

VILLAGES HONOR FLIGHT NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2016

WWW.VillagesHonorFlight.org

Serving Lake, Marion, Sumter, Citrus &
Hernando Counties

NEXT CLUB MEETING. The Villages Honor Flight Club will meet on Monday, 14-Mar-2016, at 12:30 P.M. at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center in The Villages, FL. We will be seeking volunteers for the upcoming flight on March 30 and VHF CFO and Treasurer Wayne Grunewald will be providing an overview of his recent attendance at the National Honor Flight "Summit" meeting. The Golf Scramble Committee will meet immediately after the Club meeting.

VILLAGES HONOR FLIGHT HONORED AS VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

The Villages Homeowners Association has selected Villages Honor Flight as the Volunteer Organization of the Year for 2015. The presentation of the award will occur at the VHA meeting on Wednesday, 09-Mar-2016.

WW2 HISTORY CLUB FUNDRAISER. This club has traditionally sponsored an Evening of WW2 Music each February with proceeds going to Villages Honor Flight. In 2016, the event is being moved to March with *two* evenings of live entertainment: Wed., 23-Mar-2016 at the Eisenhower Rec. Center and Wed., 30-Mar-2016 at the Seabreeze Rec. Center. Music by Music Mix & Savoy Bands. Doors will open at 5:30 P.M. and the events will start at 6:00 P.M. There will be approx. two hours of live band entertainment each evening. Tickets, which will be \$10.00, will be available at VHF and WW2 History Club meetings and events. Tickets are

for Villages residents and their guests. For ticket information, go to the [club's web site](#) and then click on "How to get tickets". A few volunteers are still needed to help with ticket sales and with "usher" duties at the two actual events. Contact Mark Erdrich at (585)455-2853 or merlin66@ww2hc.org.

"I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!" The concept of "honor flight" started in Ohio, in May, 2005, when Earl Morse and 5 other pilots flew 12 WW2 veterans to Washington, D.C. in their own 6 small planes. This eventually grew into the "Honor Flight Network", which now has 133 independent regional "Hubs" in virtually every state of the union, with Villages Honor Flight joining in 2011.

HFN is the oversight and chartering body. As all hubs have become financially and legally independent of HFN, HFN had adopted policies of guidance and best practices rather than "rules". HFN continues to work with corporations to improve service relationships and gain national sponsorship. Southwest Airlines, Breitling and Snap-On are three examples.

Villages Honor Flight requires that all guardians and other flight staff be CPR/AED qualified. Free classes are offered to VHF personnel by CERT for classes held the 2nd Friday of each month at the La Hacienda Rec. Center in The Villages. To enroll, contact Liza Walters at lizadiana@aol.com or 352-753-9664.

IMPORTANT MARCH DATES.

- ★ Fri., 11-Mar, CPR at La Hacienda Rec. Cen.
- ★ Sun., 13-Mar, Pre-Flight #2 for M25
- ★ Mon., 14-Mar, Golf Scramble Committee mtg.
- ★ Mon., 14-Mar, VHF monthly mtg.
- ★ Wed., 23-Mar, WW2 History Club concert
- ★ Wed., 30-Mar, M25 to D.C.

🌟 Wed., 30-Mar, WW2 History Club concert

GUARDIAN'S CORNER. M24, the first Flightless mission of 2016, had 15 Guardians for the 15 veterans participating. M25, the first regular mission at the end of March, will have 35 Guardians for the 35 participating vets; all of them have already attended Pre-Flight Meeting #1. M26 currently has 6 of the needed 7 squad leaders assigned; with 4 of them are experienced squad leaders. The rest of the squad leaders and guardians for M26 should be selected and notified soon. Two members from the Villages Honor Flight Club have volunteered to assist the Guardian Coordinating Team.

VETERAN'S CORNER. Villages Honor Flight is rapidly transitioning from WWII vets to Korean War vets. Our last flight in 2015 was 50% WWII and 50% Korean War vets. Our 30-Mar-2016 mission will be 60% Korean War vets and we expect a similar increase each mission. WWII vets will always have top priority so any new WWII vet applicant will go to the top of the list.

THE VILLAGES MILITARY MEMORABILIA EXPO 2016. The Eisenhower Recreation Center will host a one day Military Expo on Saturday, 2-Apr-2016. The goal is to provide clubs/associations and individuals the opportunity to display and discuss their activities and military items. Clubs and individuals (must be Villages residents) who wish to participate should fill out the [application form](#) for review and submit to Lisa Parkyn at La Hacienda Recreation Center, Lisa.Parkyn@districtgov.org. For more information please contact Lisa Parkyn at (352) 753-1716.

GUARDIAN POLICIES CLARIFIED

Age Limitations for Guardians

Guardians and flight staff for a regular mission can not have reached their 76th birthday on the day of the flight. The only exception is for photographers and videographers. Any guardian or flight staff member who will reach their 71st birthday by the day of the flight must also submit a Fit to Fly form (signed by their doctor) at Pre-Flight #1.

Family Member and Vet Specific Guardians

Effective 01-Jan-2016, family member and vet-specific guardians will no longer be accepted. The reasons are several and the Guardian Coordinator will be happy to explain them. Exceptions may be granted in cases where the vet's caregiver would make the best guardian or where a family member is the vet's caregiver. Family member and vet-specific guardians already approved and in the system as of 31-Dec-2015 will be honored. All guardians must meet basic guardian requirements.

Guardian Fees for missions

Effective 01-Jan-2016, Guardian fees have been reduced from \$400 to \$350 for a first time guardian and from \$375 to \$300 for an experienced guardian. For any who choose to go on multiple trips in a calendar year, the maximum amount is \$500. These fees are considered donations to VHF and may be claimed as a contribution on federal income tax.

**HONOR FLIGHT VETERANS TO RETURN FROM
THEIR TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Come welcome the veterans home from Mission 25 on Wednesday, 30Mar'16! 35 vets and their guardians will be returning to The American Legion Post 347 on Rolling Acres Road at CR-466 in Lady Lake at 11:00 pm. The Homecoming celebration is a mission highlight for the vets. Entertainment will start around 9:00 P.M. to entertain you while you wait for the Veterans to arrive. We will have cheerleaders, twirlers, honor guards and live music. Bring a chair, a flag and your neighbors!

Villages Honor Flight

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Comments or suggestions may be sent to Newsletter Editor, Harry Miller, at harryelsucio@earthlink.net or phone 352-259-9417

PS: Share this newsletter with your friends !