HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH FLORIDA GENERAL MEETING NOTES - SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

The countdown is on -- only 22 days until the next Honor Flight. We had another large turnout for Wednesday night's meeting with a number of new volunteers.

A few highlights:

NEXT FLIGHT: Saturday, Oct. 17 -- Honor Flight will be flying a full flight of 77 World War II veterans on Eastern charter 1941 and 1945.

GUARDIANS NEEDED: We still need a few guardians. If you're interested, and especially if you previously have served as a guardian, contact Dee Soli -- dee@haddadandnavarrolaw.com.

QUICK REQUEST: We need a few volunteers to make signs identifying veterans in the homecoming celebration.

"HOW CAN I HELP?:" That's a question we frequently hear. We have a growing group of enthusiastic volunteers. There are not always immediate tasks for everyone, but there are a few things we all can be doing:

1. Keep spreading the word about Honor Flight. We have two big flights planned for the spring and we need to register many more World War II veterans. Maybe you don't know a WWII veteran yourself, but if you tell enough people, there's a good chance that soon a friend of a friend will hear about it and register their relative.

2. Invite your friends to come out for the big homecoming celebration for our veterans returning from Washington on Oct. 17. As most of us already know, it's an exciting night that would be hard to duplicate. To help, Jim Naskrent has designed several posters on the website -- www.honorflightsouthflorida.org/POS. Print out a few to hang around the community or in stores or post on your Facebook page. Let's try to make it our biggest homecoming yet.

3. Mail call is one of the highlights of flight day. We need more generic letters thanking veterans for their service. Ask friends or groups to write. This can be a good class or service project. We need all letters by Friday, Oct. 9. Mail to Honor Flight South Florida, P.O. Box 16821, Plantation, FL 33318.

4. We have received steady donations and have had solid fundraising through the year and will be going into 2016 and the two big spring flights on budget. We had another successful event on Sept. 11 at Bull Market in Fort Lauderdale. If you know of any restaurants/bars that would like to host similar events or have any other fundraising ideas, please contact Zasha Rodriguez -- zmr@ mydefenselawyers.com.

5. Speakers and drivers of veterans will be needed for presentations.

FLAGS OF OUR HEROES: Jim Naskrent is always adding new features to the website. Be sure to check it out and especially look for the "Flags of Our Heroes" video. It's an emotional tribute to the father of loyal Honor Flight volunteer Ken Powers.

IN D.C.: Our hub usually travels with fewer staff members than most hubs. Thanks to Ken Powers, we receive help from military bases in the Washington area. It's also a special treat for the veterans and active military to get to meet each other.

NEXT MEETINGS: Oct. 7 and 14.

SPRING FLIGHTS: April 2 and May 7, 2016; more information coming in November.

-- Tom Christensen, volunteer coordinator