

VILLAGES HONOR FLIGHT NEWSLETTER,
NOVEMBER, 2015

SWING BAND CONCERT TO BENEFIT VHF. On Monday, 07-Dec-2015 (Pearl Harbor Day), The Villages Swing Band will perform a benefit concert at American Legion Post 347. The doors will open at 6pm; the concert will begin at 6:30pm. The concert will feature music of the 40's, as well as several guest singers and groups. Seating will be open/theater style. There will be a cash bar, a bake sale, a 50-50 and some other raffle items. Tickets cost \$20.00 and are available from Marilyn Gagen, 352-753-2603 (H) & 352-552-6468 (C) or VillageBridgeNut@gmail.com. The Swing Band is donating their services, Post 347 is donating the concert hall, and that gives us the ability to make a nice profit, assuming we have a sell-out crowd -- as the Swing Band often has. How about buying a bunch of tickets from Marilyn and re-selling them to friends and neighbors, use them as early Christmas gifts, etc.? You may also donate baked goods and raffle items by calling Marilyn.

RETIREMENTS TIMES THREE. Three people very important to Villages Honor Flight are planning to "retire" from their very active current roles. All will be greatly missed. **Fran Into** has been our faithful Treasurer from the very beginning. She is now working with Wayne Grunewald, who is gradually taking over her duties. **Debbie Winters** was both our Veteran Coordinator and Guardian Coordinator for several years before relinquishing the latter to Barb Cooksey. Sally Byrnes has now assumed most of those vet coordinator duties from Debbie. **Maryann Parker** has been our Medical Coordinator for several years. Her duties will be split amongst *three* other medical

professionals. VHF cannot say enough about how important these three wonderful people have been to the organization. Although they will remain a part of VHF, we will surely miss their contributions to our day-to-day operations. Thank you, ladies, for everything you have done for our veterans!

FIRST FLIGHTLESS HONOR FLIGHT FOR INCARCERATED VETS HELD. On 16-Oct-2015, 11 veterans (4 Korean War, 6 Vietnam War, and 1 Gulf War) were honored in the first Flightless Honor Flight ever held, anywhere, in a prison environment. It was held at the Sumter Correctional Facility in Bushnell, FL. This is one of five state prisons. These 11 veterans were chosen from the membership of American Legion Post 403, which is "within the wire" at the correctional facility. Many of them were highly decorated, including a Silver Star, 2 Bronze Stars and several Purple Hearts. Flight Director Gary Kadow stated "Although these men went down a path they should not have chosen after their military service, that does not diminish the fact that they once served their country with honor and courage during wartime. They answered a call to arms and risked their lives for others and for this nation, and it is for that sacrifice they were recognized." Our thanks go to Gary and everyone who participated in the planning and execution of this mission.

THIRD ANNUAL VHF GOLF TOURNAMENT WAS A BIG SUCCESS. Under the chairmanship of Elmer Remson and the leadership of Marketing/Fundraising Director Peter Tetrault, along with 40 hard working VHF volunteers, this event took place on 09-Oct-2015 at the Eagle

Ridge course of the Del Webb Spruce Creek Country Club. Under blue skies, 230 golfers participated in a scramble format. The golf was preceded by an opening ceremony that included presentation of the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem and a spectacular fly-over of a WWII fighter/trainer that made three low passes over all assembled. Golfers were able to later bid on 30 minute high-performance rides in the plane. Several took advantage and paid \$550 each for their eagerly anticipated rides. A delicious dinner of BBQ ribs and chicken, along with all of the trimmings, was enjoyed before prizes and silent auction winners were announced. Elmer reports a profit of approximately \$12,500! Planning for next year's event has already begun. New chairperson will be Frank Moravcik, 2539 Alandare Lane, The Villages, FL 32162, telephone 586-292-3138, E-mail fpmoravcik@yahoo.com. His greatest need will be volunteers to assist in the all-important canvassing of donors, which will begin in the late spring of 2016. *Please consider contacting Frank soon and help him with the 2016 event.* He would like to have an initial meeting of volunteers later this month.

VETERAN'S DAY TO FEATURE PARADY'S "TRIBUTE TO VETERANS" AT BROWNWOOD'S PADDOCK SQUARE. On 11-Nov-2015, from 5-9PM, Parady Financial Services will again sponsor this event to honor veterans, and which will also result in a donation of profits to Villages Honor Flight. Many VHF members have already signed up to act as volunteers. There will be both a 50/50 Raffle and a Chinese Auction. Entertainment will include The Johnny Cool Swing Band, The Villages Twirlers and Drum Corp, The Villages Cheerleaders and

many other Villages resident groups. For more information, please call 352-750-4029. How about bringing one or more of your favorite veterans to this big event?

VIETNAM "TRAVELING WALL" TO BE IN THE VILLAGES. This 3/5ths replica of the Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. will be at the Soccer Fields/Driving Range on Rolling Acres Rd., just north of CR-466. It will be there for three days, on 10, 11, 12 Nov 2015 and will be staffed by volunteers 24 hours per day. Even for those who have been to the National Mall and seen the "real thing", the Moving Wall is well worth a visit. It is being sponsored by the Fruitland Park Chapter of the Disabled Veterans of America.

NOVEMBER VHF CLUB MEETING. The regular 2nd Monday of the month meeting will be held on 09-Nov-2015, beginning at 12:30 P.M., at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center. Please try to attend to keep up on current activities, learn more about VHF, and sign up to volunteer for upcoming events. Bring your calendars! Bring a friend and get them involved, also. This meeting's program will include an overview of the recent Prison Flightless Honor Flight by the Flight Director, Gary Kadow.

4th ANNUAL FASHION SHOW HELD. The 4th Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show was held on Saturday, 24-Oct-2015, at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center. As always, it was an early sellout, with all profits going to Villages Honor Flight. Fashions from Anthony's and Tommy Bahama were modeled by VHF volunteers, including some WWII and Korean War veterans (Manny Freitas, Harry Clark, Jesse Dilks, Edna Solsvig, Phyllis Kurz, Bette

Widdowson and Ernestine Dave). Discount coupons to those stores were awarded to the 250+ people in attendance. A delicious lunch was catered by Bob Evans. The "Villages Sweeties" chapter of the Sweet Potato Queens served as ticket sellers and as escorts for the models, and added a great deal of pizzazz and color, as did those handsome volunteers in tuxedos. Chairperson Debbie Winters reported that 25 VHF volunteers worked on this event, and that a profit of approximately \$1,700 was realized. Next year's Fashion Show will be on Saturday, 19-Nov-2016 and will feature two (2) events: a 10:00 A.M. Brunch and a 1:00 P.M. Lunch. Ticket information for the 2016 event will follow. Great work, Debbie and everyone else!

VILLAGES HONOR FLIGHT TO HOST "GRAND REUNION". Mark this important event on your 2016 calendar: **08-Jan-2016**. Beginning at 1:00 P.M. that day, we will be hosting a "Grand Reunion" for all the veterans, guardians and flight staff who have flown with us since the initial flight in May of 2012. This includes all three of the "Flightless" flights we've held. It will be at the North Lake Presbyterian Church, 975 Rolling Acres Rd., Lady Lake (behind Home Depot). This is a FREE event for all vets and their guardians. Participation is limited by fire code (only "so many" people in the room) so we have to have some limits on guests. At present, Veterans may bring one (1) guest, but we can not guarantee space for Guardian or Flight Staff guests at this time. If you are eligible, and have not yet done so, please RSVP to Laurie Harinsky at 352-633-1220 or E-mail at harinsky@yahoo.com. Parking can be crowded on a weekday, so consider car pooling if at all possible. Veterans who participated in

Missions #21 (Sept., 2015), #22 (Sept., 2015 flightless) and #23 (Oct. 2015) will be able to pick up their "Yearbooks" for their respective flights at this "Grand Reunion".

"YEHA BOB" TO PERFORM TO BENEFIT VHF.

This wildly popular Disney World entertainer will be performing two shows here in The Villages on 29-Feb-2016 with all profits going to VHF. Details are not yet firm, but the shows will likely be at the Eisenhower Recreation Center at 5 and 8pm. Tickets will be only \$10.00, and entire tables of 10 may be purchased for \$100.00. Tickets will be on sale at the 14-Dec-2015 VHF Club meeting and also at the "Grand Reunion" on 08-Jan-2016 (if any remain available). After that, contact LaVerne Holtz at 443-762-6292.

PARROTHEAD FUNDRAISER The local chapter of the Parrot Heads will sponsor a fund raiser for Villages Honor Flight at Cody's (Sumter Landing) on 10-Nov-2015 from 4PM to 6PM. \$5.00 for wrist band. 50/50 raffle, sales table and an iPad raffle courtesy of Arcadia Health.

WE FLY OUR OLDEST WWII VETERAN. By the time you read this, 99-years-young WWII veteran Alvin Hersey will have participated in Mission 23 on 28-Oct-2015, our last flight for 2015. Mr. Hersey served with the Army as a messenger for headquarters. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge, and was a German POW for 68 days before being liberated. He was awarded the Bronze Star. He moved to The Villages about a year ago, after the death of his wife of 76 years, and currently resides with his two daughters. His son-in-law, Harold Bartley, acted as his Guardian on his recent flight.

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