From the Chairman;

This looks like a good time to be in the cheese business. There certainly appears to be a lot of whine here in The Villages!!! It is true; we are all going through some difficult times with the virus situation. Barbara and I are minimizing (read eliminating) social contact. With her proclivity toward bronchitis we are being very careful. I am less concerned given my fortunate good health which is obviously due to my exercise regimen and healthy diet – not. While I am less concerned about contracting the virus and managing it, I obviously cannot be a carrier. So my daily schedule is breakfast, then walk, then newspaper, then lunch, then nap, then some chores, then dinner then golf cart ride then to bed. Then next day repeat. There also may be an adult beverage occasionally.

Yes there is a lesson in this. Even if you are young and healthy, don’t be a carrier and infect others. If you have seen some of the stellar members of our younger generation on television, you will know what I am talking about. Remember – This too shall pass.

Let’s keep our Veterans safe. Joe
President's Letter

Villages Honor Flight has been a family to me and a majority of volunteers share that feeling. In today's time of uncertainty, VHF has responded to the challenges caused by the health crisis. Until the COVID-19 is managed and controlled we must do our part protecting ourselves, family and the veterans we serve. The management team has been super managing the postponements and cancellations.

It has already been suggested to reach out by phone and check on the veterans you served as guardians. There is no better act of kindness then to reach out to a loved one or friend. I am sure our veterans will appreciate hearing from you. So that is my request to all guardians and volunteers who know veterans as friends. Please discourage any meetings and follow the guidelines given by the CDC. I believe they are managing this crisis very well and it's important we do our part by following their advice.

We will return to business when the all clear is given by the CDC. But for now, all operations, fund raisers have been canceled or postponed. So for now focus on your loved ones and please give your veteran a call. I am sure they will be very appreciative hearing from you. Stay safe and together we will win this battle.

Rob Hempel, President

Villages Honor Flight
CFO Treasurer's Letter

Obviously, everyone is very concerned about the virus and its impact on our lives. However, I am convinced that if we all follow the very clear guidance from the CDC and reputable health officials, this crisis will pass as soon as possible. The key is to stay safe, be smart with whom you have personal contact, and keep a positive attitude.

From a financial perspective, Villages Honor Flight is on sound footing. Yes, we are disappointed that several promising fundraising events will not occur. But, that is OK. We have already refunded all of those monies requested by M-50 guardians and fundraising event ticket holders.

Due to the continuing strong financial support from our local community, our balance sheet is solid. We will continue to fly every Veteran who has an accepted application in our system, once we are allowed to do so, including, making the required payments to fly charters for the fall missions.

Stay safe, and thank you so much for all of your support and all that each of you do for Villages Honor Flight.

Wayne Grunwald
VHF CFO/Treasurer
V. P. Admin.

The news that is going all over the world is saying that this is indeed serious.

So I would say, follow the guide lines that are put into effect. Be in touch with your vets, letting them know you care and we will get through this together.

We will fly again when we all know it is safe.

Until such time remember we are in this together.

Peter Tetrault,
V. P. Admin
😄
The Chairman of the Board of Directors and the ex-President of the Villages Honor Flight Club, recently revisited the memorial to Mark Erdrich at the Veterans Park in Spanish Springs.

They placed a **Villages Honor Flight Volunteer pin as well as a Mission 50 pin** at the site of the marble marker, in recognition of Mark’s efforts to establish the Villages Honor Flight Organization in the Villages. Mark's dedication and unwavering determination led to The well oiled machine we all see today.

To date the Villages Honor Flight has taken well over 1000 Vets to Washington D.C. to see the Veterans memorials to the major conflicts of our time. While our operations have been temporarily halted due to the coronavirus pandemic we are all committed to re-establishing the momentum that we had prior to this serious situation.

Thanks to Joe and Barbara Hambright for remembering the Founder of the VHF for all the members of the VHF.

**It's All About The Vets - M. Erdrich**
Volunteers Needed

These are critical functions that help keep the Villages Honor Flight organization viable.!!

Guardians;
The Guardian is a key volunteer who acts as the guide and escort for a specific vet for the entire mission. First and foremost, the role of the Guardian is to ensure the safety and well being of the Veteran.

Contact: VHFguardians@gmail.com / 352-268-3433

Management Team Secretary;
This person will attend and record the activities that take place at all Villages Honor Flight Management meetings.

Contact: Rob Hempel (VHF Hub Pres.) rhempel.vhf@outlook.com

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