



## VILLAGES HONOR FLIGHT NEWSLETTER

**December, 2016**

[www.VillagesHonorFlight.Org](http://www.VillagesHonorFlight.Org)

**Phone: 352-432-1382**

**Serving the Florida Counties of Lake, Marion,  
Sumter, Citrus and Hernando**

**NEXT CLUB MEETING.** The Villages Honor Flight Club will meet on Monday, 12-Dec. 2016 at 12:30pm at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center in the Villages, FL (we always meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month so mark your calendars in advance). You will have the chance to sign up for many volunteer opportunities so be sure to bring your calendars to the meeting. Irv Locker will be our featured speaker.

All "Coordinators" will be giving a brief overview of their responsibilities, which should be especially helpful for our many new members. ***Everyone attending is asked to bring at least one small, unwrapped gift for a veteran.*** The gifts will be distributed to various residence facilities and groups in our area. Please see following story about the things that are needed.

### **UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS.**

--9-Dec.-2016, CPR class at 1pm at La Hacienda Rec. Cen.

--10-Dec.-2016, Christmas Parade, 10am-1pm, Villages Polo Grounds

--12-Dec.-2016, VHF Club monthly meeting, 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.

--9-Jan., **2017**, VHF Club monthly meeting, 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.

--13-Jan., CPR CLASS AT 1PM AT La Hacienda Rec. Cen.

--21-Jan., Fall Reunion for Sep. 2016 & Nov. 2016 flights, 1pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.

--2-Feb., WWII Concert at Northlake Presbyterian Church, 6PM

--4-Feb., Pre-flight for M32 Flightless Honor Flight

--10-Feb., CPR class at 1pm at La Hacienda Rec. Cen.

--12-Feb., M33 Pre-flight #1, 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.

--13-Feb., VHF Club monthly meeting, 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen. \*

--21-Feb., "Singing Sargent's" concert at North Lake Presbyterian Church, 7pm

--22-Feb., "Singing Sargent's" concerts at Eisenhower Rec. Cen., 3pm & 7pm

--25-Feb., M32 "Flightless" Honor Flight at Eisenhower Rec. Cen.

--26-Feb., "Yee Haw bob" concert at Seabreeze Rec. Cen., 2pm & 5pm

--6-Mar., Women Veterans Luncheon, Amer. Leg. Post 347, noon.

--10-Mar., CPR class at 1pm at La Hacienda Rec. Cen.

--12-Mar., M33 Pre-flight #2, 12:30pm, Col. Cot., Rec. Cen.

--13-Mar., VHF Club monthly meeting, 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen. \*

--29-Mar., M33 flight to Washington, D.C.

--29-Mar., Amelia Neighborhoods "Salute to Honor Flight", Col. Cot. Rec. Cen., 6-9pm.

### **NEEDY VETERANS COULD USE SOME HELP AT**

**CHRISTMAS.** We have lots of needy veterans, including our friends at the Ft. McCoy VFW Veterans Village Home, as well as many of the homeless vets in the Ocala National Forest who are assisted by Project SOS -- Support our Soldiers, which will organize the distribution of your gifts. Keep in mind that some veterans do not have electrical/refrigeration and food items should require no more than water to be added. We are asking those attending our VHF Club monthly meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup> to consider bringing some of the following items so we can distribute them to veterans in need:

- Basic Toiletries, like shaving cream, soap, deodorant, etc.
- Laundry detergent
- Towels, washcloths, sheets (twin size)
- Gift Cards in any amount from Walmart, Publix, Sam's Club, Winn Dixie, etc. so they can buy fresh foods & meats
- Canned meats, such as chicken, tuna, etc.
- Canned soups, fruits, Kraft Mac & Cheese, Chef Boyardee products
- Snacks for children. Individual small bags & packets work well. Cookies, peanut butter cracker packs, small candy bars (Halloween size)
- Batteries, especially AA and AAA, but also C & D

### **BUY AT AMAZON & DONATE TO VILLAGES**

**HONOR FLIGHT.** Approximately 77% of all people living in the USA shop at Amazon. Are you one of them? If so, you can have Amazon donate to Villages Honor Flight when you place an order. There is no cost to you. Amazon will donate ½% of your order total to any charity you designate. One half of one percent is only 50 cents on a \$100.00 order but it all adds up. Instead of using the usual [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com),

use [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). Register your favorite charity at "smile" (we hope it's Villages Honor Flight) and you are done. The next time you buy something on Amazon log in using "smile" instead of the regular Amazon web site. Everything will look the same. Bookmark the "smile" site and delete the Amazon site you are currently using.

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CENTRAL FLORIDA?**

Cathy Haynes publishes a monthly newsletter on veteran-related activities for Central Florida. Many of you likely know her as "Miss Liberty" when she shows up to welcome our veterans home at the Orlando Airport in her stunning green outfit and her dazzling smile. You can view the current and approximately two years of back issues on our web site by clicking on "News" and then on "Cathy Haynes Newsletter".

### **"SINGING SARGENTS" TO GIVE THREE**

**PERFORMANCES.** This terrific choral group, part of the famous USAF Band, will give three performances over two days on Feb. 21-22, 2017. The first concert will be at the North Lake Presbyterian Church on Feb. 21, at 7:00pm. Tickets for that FREE concert can only be obtained on-line from [www.USAFBand.AF.Mil](http://www.USAFBand.AF.Mil). Following will be two performances at the Eisenhower Rec. Cen. on Feb. 22. These will also be FREE concerts, but tickets will be required and will be available from The Villages Box Office. The box office will have tickets available beginning the first week of January, 2017. The first of the two concerts at Eisenhower on Feb. 22 will be at 3:00pm, and following that performance there will be a *private 30 minute reception* for Honor Flight veterans with the Singing Sargents and the musicians. The Villages Box Office will be holding a block of tickets for our veterans, which may be obtained by contacting Marilyn Gagen at [mgagen@me.com](mailto:mgagen@me.com) or 352-552-6468 no later than January first. The second

performance on Feb. 22 will also be at Eisenhower at 7:00pm, again with FREE tickets from The Villages Box Office the first week of January.

**AMELIA NEIGHBORHOODS TO HOST THEIR 3<sup>RD</sup> “SALUTE TO HONOR FLIGHT”.** On Wed., 29-Mar-2017 several neighborhoods in the Village of Amelia will host a fun evening to benefit Villages Honor Flight. It will be at the Col. Cot. Rec. Cen. from 6-9:00pm. This is a *free* event, with music, finger foods, 50/50 raffle, Chinese Auction, Baskets, Arts & Crafts and Gifts. There is no admission fee, but attendees are asked to BYOB as well as finger foods or appetizers to share. All proceeds to benefit Villages Honor Flight. To donate items or for additional information contact Peg Leonard at phone 330-565-2127 or [mleonard@leonardindustriesllc.com](mailto:mleonard@leonardindustriesllc.com).

**FALL FLIGHTS REUNION SET.** The Reunion for those participating in the flights of Sept. 7, Sept. 24 and Nov. 2, 2016 will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2017, beginning at 1pm at the Col. Cot. Rec. Cen. Veterans may bring up to two (2) guests but Guardians should *not* bring any guests, due to space limitations. Refreshments will be served and yearbooks will be distributed. Guardians from those flights should contact their Veterans and then RSVP the names of those who will be attending to Sally Byrnes at [sallyb5890@gmail.com](mailto:sallyb5890@gmail.com) or 352-259-5890.

**VILLAGES HONOR FLIGHT HAS SPEAKERS AVAILABLE.** Many of us belong to several clubs and groups. If your club would like more information about Villages Honor Flight, we can provide a speaker. The presentation can range from 15-45 minutes depending on what your group needs. We can do a formal presentation or a more casual chat with your group. Our videos are always popular to show your club/group members just what a typical day is like on an Honor Flight. Contact Barb Cooksey at [bcooksey1122@centurylink.net](mailto:bcooksey1122@centurylink.net) to schedule a

speaker to help spread the word about Villages Honor flight!

**WOMEN VETERANS TO BE HONORED AT LUNCHEON.** American Legion Aux. Unit 347 will be hosting a luncheon for the female veterans who reside in Lake, Marion and Sumter counties on Monday, March 6, at noon at the American Legion Post 347, located on the corner of Rolling Acres Rd. and CR-466 in The Villages. There is NO cost for the veterans, but any guests are asked to make a \$5.00 donation. Pre-registration begins on January 15 and ends on Feb. 26, and is needed for an accurate meal count. Register by contacting Donna McGlone at [donna244mcglone@gmail.com](mailto:donna244mcglone@gmail.com) (please put “Women’s Veterans Luncheon” in “Subject” line) or telephone 352-753-9688. Please provide your name, name of any guest(s), phone and E-mail contact. If you have a copy of a photo or article about your service, they would love to put it in their Cavalcade of Memories scrapbook. Provide that information to Donna, also.

**“DOO WOP” FUNDRAISING CONCERT A BIG SUCCESS.** This concert was held on “Veterans Day Eve” at the Wildwood Community Center and featured the group “Forever Young” who donated their wonderful services to Villages Honor Flight. A big crowd enjoyed an evening of singing and dancing. Profits from the event resulted in \$3,100.00 going to support our flights for veterans. A big “Thank You” to “Forever Young”, and to Marilyn Gagen for her efforts in organizing everything.

**SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.** During the past month, the following large contributions were made to Villages Honor Flight:

--Bronze Level (\$1,000 to \$2,499); Pat and Frank Moravcik.

**VILLAGES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE.** This event will take place at The Villages Polo

Grounds on Saturday, December 10, from 10:00am until 1:00pm. We are looking for veterans to ride in Model A's and Model T's. Guardians and volunteers are encouraged to come in their decorated golf carts or to walk behind our Villages Honor Flight banner. Anyone interest should contact Liza Walters at 352-753-9664 or [lizadiana@aol.com](mailto:lizadiana@aol.com).

### **WE'RE LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT**

**TREASURER.** Villages Honor Flight is looking for an Assistant Treasurer. This person must be someone who has:

- Excellent computer skills
- Experience with financial software packages
- Accounting or bookkeeping background
- Has provided work direction to others

VHF uses Quick Books for its accounting. The Assistant Treasurer is responsible for updating and maintaining the integrity of this accounting system, in essence, the "system owner". This position provides work direction to the financial staff, as appropriate, primarily in a trouble shooting role. Requests often come from the VHF Treasurer for research or special projects, which requires the ability to utilize data from within Quick Books. The Assistant Treasurer also helps with the preparation of Financial Reports and Tax Returns. On average, this position requires 3 to 6 hours of work per week.

If interested in learning more about the Assistant Treasurer position, please contact Wayne Grunewald, VHF Treasurer, at 352-391-9707 or [pagrune6@gmail.com](mailto:pagrune6@gmail.com).

### **4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FASHION SHOW A HUGE SUCCESS!**

Sell-out crowds and popular Veteran models helped these shows earn approximately \$5,000 for future flights. 97-year-old model Margaret Green again fronted the fashions, along with several other Veterans. Harriet Dawson's hard work resulted in over 50 baskets from area

merchants that earned \$2,758 from the Chinese Auction. Anthony's and Steinmart provided the fashions and Chicken Salad Chic the brunch and the lunch. The Villages Cuties chapter of the Sweet Potato Queens provided lots of sparkle and glamour. Many Honor flight volunteers helped make this the most successful show yet.

**"I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!"** Planning the schedule for the 2017 Villages Honor flights starts in the last quarter of 2016, as preparation is a key to our success. We have our first flight in February (a Flightless mission) and then have our two spring flights to Washington, D.C. that have to be organized. Assigning staff for those 3 missions is the first step. Selecting a team consisting of a Flight director (FD), a Mission Executive Officer (MXO), Bus Captains, Medical Team and Photo/Video personnel are crucial to the structure of a flight. The work really starts with the Ground Coordinator, working with the American Legion for Send-Off and Homecoming, with Colony Cottage Rec. Cen. for rooms to conduct Pre-flight meetings and monthly VHF Club meetings, and with the bus companies for transportation for both the Flightless and the regular flight to D.C. Medical staff must review Veteran's medical forms and call the appropriate people to make sure our Veterans are ready to fly. Also, the Veterans and Guardians for each mission must be selected and contacted by the Veteran Coordinator and the Guardian Coordinator. The Flight Staff then get together to match up Veterans with Guardians and organize them into squads, each squad consists of 5 vet/guardian teams. New Squad Leaders must be trained. Probably most important is all of the work done by volunteers behind the scenes: Ground Coordinator, Red Hats, Mail Call Coordinator and all of the volunteers who check our Vets and Guardians at the pre-flight meetings. This list could go on and on as just organizing our schedule takes a lot of hours and time by our dedicated volunteers. These flights

don't just "happen", Villages Honor Flight Volunteers *make* them happen. Thanks to everyone on behalf of all the veterans. If you would like to participate in some of these activities, simply attend the monthly meetings of the Club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at the Colony Cottage Rec. Cen., beginning at 12:30pm.

**GUARDIAN'S CORNER.** In 2017 we will be flying 40 Veterans and 40 Guardians on each of the four flights to Washington, D.C. We need approximately 20 *new* guardians for each flight, as well as 20 *experienced* guardians. Our Guardian Coordinators often have to call 4, 5 or even more people before they find one person available for the 3 dates associated with a single flight! That means we might call 80-100 people to get the 20 new guardians. **We need more names on our list!** So please, NOW is the time to apply!

Your name goes on a list in the order, by date, we *receive* your application. The sooner you submit your application, the sooner we will call you for a flight. When we call, if you are not available for the 3 dates associated with the flight, you still stay on the list, by date that we received your application. You do NOT go to the bottom of the list! We will call you for the next flight, and so on, until you are available.

Qualifications: minimum age is 18; maximum age is 75 (you have not yet reached your 76<sup>th</sup> birthday by the day of the flight). You must be healthy enough to push a wheelchair with an up to 250 lb. veteran all day long if necessary. Most important you must have a willingness to personally serve our honored veterans.

To submit your Guardian Application (including "Fly Again" guardians), go to [www.VillagesHonorFlight.org](http://www.VillagesHonorFlight.org) and click on "Applications" and click on the appropriate one ("New" or "Fly Again"). Print it and mail it to

the address on the form or scan it and E-mail it to Janet Myers at [gc1myers@gmail.com](mailto:gc1myers@gmail.com).

You may also apply to be a Guardian on a "Flightless" Honor Flight. Many of our veterans cannot fly for medical reasons or simply don't want to fly. We take these honored veterans on a virtual tour of Washington, D.C. two more times each year. Ages for "Flightless" guardians are from 18 to 90 or more, depending on your physical abilities. You can find a "Flightless Guardian" application on the web site, also. You are welcome to do *both* "regular" and "flightless", so get on both lists if you're interested.

We hope to see you on a 2017 flight, either "real" or "virtual"!

**WWII Music Concert.** Each year the WW2 History Club sponsors a concert featuring a live band playing those great songs from WWII; all net proceeds are donated to Villages Honor Flight. This year the concert will be held on Thursday, 02-Feb-2017, 6PM at the North Lake Presbyterian Church. Admission is \$10 For tickets, contact Don Goldstein, [dmgph@aol.com](mailto:dmgph@aol.com), (352) 391-1135 or Liza Walters, [lizadiana@aol.com](mailto:lizadiana@aol.com), (352) 753-9664

**Learn More About WWII.** Although we are now flying more Korean War Vets than WWII, the original focus of Honor Flight was WWII only. If you are interested in learning more about WWII, consider attending one of the WW2 History Club meetings. Check out the web site at [www.ww2hc.org](http://www.ww2hc.org)

VILLAGES HONOR FLIGHT

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**P.S.: PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH  
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!**