

Honor Flight South Florida  
Meeting Notes – August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Thank you to all who attended Wednesday night's meeting on August 26, 2015. It was one of our biggest turnouts with many first-timers.

Here are some of the highlights:

NEXT FLIGHT: Saturday, Oct. 17 from Fort Lauderdale -- We will have an Eastern charter flight carrying 73 World War II veterans. Guardian training is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 5 (10 a.m.-noon) and Wednesday, Sept. 9 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) at Institute of Public Safety, buildings 21 and 22 on the Broward College campus, in Davie. We have started signing up volunteers for early morning and evening "ground crew" shifts. If you are able to help, please email Tom Christensen -- [tchristensen720@aol.com](mailto:tchristensen720@aol.com).

FUTURE FLIGHTS:

Saturday, April 2, 2016 from Miami -- The new Eastern Airlines has given us an excellent charter rate to fly a full flight of 72 WWII veterans with the requirement that the flight include a significant number of Vietnam War vets. Being that we are not yet flying Vietnam War veterans (unless terminal), we had to find a way to appease Eastern, while also giving a first-class experience to Vietnam veterans. We decided that we can serve all parties by having Vietnam veterans serve as guardians for World War II veterans.

Honor Flight South Florida's primary mission remains to fly as many World War II veterans as possible. This is not being advertised as a Vietnam veteran's flight, because again, **HFSF flies WWII veterans and then Korean War veterans (if we are short on WWII)**. But due to this unique opportunity, we are doing this as a one-time operation of having the Vietnam veterans serve as guardians.

Because we are basically getting this flight for free, we are able to do this with NO charge to the Vietnam veterans. During the day in DC, we will have the Vietnam veterans experience the WWII Memorial and the WWII veterans experience the Vietnam Memorial with their Vietnam-era brothers. This is serious American history on this flight, and we need all hands on deck for this one.

This is expected to be a tremendous event. But again, it is important that everyone know that we are not currently flying Vietnam veterans through HFSF. WWII and then Korea is the message we must keep displaying.

Saturday, May 7, 2016 from Miami -- Negotiations continue for a jumbo jet flight to Dulles on an Air France Airbus 380 or Virgin Atlantic Boeing 747. Either of these flights would allow us to carry approximately 200 World War II veterans, more than double on a normal charter flight. We will have a regular charter backup flight available as a third option.

**AWARDS:** The board surprised Jim Naskrent with its first Founders Award last week at Rick Case KIA in Sunrise. Many of his fellow employees, as well as Honor Flight board members, were there to greet Jim when he thought he was headed to a meeting. As most of you know, Jim alone is responsible for our terrific website and shoots thousands of photos and video on flight days. He is our most enthusiastic voice for Honor Flight. No one has helped provide more special days, so it is only fitting that Jim had his own day of tribute.

Steve Shapiro was given a special plaque of appreciation. Steve recently took over responsibility of storing our wheelchairs or as he renamed them "honor chairs".

Rick Woolf presented Chairman Rick Asper with the first "Kilroy Was Here Award" for his continuing devotion to our World War II veterans.

**MAIL CALL:** Families are being called to write letters for their veterans on the Oct. 17 flight. We need more undated generic letters thanking veterans for their service. This can be an excellent club or school project. If you can help or know any groups that would like to, please be sure to give any letters to Mike Miskew by Oct. 1.

**OPERATION ONE LAST MISSION:** We are registering some World War II veterans, but we need about 200 more for our spring flights. This is an area where we can all help. To assist in spreading the word, Jim Naskrent has prepared a number of posters and flyers on the website - [www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/POS/](http://www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/POS/) . Print a few and post them in your office, community, church, temple, wherever. There are even a few that you can post on Facebook. ... Karin Edelstein said she has been at many retirement villages in Broward telling veterans about Honor Flight and Nancy Auster has been doing the same in Miami-Dade.

**WEBSITE:** Jim Naskrent is continually adding new features to the website. Check out the many videos, especially the "Flags of Our Heroes" video.

**SEPTEMBER 11 FUND-RAISER:** Bring your friends and join us at Bull Market American Bar & Kitchen September 11, 6-9 p.m., as we honor not only all of our veterans, but also remember and reflect on September 11, 2001. We will need five volunteers to help. If you can help, please email [tchristensen720@aol.com](mailto:tchristensen720@aol.com). The \$20 donation includes a drink and appetizers. Bull Market is located at 210 SW 2nd St, Fort Lauderdale.

**OUR STUDENTS LEAD THE STATE:** Broward Student Councils have been the biggest fund-raisers for Honor Flight South Florida. Now, the Florida Association of Student Councils is following Broward's lead and Honor Flight hubs throughout the state will benefit from similar fund-raisers. Congratulations to our students, teachers and schools for being the statewide leaders in such a terrific cause.

**NEXT MEETING:** Tentative for Sept. 16, due to guardian training on Sept. 9.

-- Tom Christensen and Ryan Paton