



Villages Honor Flight

Serving Lake, Sumter and
Marion, Citrus and Hernando
Counties

December 2013

OPERATIONS

2014

The plan for 2014 is four (4) flights of 50 veterans, 50 guardians and accompanying staff: April, June, September and November. This will permit us to fly 25 more veterans in 2014 than in 2013. The 27 April flight date has been set and 29 June is tentatively set. As the other dates evolve we shall keep you posted. The manifest of veterans and guardians who will fly on the April flight is being developed but has not yet been established.

Plans for non-flying Honor Flight Missions that were outlined last month for those veterans who are unable to endure a flight to DC continue to evolve. The intention is to provide an experience similar to that which is enjoyed on a flight to DC, without leaving the ground: meet fellow veterans, see the sights, hear the sounds and receive the thanks and appreciation for their service to our country which they richly deserve, including a boisterous patriotic homecoming. Updates will be provided as they evolve but the first non-flying Mission will likely be late spring or early summer.

“WE WANT YOU” OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

On Veterans Day we launched a veteran outreach campaign to have all WWII veterans register with **Villages Honor Flight** so we could provide them the experience of an Honor Flight Mission, be it flying to DC or participating in the non-flying program. The results were a surge in the applications we received. Thank you for helping get the word out to these veterans who may not have heard about Honor Flight or were reluctant to participate. “We Want You” is working, so please continue your efforts to help us get these men and women on our rolls. Pass along information about **Villages Honor Flight** with the attached flyer about how they may register (The attachment can be converted to a 2 ½” X 7” piece, printed and cut to size).

VETERAN ELEGIBILITY QUESTIONS

Frequently the question is asked as to who is eligible to enroll for an Honor Flight Mission. Our web site, www.villageshonorflight.org, under FAQ’S, has the answer. Check it out. Currently we are honoring our most senior veterans, WWII veterans, and in all situations, priority is given to terminally ill veterans. Unfortunately many veterans incorrectly assume this is a program only for combat veterans, and that non-combat vets are not eligible. The time of service, not what was done during the service, is the qualifying factor. We don’t ask what a veteran did, just when they served. In reality there were many more non-combat veterans than combat veterans. We want all veterans who served during the qualifying war periods to register. Please help us find them and clarify the eligibility question if it should be raised. Non-combat veterans may require some encouragement to register, but we want them!

BROCHURES

We recently reprinted our marketing brochures. If you have any of the previous ones in your possession, please destroy them as they are outdated. The IRS recently approved our application to be recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as of May 2012. Consequently donations can be made directly to **Villages Honor Flight** at the address noted below, rather than going through our fiscal agent as noted in the previous brochures. If you are inclined to make year-end charitable donations, please consider **Villages Honor Flight** as a recipient. Contributions are always welcomed. If you would like copies of our new brochure, send me an email.

VOLUNTEERING

As our programs grow we have a need for additional volunteers. Some of the volunteering opportunities where you may participate are noted on our website under “Volunteer”. If you were previously a guardian, you have a unique insight into the value of an Honor Flight Mission and can aid us greatly. Volunteers meet the second Monday of the month, 12:30 pm, at Colony Cottage Recreation Center. Please come join us.

YEAR END

In 2013 we successfully completed 7 flights, flying 177 veterans to DC. It was accomplished because our volunteers donated their time and talents, our benefactors donated their treasure. Our thanks to all as we were able to thank the veterans for all they have done for us. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year, when we will do it again!

P.S. Please share this newsletter with friends.