



## Villages Honor Flight, Inc.

Serving Lake, Sumter, Marion,  
Citrus and Hernando Counties

**January 2015**

### OPERATIONS

Flight Operations for 2015 are underway with four (4) missions to DC and two (2) Flightless missions planned. The schedule of flights, preflight meeting dates and details may be found on our web site, [www.villageshonorflight.org](http://www.villageshonorflight.org), Click on Flight Schedule.

Preparations are underway for the first Flightless Flight, scheduled for 28-Feb'15 and the first trip to DC for 25-Mar'15.

On each mission a highlight for the honored veterans is the homecoming event experienced when they return to the American Legion Post 347. This capstone event is the joyous tribute that they did not receive at the end of their service. For many it is the highlight of the trip and for all it is an emotional event. For each mission we endeavor to make this event special for the vets and can do so only because of the participation of the community. Details of the timing of the return are noted in our newsletter and on our web site. Please save the dates of our missions and plan on coming out to join other members of the community in thanking these war heroes for their sacrifices, it is a tribute they all deserve and we owe them.

### Major Gift and tribute to Captain Robert Kitt, USN (Ret.)

Recently a benefactor made a contribution to fund the flight costs of 25 veterans and support medical staff. We are most grateful and truly appreciate this gift of Wayne and Mary Grunewald for their support for our mission. Since we receive no outside funding and rely upon the generosity of others to fund our operations, this donation, as are all donations, is critical to our ability to meet our mission. Thank you Wayne and Mary Grunewald.

For donations of this level, to show our appreciation, we allow the donor to fly as a VIP on a flight and to "name" a flight in honor of someone they consider a true hero. Instead of selecting an honoree, they requested that VHF select the individual and our choice was an easy one to make, Captain Robert Kitt, USN (Ret.).

Bob recently passed away at age 94. He was in the class of 1944 at the USNA, but graduated in 1943 due to the need for naval officers. He was highly decorated, serving in uniform for 30 years, including WWII and the Vietnam War...many of those years aboard ship including Commander of a destroyer and Commodore of a destroyer division. Having spent time in DC and toured the WWII memorial several times, he was not eligible to go on an Honor Flight, which is reserved for those who had not seen the memorial. Bob was, however, an early supporter of VHF and willingly performed any task asked of him, so others could experience the memorial.

We appreciate what "Gofer Bob" (as he preferred to be called) did for our program and thank Mr. and Mrs. Grunewald for the opportunity to honor this true American patriot, war hero and VHF volunteer. If others would be interested in "naming" a flight, contact us at 352-432-1382...we would truly appreciate talking to you.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**9-Feb'15 Bob Evans Restaurant, 2199 Parr Drive, The Villages** is hosting a dine in event for the benefit of VHF. Present the attached coupon when you pay your bill and they will donate 15% of the sale to us. Print them off, pass around to your friends and stop on your way to the VHF Club meeting (see below).

**9-Feb'15 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-Feb'15 Valentine's Day Dance and Concert.** Sons of the American Legion Squadron 347 are sponsoring a dance/concert featuring Patrina for the benefit of VHF. Details are on the attached flyer. This fun event sells out quickly so get you tickets as soon as possible.

*Please share this newsletter with your address book.*