



Villages Honor Flight, Inc.

Serving Lake, Sumter, Marion,
Citrus and Hernando Counties

July 2014

OPERATIONS

The 25-Jun'14 flight is "in the books". It was a great day in DC. Thunderstorms in the BWI area however delayed the return of the 50 vets and 50 guardians, along with support staff and medics by 3 hours. The disruption had the potential to ruin the planned gala WELCOME HOME event. The stalwart VHF supporters were however not dissuaded. When the buses arrived at the Legion at 2:15 in the morning the entertainers Sue Schuler and Ralph and Dawn DiNome who started their program at 9:00 pm were still performing, the clowns from Clown Alley 179 were still clowning around, the fire trucks were there with their water cannon salute, and a crowd of 355 welcomed the vets' home! Veteran Bob who enjoyed the entire trip commented later that when the bus turned on the Route 466 and he saw the he welcoming crowd at American Legion Post 347 it brought tears to his eyes. It was a long day for all involved...one they will not forget.
Thanks to all who made this trip and HOMECOMING a success... it is great testimony to the high esteem in which we hold these veterans.

The 4-September'14 flight of 25 vets, guardians and staff attended the first pre-flight meeting 27-July. The vets were introduced to their guardians and all learned what flight day holds for them. The flight will depart at 3:45 am. The WELCOME HOME festivities begin at 9:00 pm. Entertainment by "Scooter the DJ", Village Twirlers and Cheerleaders and Clowns starts at 9:00 pm, at American Legion Post 347, CR 466 and Rolling Acres Road, Lady Lake. Come out and be part of it...bring a flag, bring a chair, bring a friend...rain or shine...don't miss it...they have earned it and deserve it!

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". Volunteers ask "how can I become a guardian". The short answer is to fill out an application that can be obtained from our web site. There are however restrictions on being a guardian. Applicants must be under the age of 75. Those between 70 and 75 must, at the time they are selected, obtain a

statement from their medical provider that they are capable of enduring the rigors of a long day including pushing a wheel chair for extended periods of time and distances. Guardians do not go as "tourists" but are charged with being the responsibility of being the veteran protector and valet for the day. They must have an email account which they monitor (all VHF communications are by email). Each guardian is required to make a \$400 donation to VHF when they are selected for a flight to cover the expenses of their trip. Guardians are required to attend the pre-flight and social meetings which are held. The philosophy of VHF is that the veteran and guardian should bond and become friends for life and not just for a day. The experience of being a volunteer guardian is a rewarding experience that provides a heartfelt appreciation of how great these veterans are. If this is a volunteer situation which appeals to you, do not hesitate to apply.

UPCOMING EVENT

11-Aug'14 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.

14-Sept14 Villages Wings of Gold Squadron are sponsoring a fundraising BBQ event for the benefit of VHF. The event will be held at American Legion Post 347. Tickets and info by calling 352-753-9767. No tickets will be sold at the door

23-24-Oct'14 Off Broadway Players production of "Speakeasy the Musical" for benefit of local charities including VHF. Tickets through Villages Box Offices after 1-Oct'14.

25-Oct'14 Third Annual VHF Fashion Show. Tickets for this fun filled event will be available shortly.

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 sent next week.

7-Dec'14 Villages Swing Band will perform a benefit concert "Music from the 40's" to mark the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Tickets will go sale at the Villages Box Offices on 30-Oct'14.

Please patronize these events.

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