



Villages Honor Flight

Serving Lake, Sumter and Marion, Citrus and Hernando Counties

June 2013

OPERATIONS

On 25 May 2013 we successfully completed another flight. It was Memorial Day weekend with large crowds in Washington DC to remember our fallen war heroes and to welcome the surviving heroes. Senator Robert Dole, a WWII veteran who was instrumental in securing funding to build the WWII memorial, was there to welcome our WWII veterans. He spoke with several of them, shared photo opportunities, and thanked them for their service. Upon return at the conclusion of the trip over 1,000 well-wishers were at American Legion Post 347 to welcome them home. It was a wonderful sight to see. To all who turned out to make the event a memorable one, thank you.

The next flight of 25 veterans will depart on 22 June 2013 and final preparations have begun. Departure time has been set at 0420 hours (4:20 am) and entertainment to welcome home the veterans begins at 2300 hours (11:00 pm). Please come out for this event...it produces memories that last a life time...for you and for the veterans. Bring a chair, bring a flag, bring a friend but come!

GOOD FORTUNES COME OUR WAY

In the recent past several happy events have occurred. Sumter Singles, a Villages Social Club staged a very successful fund raising event for us. This was followed by a benefit concert at Church on the Square by Billie Thatcher and The Dorels, who performed to a near sellout crowd. Thank you to both these groups, your efforts aid us greatly. But our good fortune did not stop there.

On each flight each veteran and guardian team is supplied a wheelchair as a necessary aid in traveling the Mall and Arlington National Cemetery. We rent these units each time at considerable expense. Last week 20 brand new, in the box, chairs were donated to us. This will help ease a logistical issue we faced each flight. To

assist in identifying our chairs and to pay recognition to the veterans they carry, we are seeking donations to purchase chair back covers for our 30 chairs similar to



the one pictured. Each cover cost \$40.00. If you are interested in donating to this cause, or know someone who is, please contact me at

newsletter@villageshonorflight.org.

AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

Our website is being updated. You can now access our library of newsletters at www.villageshonorflight.org "News" "newsletters". Don't forget to "like" Villages Honor Flight on Facebook.

UPCOMING EVENTS (see web site for more details)
13 June 2013 Noted local historian and author Don Goldstein, in connection with The Lifelong Learning College, will make a presentation on Pearl Harbor. Proceeds from his book sales "*At Dawn We Slept*" will be donated to Villages Honor Flight.

9 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.

12 October 2013

The Villages Honor Flight Inaugural Golf Tournament will be held at Eagle Ridge Golf Course, Spruce Creek Golf and Country Club. There will be 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 will be distributed next week...and we will surely send you a copy the day it is ready. Line up your group now or play as a single.

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