



Villages Honor Flight

Serving Lake, Sumter and Marion, Citrus and Hernando Counties

November 2013

OPERATIONS

The 2-Nov'13 flight to DC was a rousing success. From sendoff at 0415 hours to Homecoming at 2230 hours the 25 vets who were honored received a tumultuous welcome at every stop. Arrangements were flawless and the memories created for these true American heroes all along the way are priceless treasures to be long remembered. We thank them, for "All They Did was Save the World".

This flight concludes the 2013 flying season. Over 175 veterans were flown in 2013 and over 250 since Villages Honor Flight first flew in 2012. It has been our pleasure and honor to provide the Honor Flight Mission and accompany these valiant men and women to Washington DC.

2014

Planning is well underway for 2014 with several initiatives. Our initial flight in April, 2014 will be expanded to 50 veterans and 50 guardians, plus staff complement. Since this size is a departure from previous operations, the attendant nuances are being addressed so the flight operations can be seamless.

We have launched a promotional campaign "WE WANT YOU" to locate and register WWII vets. Experience has shown that in certain instances our media outreach, for various reasons, has not extended to all WWII veterans. We are asking that anyone who has contact with a WWII vet pass along information about Villages Honor Flight with the [attached flyer](#) about how they may register (The attachment can be converted to a 2 1/2" X 7" piece, printed and cut to size). We will also be contacted by mail those veterans for whom we have an address and have not registered. Please help us in this undertaking, for time is not on our side in being able to honor these veterans.

For various reasons many of the WWII vets are no longer able to endure the rigors of the day long flight to

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DC which is the culmination of the entire Honor Flight Mission. For these veterans we will be conducting ground based Honor Flight Missions. The details are being formulated as these non-flight missions are designed to provide a similar level of appreciation and thanks as is demonstrated on the flights to DC. Details will be provided as they become available and if you would like to share in providing this experience or know a veteran who this type of Mission might suit, please send me an email.

VETERANS DAY EVENTS

Our volunteers were able to join with numerous of the Honor Flight veterans and participate in several celebratory and fundraising events this month. To those who sponsored these events which provide the means by which we can honor veterans, to those who attended that make these events successful, and to the veterans who accompanied us, thank you all. They were all wonderful ways to pay tribute to all veterans who have served our nation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

7-Dec'2013 ("...a date that will live in infamy") The Villages Swing Band will perform a concert, "Songs We Remember from the 40's" at American Legion Post 347, Route 466 and Rolling Acres Road, Lady lake, FL, 32158. This fundraising benefit of Villages Honor Flight is for the purpose of helping to underwrite the costs of the 2014 flights. Tickets are \$20 each and must be purchased ahead of time as none will be sold at the door. A cash bar and refreshments are available. Doors will open at 6:45, seating is open but reserved seats are available for blocks of 10 tickets or more. Contact Marilyn at 352-753-2603 or mgagen@me.com. Your support for this event will aid in sending vets to DC in 2014.

THANK YOU



Recently we were the beneficiary of donated wheel chairs which relieved us of having to rent them when we travel to DC. Very generous patrons

donated sufficient funds for us to purchase chair covers which readily identify them and allow all who see us to recognize the great patrons they carry. Thank you to all donors who allowed us to purchase these covers.

P.S. Please share this newsletter with friends.