



Villages Honor Flight, Inc.

Serving Lake, Sumter, Marion, Citrus and Hernando Counties

Newsletter April/May 2015

Operations

Villages Honor Flight took 35 World War II veterans to Washington, DC March 25. While the weather was a bit chilly and damp, the rain could not dampen the great time had by all. This flight was designated The Bob Kitt Memorial Flight. A long time Honor Flight supporter and veteran, Captain Robert (Bob) Bruce Kitt, USN (Retired) was born in South Dakota in 1920 and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He attended Oklahoma A&M College before being recommended to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1940, graduating in 1943 (Class of 1944). Robert served his country with distinction through WWII and Vietnam and retired in 1973. His son, daughter, other family members and friends met us at the DC Mall.



Our next flight on May 27 will also take 35 veterans and guardians to Washington.

Flightless Honor Flight

Interest in our Flightless Honor Flight Program, where we give veterans who are unable to participate in a regular flight, some of the experiences and see some of the sights, has gotten attention from other Honor Flight hubs across the country and from different organizations in Florida. More to come on this. Our next Flightless Honor Flight will be Sept. 26 at Colony Cottage Recreation Center and American Legion Post 347.

Leesburg Bike Fest



Many volunteers supported our booth at the Bike Fest April 24-26. They provided information, gave folks an opportunity to talk with veterans and collected more than \$2000 in donations and from sales of Honor Flight pins and patches.

Community Support

Recent donations have been received from Villages Cheerleaders, the Sons of the American Legion, Mickey Fanatics, The Italian American Club, United Health Care, and Parady's. Thank you all for your support!



Soldiers Wish, an organization in Tulsa, Okla., donated \$5000 during an event at the Savannah Center in April. This donation granted 10 veterans' wishes to go on an honor flight with us.



A group of 114 homes in the village of St. Charles raised \$3000 for Villages Honor Flight. Residents displayed pictures of their favorite vet which included veterans from WWII all the way up to the present day.

Combined Newsletter

This is a combined issue of the April and May newsletter. Difficulties with transferring the email address list from the previous editor to a new editor made this necessary. Hopefully, all the kinks have been worked out.

Upcoming Dates

May 11 Honor Flight Club meeting
 May 17 Second Pre-flight Orientation for M19
 May 27, Mission 19 to Washington, DC
 Aug. 22, Spring Reunion, Colony Cottage
 Sept. 10, Mission 20 to Washington, DC
 Sept. 26, Flightless Honor Flight, Colony Cottage
 Oct. 28, Mission 22 to Washington, DC

JROTC Cadets fly as guardians

Two Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets from Leesburg High School have flown as guardians on one Villages Honor Flight each year since 2013. The first year, the cadets raised money for their guardian fees by standing outside Sam's Club & asking for donations. The second year, they were supported by the Lakes of Leesburg that held a fundraiser to pay for the guardian fees. This year they raised funds for the Lake County Korean War Vets walk-a-thon. \$800 of that paid for guardian fees for Katelynne Charuka and Michelle Widle (left in the photo) who flew as guardians on the March 25 flight. The Lakes of Leesburg again raised funds and set aside money for JROTC guardian fees for a flight in 2016.

