discharge certificates. Fleet Week is scheduled for April 30-May 6. Contact stanbostic@honorflightsouthflorida.org.

NEXT MEETING: To be announced.

-- Tom Christensen, volunteer coordinator