

**VILLAGES HONOR FLIGHT NEWSLETTER,**  
**DECEMBER, 2015**

**NEXT VHF CLUB MEETING.** Monday, 14 December, is the date and this will be our Annual Holiday Party, rather than a meeting. Same time (12:30 P.M.), same place (Colony Cottage Rec. Center). Light refreshments will be served, and entertainment will be outstanding! Price of admission is at least one *unwrapped* gift that can be passed on to needy veterans. Cash is always accepted in lieu of a gift. This may be your only opportunity to purchase tickets for the February Yehaa Bob concert (see later item), as they sell out quickly.

**2016 FLIGHT SCHEDULE.**

M24: Saturday, 27-Feb-2016, Flightless Mission

M25: Wednesday, 30-Mar-2016

M26: Wednesday, 18-May-2016

M27 September, exact date is TBD

M28: Saturday, 24-Sep-2016, Flightless Mission

M29: October-November, exact date is TBD

**2016 GOLF TOURNAMENT ORGANIZATIONAL**

**MEETING.** This important meeting will be held on Monday, 11Jan'16, at the Sumter County Library on the corner of Parr Drive and Belvedere, beginning at 9:00 A.M. The 2015 event will be reviewed and plans started for the 2016 event. We need volunteers NOW to begin early solicitation of sponsors. If interested, just show up at the meeting. Questions? Contact event chairman Frank Moravcik at 586-292-3138 or [fpmoravcik@yahoo.com](mailto:fpmoravcik@yahoo.com).

**VILLAGES SWING BAND CONCERT.** This 3<sup>RD</sup> annual benefit will be held on 07Dec'15 (Pearl Harbor Day) at American Legion Post 347, at the SE corner of CR-466 and Rolling Acres Rd. Theater-style open seating. Doors open at 6pm; the concert will begin at 6:30pm. Music of the 40's will be featured and several guest singers and groups will also perform along with a terrific "big band", conducted by Jean Butler. We will be providing some small FREE mini-croissant sandwiches of chicken, tuna and ham salad to munch on. There will be a cash bar, a bake sale, a 50-50 drawing, and a raffle for some valuable items. Tickets may be purchased from Marilyn Gagen for \$20.00. Reach her at 352-753-2603 (H) & 352-552-

6468 (C) or [VillageBridgeNut@gmail.com](mailto:VillageBridgeNut@gmail.com). You may also donate baked goods and raffle items by calling Marilyn.

**RALPH DINOME & THE FLASHBACK BAND SUPPORT VHF.** Ralph DiNome has performed at our late-night "Homecomings" 4 or 5 times over the past few years. On 28 October, the entire band of 6 members performed. The band presented VHF with a check for \$1,000, in addition to performing at *no cost*. The band collected this donation from holding 50-50 raffles at many performances, as well as money from their tip jars, all to support VHF. Ralph and the band supports many charities, including Wounded Warriors, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Operation Smile and Operation Shoe Box. See them at the monthly dances at the Laurel Manor Rec. Center.

**WORLD WAR TWO VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT.**

Benjamin Mack-Jackson is a 13-year-old Orlando area middle school student. He has founded this project due to his interest in honoring our WW2 veterans. He is in the process of videotaping interviews of as many veterans as he can to preserve their oral legacy. You can learn more about his work by visiting [www.WW2VeteransHistoryProject.com](http://www.WW2VeteransHistoryProject.com). Any WW2 veteran willing to be interviewed (in your own home; Ben will come to you) may schedule an interview on the web site, or by phoning Ben at 352-708-4644 or by E-mail at [Ben@WW2VeteransHistoryProject.com](mailto:Ben@WW2VeteransHistoryProject.com). Ben plans to have an informational booth at the upcoming "Grand Reunion" on 08-Jan-2016 (see later item on the Reunion).

**FEMALE VETERANS CELEBRATION.** Are you a female veteran from Lake, Marion or Sumter County who served in wartime WW2, Korea, Vietnam or the Gulf Wars? The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 347 in Lady Lake, FL wishes to honor your service on Monday, 07-Mar-2016. Pre-registration is required for this luncheon as seating is limited to 225. ***Deadline to register is 12-Feb-2016***, and you may do so by contacting Peggy Hearlson at 352-307-8119 (H), 352-875-4454 (C), or [plhearlson@aol.com](mailto:plhearlson@aol.com).

**GRAND REUNION REMINDER.** This huge event will take place on Friday, 08-Jan-2016 beginning at 1:00pm at the North Lake Presbyterian Church, 875 Rolling Acres Rd., Lady Lake (behind the Home

Depot). Doors will open at 12:30pm. Coffee, soft drinks and cookies will be served. This is a FREE event for all veterans who have participated in any of our 23 missions, as well as their guardians. Veterans may bring one guest. Due to limited parking, guardians are encouraged to provide transportation for veterans. ***If you have not yet done so, please RSVP to Laurie Harinsky at 352-633-1220 or [harinsky@yahoo.com](mailto:harinsky@yahoo.com), no later than December 30<sup>th</sup>.*** We are still looking for Red Hat volunteers to aid with parking.

YEHA BOB FUNDRAISER CONCERT. This will be on Monday, 29-Feb-2016, at the Eisenhower Recreation Center. There will be two shows, at 6pm and 8:15pm. Cost is \$10 per person, and tables for 10 may be reserved for \$100. You may bring your own drinks and snacks to the shows if you wish. The tickets will go on sale at the 14 December VHF Club Meeting/Christmas party at Colony Cottage, beginning at 12:30pm. The Mickey Fanatics are paying for the entertainment, and 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales will go to VHF. Lavern Holtz is handling ticket sales (352-430-0899, [grammie6@comcast.net](mailto:grammie6@comcast.net).)

VHF NEWSLETTER TO BEGIN ACKNOWLEDGING "SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS". Villages Honor Flight greatly appreciates donations, both large and small. We receive donations from individuals, clubs, neighborhood groups, businesses, etc. We could not possibly fulfill our mission without this support. Donations to VHF are easily made by going to our web site [www.villageshonorflight.org](http://www.villageshonorflight.org) and clicking on the "Donate" tab on the left side of the home page.

Starting with this issue of the newsletter, we will be recognizing:

- ✪ Bronze level (\$1,000 to \$2,499);
- ✪ Silver level (\$2,500 to \$9,999);
- ✪ Gold level (\$10,000 to \$14,999); and,
- ✪ Mission Sponsor level (\$15,000+).

A complete list of all contributions at these reportable levels may be found on our web site. Some recent major contributions :

Bronze Level:

- ✪ Villages Parrott Head Club (for recent fundraiser at Cody's Road House)

Silver Level:

- ✪ Summer Glenn Veteran's Club (for sponsoring Ocala-area veterans on our missions)
- ✪ Parody Financial Services (for sponsoring "Salute to Veterans" in Brownwood on 11 Nov.)

"I DIDN'T KNOW THAT". With this issue we are instituting a feature that will hopefully pass on some useful information that you may (or may not) have known. For this month:

*Villages Honor Flight (VHF) is the local chapter, or "Hub", of the national Honor Flight organization. VHF serves the 5 Central Florida counties of Lake, Sumter, Marion, Citrus and Hernando. Founded in July, 2011, over 600 Veterans have now participated in the Regular or the Flightless Honor Flight programs.*

*This monthly newsletter is sent out electronically to a wide distribution, much larger than the VHF Club. It includes the following categories of recipients: All vets and guardians who have flown or are on waiting lists; All staff and flight staff; All current volunteers; Anyone who has asked to be on the distribution list. Currently, there are over 900 names on the list.*

#### **Expanded Definition of Vet Eligibility:**

VHF has always followed HF National's original guidelines regarding vet eligibility for an HF: the vet must have served at least one day of active duty during any "war period" (see web site for periods). There is no distinction re combat or duty assignment. Vets who were serving on active reserves during a war period had agreed to go in harms way if requested and, thus, are equally deserving of an HF. So we are expanding vet eligibility for VHF to include active reserve during war periods.

#### **Have comments or items to submit for a future edition?**

**Contact Newsletter Editor Harry Miller, 352-259-9417 or [harryelsucio@earthlink.net](mailto:harryelsucio@earthlink.net)**