



Honor Flight® of West Central Florida

What's Up?

Volume #3 December, 2017

The President's Corner...

As 2017 comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported Honor Flight of West Central Florida (HFWCF) this year. It has been a most successful year for Honor Flight and there many who need to be recognized for their efforts and dedication.

To our Veterans...Thank you for giving us the opportunity to honor you with the day trip to Washington, D.C. You are so deserving of this honor and we are humbled by your service and sacrifice to our country.

To our Guardians...Your willingness to fly on a mission and accompany our Veterans is appreciated. You have made a difference in the Veteran's life and for that we are truly grateful.

To our Volunteers...There are not enough words to say thank you for all you do the make each flight a reality. What impresses me most is your willingness to do whatever is asked and always with a smile. Thank you for sharing your outstanding gifts and talent. Our Volunteers are priceless! *"Tis nice to be appreciated and no one does it better than West Central Florida Honor Flight Volunteers."* quoting Mr. Leonard about his September flight.

To all those who supported HFWCF financially... Thank you! The support that we receive from Corporations, Veterans groups, community based organizations, and individual donations make it possible for us to continue our mission.

To the HFWCF Board... Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president these past four years which have been filled with rewarding experiences, wonderful friends, and the opportunity to meet our Nation's heroes. Each of you brings a talent and strength to the board which helps to make Honor Flight such a success. As the saying goes, there is no "I" in team and this board truly reflects that sentiment.

After many, many countless hours as Speakers Bureau Coordinator, bus captain and all around good guy, Mark Welsh is leaving the HFWCF board but will continue volunteering when his schedule allows. Mark has been instrumental in fundraising, speaking engagements, and spreading the word about Honor Flight throughout the community. Mark, we wish you the best! This is not goodbye, but a "see you soon."

Congratulations to the new Board of Directors for 2018. Wishing you continued success!

Ms. April Currie – President
Mr. John Tornga – Vice President
Mr. Peter Frey – Treasurer
Ms. Tracy Luchtenberg – Secretary
Mr. Gary Dombrowski
Mr. Mark Fosket

Ms. Beverly Frey
Mr. Gary Gilchrist
Ms. Karen Maex
Ms. Barbara Mills
Mr. Ted Strickland

Ronald Reagan once said, "Some people spend their entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world." Worry no more.
You have made a difference!

Best,
Bev Frey

Thank
You

Year in Review...

Honor Flight of West Central Florida completed four missions this year, flying 298 Veterans free of charge on flights to Washington, D.C. accompanied by 340 guardians and staff. To date, we have flown 32 Missions flying 2,405 Veterans to visit memorials built in their honor. Quoting Ms. Swan, *"In over fifty years of marriage, my husband has shared mere comments about his time in the Korean War. Since participating in Mission 31, he has opened a long closed chapter in his life that allows for a completeness of a soul. I am deeply grateful for those in Honor Flight of West Central Florida and their efforts to recognize and applaud Veterans who sacrificed for freedom."*

Thanks to a wonderful donor, Mission 32 was lucky to have a police escort as we traveled to and from the airport and around Washington, D.C. Never once did we stop for a signal or stop light and had preferential treatment all around town. All the Veterans kept saying, "Is this for us?" Yes, special treatment for our special guests! We are hoping funding will allow us hire the escort for our spring flights. It is quite the treat seeing these Park Police zoom through traffic.

HFWCF hosted three "Honor Flight at Home" programs where we honored 110 Veterans who were unable to fly on a mission to Washington. Our focus is to be sure that every Veteran can be honored for their service to our country. Attendees enjoyed their virtual tour of Washington and being honored in such a meaningful way.

9,500 is the estimated total number of volunteer hours by committee and volunteers who supported HFWCF this past year. This is amazing! You do it all and do it so well.

The Honor Flight waiting list continues to grow as we have approximately 450 Veterans waiting to fly.

After many months of hard work, HFWCF has a new and improved website. Please visit: www.honorflightwcf.org
Follow HFWCF on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – a first for HFWCF.

Photos from all our flights and events can be found on our website at: www.honorflightwcf.org and click on the link to the Photo Gallery. There are some wonderful pictures so please enjoy.



Manatee County Fair Veterans Parade - Tuesday, January 16, 2018

All Veterans are invited to participate in the parade. Please meet in the Harllee Building on the fairgrounds at 5:30 p.m. Parade begins at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be provided for all Veterans. Please come out to support our Veterans and thank them for their service to our country. The gate is free for the fair this evening sponsored by PalmettoBuild.

Honor Fight at Home - Saturday, February 3, 2018 – EmpathHealth/Suncoast Hospice

Alan's Super Hero Bowling Tournament - Sunday, February 25, 2018

Please plan on bowling and /or donating a door prize to this event.
Since 2013, Alan has raised over \$41,000 for Honor Flight of West Central Florida. Yeah, Alan!

- | | |
|---|---|
| Mission 33: Orientation is Saturday, April 21, 2018
Flight Day is Tuesday, April 24, 2018 | Empath Health/Suncoast Hospice
St. Pete/Clearwater Airport |
| Mission 34: Orientation is Saturday, June 2, 2018
Flight Day is Tuesday, June 5, 2018 | Empath Health/Suncoast Hospice
St. Pete/Clearwater Airport |
| Mission 35: Dates to be determined | |
| Mission 36: Dates to be determined | |
-



Always looking for guardians and volunteers who are happy, friendly and always willing to go the extra mile to help our Veterans. Applications can be found on the website at www.honorflightwcf.org. There is a hidden talent in all of us...share it with Honor Flight!

2018 Annual Fund Drive...

Thank you for your support of Honor Flight of West Central Florida (HFWCF) which allows us to accomplish our mission of flying Veterans on a chartered flight FREE OF CHARGE to Washington D.C. to experience the Memorials built in honor of their service. Their Honor Flight experience is never forgotten.

2018 will be Honor Flight of West Central Florida's eighth year of flying Veterans to Washington, D.C. as we service the Veterans in the Greater Tampa Bay Area. Our mission depends on the generosity of our supporters. We are currently requesting gifts, donations to our **2018 Annual Fund**, with emphasis on their receipt in December 2017, for 2017 deduction considerations, and in January as we move forward to accomplish our goals.

This coming year, we are planning to fly 300 Veterans on four flights as well as providing an Honor Flight at Home for those Veterans unable to physically participate on a flight to Washington. Our focus is to be sure that every Veteran can be honored for their service to our country by a grateful nation. WWII Veterans along with any Veteran who is terminally ill are currently our top priority, followed by Korean Veterans and Vietnam Veterans.

A gift of \$400 pays for the flight of one honored Veteran. A gift of \$25 will pay for one lunch and dinner for a Veteran; \$50 will pay for lunch for five Veterans, \$75 will purchase ten flight bags for our Honored Veterans; \$100 will pay for two bus seats; \$250 will pay for hats, shirts and totes for ten Honored Veterans. Every donation is appreciated and will help to accomplish our mission. Your gifts make that happen.

Honor Flight is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization and a 100% volunteer organization. Honor Flight receives NO government funding, and 97% of our financial support goes to the direct effort of flying our Veterans to Washington, D.C.

For more information about HFWCF or to donate securely on line please visit: www.honorflightwcf.org or mail a check made payable to Honor Flight of West Central Florida to:

Honor Flight of West Central Florida
P.O.Box 55661
St. Petersburg, FL 33732

Should you know of any organization, military or other that may wish to contribute to OUR Annual Fund Drive, please ask for their support, and assist them in doing so. Your support in this area is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mr. John Tornga ~ Vice President / Fundraising Chair
Mr. John Tornga

Ms. April Currie ~ President
Ms. April Currie

FL. DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES REGISTRATION # CH34443. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

POST OFFICE BOX 55661, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33732
WWW.HONORFLIGHTWCF.ORG - INFO@HONORFLIGHTWCF.ORG



Washington, D.C.
2017

*During the holidays,
we feel the joy...
we see the beauty ...
and sense the wonder
all around us.*

*We wish good things
for those we love...
And wish for peace on
earth .*