

HIGHLIGHTS OF HONOR FLIGHT MEETING OF MARCH 2

FLIGHT SCHEDULE:

Saturday, April 2: Eastern Airlines from Miami -- 77 World War II veterans, accompanied by 77 "Elite Guardian" Vietnam War veterans.

Saturday, May 21: From Fort Lauderdale.

October flight: Saturday date TBD, possibly the jumbo-jet flight out of Miami.

NEXT FLIGHT: The April 2 flight promises to be the most exciting yet for Honor Flight South Florida. It will be unique in the history of Honor Flight nationally. This is believed to be the first flight pairing World War II and Vietnam War veterans. Here are some updates and needs for April 2:

1. There has been a change in the itinerary since Wednesday's meeting. In the morning, veterans will visit Arlington National Cemetery and witness the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns. After lunch and a program at the Knights of Columbus, veterans will tour the World War II Memorial and the Vietnam Wall.
2. The veterans and Honor Flight staff will be supported by 40 active duty military based in the Washington area.
3. The first Guardian Training was held Saturday and you could sense the excitement among the Vietnam veterans serving as Elite Guardians. The second Guardian Training will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 16.
4. Thanks to all who have been calling families about "mail call." With two generations of veterans on this flight, we will have double the usual mail. Mike Miskew is planning a session to sort mail.
5. A number of volunteers have signed up for the "Ground Crew" at Miami International Airport, but we need more. If you can help early in the morning or at the homecoming celebration, please email Tom Christensen -- tchristensen720@aol.com.
6. We will need some drivers, especially in the north Broward area, to pick up veterans and drive them to and from the meeting point for the shuttle bus ride to MIA.
7. Honor Flight has reserved a block of rooms at the Miami International Airport Hotel at a special rate of \$89 per night, plus tax. The rate is available for both Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2. The hotel is right in the middle of the terminal and parking passes will be available. If interested, call 305-871-4100, ext. 2225, and ask for the Honor Flight rate.
8. Start inviting friends to the big Homecoming greeting. Flight 1945 is scheduled to return to MIA Terminal J at 8 p.m. "Welcome home" has a special meaning for Vietnam veterans. Let's make this an extra special night for them. Jim Naskrent has prepared posters for Facebook or to print out. Go to www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/april2

BIG THANKS TO BROWARD SCHOOLS: Once again Broward County schools are Honor Flight's biggest supporters. A group of Student Government leaders presented a check for \$40,100, with some schools yet to report their donations. Chairman Rick Asper said he was proud of the students' "pure patriotism" and added, "I saw the future and I like what I see." The Broward student leaders have done even more. They have spread the word all around Florida of the great experience in supporting veterans through Honor Flight. And now the entire state student government association has adopted Honor Flight hubs all around the state as the main goal of their fundraisers. Thank you Broward students and schools!

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jed Wolcott reported \$158,000 in the Honor Flight account and said that we are well prepared for our three scheduled flights for 2016. He also said the DonorSnap program will be available soon and there will be online forms for donations and veteran, guardian and volunteer applications.

ON THE RADIO: Chairman Asper and Jim Naskrent are scheduled to be interviewed on Joyce Kaufman's show March 11 at 12:30 p.m. on WFTL, 850-AM.

NEXT MEETINGS:

Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m., with special emphasis on fundraising ideas.

Wednesday, March 30, 6:30 p.m., with final update and late "mail call" sorting for April 2 flight.

Tom Christensen, Volunteer Coordinator