



Villages Honor Flight

Serving Lake, Sumter and Marion Counties

December 2012

OPERATIONS

With the 2012 flight season having concluded we began the process for the 2013 Flight cycle. Three flights have been secured (26-March, 27-April and 25-May) with four others in a preliminary stage. Those Vets and Guardians scheduled for the 28-Oct-2012 flight that was cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy have been offered seats on these flights. The detailed planning for secured flights begins 10 weeks prior to the flight.

RECENT NEWS EVENTS

A recent news article noted an instance of misappropriation of funds by an employee of an Honor Flight hub in another state. Unfortunately such an event reflects poorly on similar operations with similar names. Fortunately this event has no bearing on Villages Honor Flight for several reasons. First Villages Honor flight has no employees. Our entire organization is operated by volunteers and all Flight Guardians pay their own way. All donations are direct to our fiscal agent, American Legion Post 347, which is a tax qualified 501(c) (19) organization, with no donor funds accessible to any volunteer. We regret having to bring this unfortunate situation to your attention, but we thought you deserve to know as your trust and confidence in us is most important to us.

2012 FLIGHT REUNION PARTY

On 17-Nov-2012 a Reunion of all 2012 scheduled flights was held for the Vets and Guardians on those flights and their guests. It was an opportunity to reminiscence and share flight stories and photos. Each received a certificate acknowledging their flight accomplishment. Contributors who fill many unseen roles were thanked and recognized for their contribution in making our flights possible. Col. Robert "Bob" Harris, US Army, (Ret.), at one time the Commander of the 3rd Infantry Unit that guards the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery, provided insight into the history and operation of the soldiers who have this solemn duty.

PLANNED EVENTS

In the coming weeks we will be out telling the Villages Honor Flight story. Please stop by any of these events if you are in the area, say hello, and lend your support.

The Villages Rotary Noon Club is sponsoring a charity event at the Waterfront Inn on 7-Dec-2012 from 2:00 to 8:00 pm. There will be a display of Christmas trees decorated by area non profit groups. Villages Honor Flight will have a tree decorated in red, white and blue ornaments with images of the Vets who flew in 2012.

Admission is \$6.00 for which attendees will receive a like amount of play money that can be donated to one of the exhibiting charities. Come out and vote for the Villages Honor Flight decorated tree.

Cousin Vinnie's Chicken Wings, 10700 US 441, Leesburg is sponsoring a dine in event on 15-Dec-2012 from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm with a silent auction, raffles, car wash, a visit from Santa and proceeds donation to Villages Honor Flight.

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Villages Honor Flight name, images or logo may not be used without its written consent

www.villageshonorflight.org

Your comments or suggestions on this newsletter may be sent to JohnDriscoll7656@comcast.net