



Villages Honor Flight

Serving Lake, Sumter and
Marion, Citrus and
Hernando Counties

July 2013

OPERATIONS

The 22 June 2013 flight of 25 veterans and their guardians was successfully completed. It was a memorable day for these veterans. Senator Robert Dole who was instrumental in raising the funds for the WWII Memorial, along with his wife Senator Elizabeth Dole, was at the Memorial to meet our veterans. Although now confined to a wheel chair, the Senator spent considerable time with our vets. Our return flight was delayed and we were an hour late in arriving back at the Legion. This did not discourage the large crowd that stayed on to welcome our heroes' home ... a Homecoming they had not received at the end of their service. Thank you all who participated in this wonderful event, your efforts were touching and did not go unnoticed. The Villages Homeowner Association newspaper, The Voice, extended "Kudos" to all who gathered to welcome home and honor the vets and extended "Special Kudos" to the guardians who accompany and attend to the vets on this trip, noting the guardians pay their own way. It was truly a memorable experience and thanks to all who made it so. This concludes the end of the 2013 "spring flying season" as DC starts to turn hot and humid.

The next flight will depart 8 Sept 2013. The guardians for this flight will be a special group. All 25 guardians have served honorably as members of the USMC. Our thanks to Joe Quinn, who has served as a guardian on several flights in the past, for recruiting and organizing these Marines. OORAH!

A THANK YOU

In the previous newsletter I noted we had been the beneficiary of 22 brand new wheel chairs for transporting our vets in DC and would welcome contributions to purchase back covers for the chairs so we could identify our chairs and honor the vets they carry. Due to the generosity of several readers we have secured the necessary funding to purchase them. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED. The covers have been ordered and we hope to have them in place for the next flight. We will publish a picture when they arrive and are installed.

UPCOMING EVENTS (see web site for more details)

7 September 2013

St. Marks Greek Orthodox Church, Belleview, FL. will have a one day fair festival with vendors, food, and entertainment. Please stop by and patronize this community event and visit our booth. Through this effort we reach out to the Marion County area to deliver our message and recruit veterans and guardians.

9 September 2013

The **Second Annual Villages Honor Flight Lunch and Fashion Show** will be held at Colony Cottage Recreation Center starting at 12:30. More details will be available shortly but \$15 tickets are available by calling Cindy Bettis at 770-856-9802. Some of our WWII female veterans will be models.

12 October 2013

The **Villages Honor Flight Inaugural Golf Tournament** will be held at Eagle Ridge Golf Course, Spruce Creek Golf and Country Club, Summerfield, FL. It will begin with a gala opening ceremony to honor the veterans, scramble golf, prizes, games, lunch and much more. Price is only \$60. The field will be limited to 256 players. Formal announcement sheets and reservations forms are downloadable from our web site, under fundraisers. We will be providing more details in the future but it is time to line up and register your group now or play as a single.

FLIGHT TRIVIA

On the return to the Orlando Airport of any Honor Flight, regardless of the day or hour, there is always a crowd to



welcome and salute the veterans on their return from DC and thank them for their service...and at the end of the welcoming crowd stands

"Miss Liberty", a/k/a Cathy Haynes, giving each vet a hug or a kiss. Cathy organizes these homecoming events in addition to publishing a newsletter about veteran events occurring in the area. Thank you "Miss Liberty", job well done and greatly appreciated!

P.S. Share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor.