



Villages Honor Flight, Inc.

Serving Lake, Sumter, Marion,
Citrus and Hernando Counties

June 2014

OPERATIONS

The final countdown for the 25-Jun'14 flight is underway. The team of 50 vets and 50 guardians, along with support staff and medics depart American Legion Post 347 at approximately 3:30 am. The WELCOME HOME, with music and entertainment starts at 9:30 pm, at American Legion Post 347, CR 466 and Rolling Acres Road, Lady Lake. Come out and be part of it...bring a flag, being a chair, bring a friend...rain or shine...don't miss it...they have earned it and deserve it!

2014 remaining flight dates have been set as 4-Sept and 5-Nov, with 25 vets and guardians on each. The process to identify the WWII vets for the 4-Sept'14 flight has begun and they will receive their notification letters shortly.

ABOUT HONOR FLIGHT

Recently we began a series about Villages Honor Flight (VHF) in response to readers' questions about "who we are" and "how we function". This month we'll discuss our funding and "who pays" for these trips. The underlying philosophy of Honor Flight is the veterans have already paid dearly through their service to our country! The veterans pay nothing for this experience. This trip is our attempt to honor them, in a small way, for the sacrifices they made. All of their expenses are paid by VHF and we are prohibited from accepting donations from a veteran who applied to go on an Honor Flight. The guardians who accompany them go not as sightseers but as the vets' personal valet for the day, and they pay their own way.

VHF receives no government funding or support. As the area hub, we are responsible for raising all funds on our own. We are established as a tax exempt 501(C) (3) corporation, thus any contributions we receive are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

Our funding comes in several forms. Some suppliers donate in-kind services of their trade...bus transportation, telephone answering services, meeting spaces, homecoming entertainment, food for pre-flight meetings, or discounted pricing on purchased materials as examples. We welcome donations of this nature as they are professionally delivered and allow us to preserve our cash for program expenses that must be purchased.

Cash donations are received through several programs. Frequently donors just send in a check, donate appreciated securities, or make cash contributions at a promotional event we are attending.

An "honor" program to make donations in recognition of a special even or occasion, e.g. a sentinel birthday or anniversary, or "memorial" giving to honor the passing of a loved one has been established. Brochures describing this form of donation can be obtained by calling us at 352-432-1382 or in the instance of memorial giving asking the professional in charge of the arrangements.

A significant portion of funds comes from fundraising activities, with some events conducted by VHF and many events conducted by others for our benefit. These take the form of club events focused on club members or public events open to all. For those who have conducted events on our behalf we are most appreciative as it then permits our volunteers to focus on what they do best...flying vets to DC.

Each month in the newsletter we highlight upcoming events, many of which are fundraising in nature. We ask that the newsletter be passed along so others may participate in the event and assist in helping us achieve our mission. As always, if there are questions regarding any event, do not hesitate to send an email to me.

Donations are made to our address below. For directions on donating securities or stocks call 352-432-1382 to ask for specifics. All donations over \$50 are acknowledged by our Treasurer and come with our sincere thanks. Regardless of the source of our funds, outside fundraisers are not used and all funding is used for one purpose: to honor the war veterans who sacrificed much to protect our liberties and to take them to see their memorial, before it is too late.

To all who support us: Thank you for sharing your treasure, we couldn't do it without your support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

14-July14 Villages Honor Flight Club meeting is at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, in The Villages at 12:30 pm. Attendance is open to anyone who wishes to support our mission. Guardians, past and future, are encouraged to attend.

22-Nov'14 Villages Honor Flight Golf Tournament
This fun event is our major fundraising undertaking of the year. Save the date. A separate email message with all the details and registration materials will be out soon.

Please share this newsletter with your address book.