



**VILLAGES HONOR  
FLIGHT NEWSLETTER**  
**September, 2016**

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

Phone: 352-432-1382

Serving Lake, Marion, Sumter, Citrus &  
Hernando Counties

**NEXT CLUB MEETING.** The Villages Honor Flight Club will meet on Monday, 12-Sep-2016 at 12:30p.m. 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 opportunity to sign up for many volunteer opportunities, including the 01-Oct-2016 Golf Scramble. Be sure to bring your calendars to the meeting.

**UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS.**

- 3-Sept. M29 FHF Pre-Flight at 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.
- 7-Sept. M28 flight to DC; Homecoming greeters needed
- 9-Sept. CPR class, 1pm, La Hacienda Rec. Cen.
- 12-Sept. VHF Club Monthly Mtg., 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.
- 24-Sept. M29 FHF at Amer. Legion & Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.
- 25-Sept. M31 Pre-Flight #1 at 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.
- 1-Oct. Annual Golf Scramble at Spruce Creek Country Club
- 10-Oct. VHF Club monthly meeting, 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.
- 14-Oct. CPR class, 1pm, La Hacienda Rec. Cen.

- 15-Oct. Volunteer Appreciation Day, Wildwood Comm. Cen., 10am-2pm
  - 18-Oct. Bob Evans Fund raiser, 6am-9pm
  - 18-Oct. M30 Veteran's Village FHF, Ft. McCoy
  - 23-Oct. M31 Pre-Flight #2, 12:30pm, Col. Cot., Rec. Cen.
  - 2-Nov. M31 flight to DC; Homecoming greeters needed
  - 10-Nov. Doo wop Concert, 6:30pm, Wildwood Com. Cen.
  - 11-Nov. VETERAN'S DAY!!**
  - 11-Nov. CPR class, 1pm, La Hacienda Rec. Cen.
  - 12-Nov. "75 Years of USO" at Savannah Center
  - 14-Nov. VHF Club Monthly Mtg., 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.
  - 19-Nov. Fashion Show, 9:30am & 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.
  - 9-Dec. CPR class, 1pm, La hacienda Rec. Cen.
  - 12-Dec. VHF Club Monthly Meeting, 12:30pm, Col. Cot. Rec. Cen.
- FLIGHTLESS HONOR FLIGHT NEEDS YOUR HELP.** On Saturday 24-Sep-2016, we will hold another of our "Flightless" missions. Twenty Veterans (8 WW2, 10 Korean, 2 Vietnam) will participate, with two of the twenty being female veterans. We hope you can make this mission a success for these deserving veterans by showing up at some or all of the following times: 10am "Send Off" at the American Legion; 11am "Meet & Greet" at Col. Cot. Rec. Cen. (simulated Orlando airport); 2:30pm "Meet & Greet" at Col. Cot. Rec. Cen. (simulated Orlando airport); "Homecoming" at the American Legion, beginning at 1:30pm (Veterans expected at approx.. 3pm). The Homecoming will have Villages Cheerleaders, The Villages Twirlers, Clown Alley 179 and music by Ralph DiNome. The veterans will be escorted to the Legion by the Lady Lake Police and The Villages Nomads motorcycle club. Please bring your smiles & cheers, friends & neighbors and flags to as many of these times as you can so our veterans get the support they truly deserve.

**GOLFERS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Scramble will be held on 1-Oct. at the Eagle Ridge course at Del Webb's Spruce Creek Country Club. More than half the golfer slots are filled, so sign up NOW so you are not left out! You can go to our website at [www.VillagesHonorFlight.org](http://www.VillagesHonorFlight.org) and click on "Fund Raisers" on the left side of the home page, then "Golf Tournament". Clicking on "More Info" will give the links for entry forms, as well as for sponsor forms to buy those spiffy signs. Contact Chairman Frank Moravcik at [fpmoravcik@yahoo.com](mailto:fpmoravcik@yahoo.com) or 586-292-3138 with questions or to volunteer to help out now and/or on the day of the event. Any memorial signs purchased in previous years may be brought to the Sept. VHF Club meeting and after a 2016 \$30.00 fee is paid, they will be displayed at the event. You may also order new signs at that meeting. There will be a brief Golf Committee meeting following the regular meeting.

**BOB EVANS FUNDRAISER.** On Tuesday, 18-Oct-2016, the Bob Evans on CR-466 in The Villages will donate 15% of sales to anyone who presents their server with a flyer. This will go on the entire day, from 6am to 9pm and could result in a *huge* donation to Villages Honor Flight. We have to get those flyers out to many, many people! Pick up a supply at our Sept. and Oct. meetings, or contact Chairman Glenn Yagle at 352-216-8747 and he can give you a link to print some up for your own distributions to neighbors, friends, clubs, etc. Glenn could also use some volunteers to help staff a VHF info. table at Bob Evans on 18-Oct., so sign up with him if you can help out.

**DOO-WOP CONCERT/DANCE FUNDRAISER.**

"Forever Young" will be the featured group at this fun evening, to be held at the Wildwood Com. Cen. on Powell Rd., beginning at 6:30pm on Thursday, 10-Nov-2016. It's BYOB with ice, cups, snacks and desserts all provided. Cost is only \$15.00 and tables for six can be reserved by contacting Chairperson Marilyn Gagen at [mgagen@me.com](mailto:mgagen@me.com) or 352-753-2603 or 352-552-6468. You may also mail her a check made payable to "Villages Honor Flight" at 309 Emmalee Place, The Villages, FL 32162. Including a

stamped, self-addressed envelope for your ticket return would be appreciated.

**WILDLY POPULAR ANNUAL FASHION SHOW**

**TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE.** The Fashion Show, which will be held at the Colony Cottage Rec. Cen. on Thursday, 19-Nov-2016, has tickets available for both shows. The first will be a "brunch" show at 9:30am and the second will be a "lunch" show at 12:30pm. These two shows always sell out, so don't miss out by waiting too long to purchase the \$15.00 tickets, which include brunch or lunch, door prizes, raffles and lots of surprises. Food will be catered by Chicken Salad Chic (*not* just chicken salad!) and the fashions will come from Anthony's and Tommy Bahama's, who will also provide discount shopping discounts. You may order tickets from LaVerne Holtz at 352-430-0899 (H) & 443-762-6292 (C) or [grammie6@comcast.net](mailto:grammie6@comcast.net). Tables for eight (8) may also be reserved. Tickets, *if still available*, may also be purchased at the Villages Honor Flight monthly meetings in Sep, Oct and Nov.

**GUARDIANS, WE NEED GUARDIANS!** Our backlog of Guardian applications is becoming low. If you have flown as a guardian before and would like to fly again, please submit a "Fly Again" application, which can be obtained from our web site at [www.VillagesHonorFlight.org](http://www.VillagesHonorFlight.org) and clicking on the "Applications" tab on the left side of the Home page. If you've never flown with us before, please sign up as a potential guardian so you can become part of a truly life-changing experience. Guardians are also needed for the "Flightless" missions. Fill out the application and mail it to: Villages Honor Flight, P.O. Box 490, Lady Lake, FL 32158-0490. Please write "Application" on the lower left corner of the mailing envelope. Questions? Please contact Guardian Coordinator Janet Myers at [gc1jmyers@gmail.com](mailto:gc1jmyers@gmail.com) or 352-350-4325. Do you have a friend or neighbor who would be a great guardian? How about doing some recruiting for us?

**NOVEMBER MISSION IN MEMORY OF LOU BRANCH.**

M31, 02-Nov-2016, will be the *Lou Branch Memorial Flight*. The mission is being sponsored by the WW2 History Club here in The Villages. The guest flying with the group is world famous historian and author Don Goldstein. Lou Branch, a veteran of WWII,

Korea and Vietnam, served in the US Army, US Navy (Annapolis grad of 1948) and the USAF. Lou was killed in an automobile accident in Marion county last November. A nice write up on Lou can be found [here](#). Lou was instrumental in success of the WW2 History Club, The Hangar Flyers Club and the WW2 Vets Group (WW2HC spinoff).

**ORIGIN OF HONOR FLIGHT.** Honor Flight is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. We fly our heroes to Washington, DC to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans—WW2 survivors along with those other veterans that may be terminally ill. Recently, half or more of our missions have included veterans of the Korean War. Honor Flight first flew in May 2005 with six small planes flying 12 WW2 veterans, departing out of Springfield, Ohio. In 2006, with a waiting list of veterans expanding rapidly, we transitioned to commercial airline carriers to accommodate the maximum number of veterans possible. Partnering with Honor Air in Hendersonville, North Carolina and Hero Flight in Provo, Utah, we formed the "Honor Flight Network." Together, we are aggressively expanding our programs to other cities across the nation. We are losing our WW2 veterans at the rate of over 1,200 each DAY. Honor Flight will continue to do whatever it takes to fulfill the dreams of our veterans and, very importantly, our senior heroes will continue to travel *absolutely free*. Villages Honor Flight was started in 2011, with its first flight to DC taking place in 2012. So far, Villages Honor Flight has flown over 600 veterans and in 2016 it will conclude the year with 31 total missions completed.

The Honor flight program was conceived by Earl Morse, a Physician Assistant and retired Air force Captain, to honor veterans he had taken care of for the previous 27 years. After retiring from the Air force in 1998, Earl was hired by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to work in a small clinic in Springfield, Ohio. In May of 2004, the WW2 memorial was finally completed and dedicated in Washington, DC which quickly became the topic of discussion among his WW2 Veteran patients. Earl

repeatedly asked these veterans if they would ever travel to visit THEIR memorial. Most felt that eventually, somehow, they would make it to DC, perhaps with a family member or friend.

As summer turned to fall, and then winter, these same veterans returned to the clinic for their follow-up visits. Earl asked if they had accomplished their dream of visiting the WWII memorial. By now, for most of the veterans queried, reality had settled in; it was clear to most that it simply wasn't financially or physically possible for them to make the journey. Most of these senior heroes are in their 80's and 90's and lacked the physical and mental wherewithal to complete a trip on their own. Families and friends also lacked the resources and time to complete a 3-4 day trip to DC. Earl could tell that the majority of the veterans had given up all hope of ever visiting the memorial that was specifically created to honor their services and the services of their fellow comrades who had paid the ultimate sacrifice. That's when Earl decided that there has to be a way to get these heroes to DC to see their memorial.

Also a private pilot, Earl asked one of his WWII Veteran patients if he could personally fly him to DC, free of charge, to visit this memorial. The patient broke down and cried. He said at his age he would probably never get to see his memorial. He accepted the offer. A second WWII Veteran was asked the same question a week later. He too cried and enthusiastically accepted a trip to DC. Realizing that the desire was so great, Earl started to ask for help from other pilots to make these hopes and dreams a reality. *Honor Flight* was born.

The mission and ideals of the program has spread across America. By the end of 2015, over 160,000 Veterans realized their dream of visiting their memorial. More than 130 Honor Flight "Hubs" now exist in 30 states. Two factors that we are extremely proud of are (1) all of our heroes had a *safe* and memorable trip and (2) we were able to raise sufficient funds so that every veteran flew *absolutely free*.

There's no "free lunch"? Yes there is. It's called *Honor Flight*.

**M30, 18-OCT., "GOOD NEWS" & "BAD NEWS"**. The *bad news* is that the Gulf Prison Flightless Honor Flight in Tallahassee has been *anceled* due to increased risks and security requirements not in keeping with our program. The *good news*, however, is we are still on for that same date with Mission 30, *but* it will be held at the VFW Veteran's Village in Fort McCoy near Ocala. This facility has an abundance of Veterans and it is ready-made for our "Flightless" Honor flight. It's also less than one hour away so we won't all be half dead by the time we would have returned home. This is merely to give everyone who volunteered for the prison flight a "heads up". Only the location has changed. We *still* need volunteers as there are 30 vets from WW2, Vietnam (including a nurse) & Lebanon. More details will follow from our Mission Director Gary Kadow and Flight director Barb Hambright.

Comments or suggestions may be sent to Newsletter Editor, Harry Miller, at [harryelsucio@earthlink.net](mailto:harryelsucio@earthlink.net) or phone 352-259-9417.

***PS: PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!***

**SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:**

**Bronze Level: \$1,000-\$2,499**

Blackstone Financial Advisory Group LLC

**Silver Level: \$2,500-\$9,999**

Son's of the American Legion Squadron 347

**Mission Sponsor Level: \$15,000 +**

Anonymous

**In Memory of:** Alvin Hersey

**In Honor of:** John Murray

---

***VILLAGES HONOR FLIGHT***

**P.O. Box 490**

**Lady Lake, FL 32158-0490**

**[www.VillagesHonorFlight.org](http://www.VillagesHonorFlight.org)**

**352-432-1382**