



Villages Honor Flight, Inc.

Serving Lake, Sumter, Marion,
Citrus and Hernando Counties

May 2014

OPERATIONS

2014 remaining flight dates have been set as 25-Jun, 4-Sept and 5-Nov.

The 27-April flight of 49 vets was a success. The weather and crowds were most welcoming with nearly 750 appreciative people attended Homecoming to welcome them home. When asked how the trip went, the common response from the vets was "it was wonderful... a day I will never forget". Thank you to all who made this possible...it couldn't happen without your support.

The first pre-flight meetings for the 50 vets on the 25-Jun'14 flight was held on 18-May 14'. Departure and return for the flight will be at the American Legion Post 347 as in prior flights. Save the 25-Jun'14 date and plan on attending the Homecoming event which begins at 9:30 pm.

HOW CAN I HELP?????

If you have outside sales experience and would like to get involved with our Golf Tournament Committee call Jerry at 352-789-3320 or email me at this address.

ABOUT HONOR FLIGHT

Last month we began a series about Honor Flight (HF) in response to questions about who we are and how we function. Previously we discussed the creation of the HF Network. This month, who is "Villages Honor Flight". Villages Honor Flight, Inc. (VHF) was formed in 2011 and incorporated as a Florida Corporation. It provides the Honor Flight experience to veterans in Lake, Marion, Sumter, Hernando and Citrus counties. This entity is the legal organization which received the 501(c)(3) exemption for tax exempt contributions, completes the required legal filings, establishes the policy under which flights are conducted, establish strategic plans and budgets. Its membership is comprised of individuals who have extensive experience in conduction flight operations and corporate matters. This group and everyone involved with VHF are volunteers...there are no paid employees. Although titled as Villages Honor Flight, Inc., it has no connection with the retirement community, The Villages.

The VHF Management Team is a 12 person group responsible for all the flight activity and ancillary aspects of the organization. They oversee vet and guardian registration and affairs, pre and post flight activities, flight actives, medical aspects, marketing and fundraising. They are the group that is responsible for all operations and making "it happen".

Villages Honor Flight Club (VHFC) is a Villages Social Club, whose purpose is to support and provide volunteers to VHF. It is run by a VHF Management team member. Anyone can attend the monthly meetings (you do not need to be a Villages resident or guest) and it is the forum to get information on VHF, volunteer to support VHF, get latest news, etc. Most volunteers who assist in making the mission of VHF possible come from the Club. The VHFC is how we keep our many volunteers informed about the Villages Honor Flight activities and the point of contact to get involved.

Volunteers, operations supporters, financial supporters, veterans and families are the largest and a critical component of "who we are" and "what we do". This is the group that comes to Homecoming, donate to make it possible, staff our pre-flight meetings and events, solicit donations, etc. Without the support of our many volunteers and benefactors there would not be VHF.

UPCOMING EVENTS

6-Jun'14 The Villages Swing Band will present a concert of patriotic music, for the benefit of VHF, to mark the 70th anniversary of the D Day landing. Tickets are available through the Villages Ticket Box Offices.

9-Jun'14 The 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.

18-Jun'14 Bingo for a Charity, sponsored by Single Sports/Social Woman's Club will benefit VHF. This event, closed to The Villages residents, will be at Canal Street Recreation Center. Call Joan at 352-751-3748 for details.

22-Nov'14 Villages Honor Flight Golf Tournament
This fun event is our major fundraising undertaking of the year. Save the date. Details of registration and sponsorship opportunities are attached in the email accompanying this newsletter and will be posted on our website soon.

Please share this newsletter with your address book.