

# HONOR FLIGHT

SOUTHERN INDIANA

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 2022

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Edited by Rachel Thomason, Volunteer



**Welcome to the first edition of the Honor Flight of Southern Indiana Quarterly Newsletter!** This newsletter is to provide the HFSI community of veterans, guardians and volunteers a quarterly summary of activities happening these first three months of 2023.

**January 18<sup>th</sup>** we held our “Thank You and Welcome Back” Pizza Party at the VFW on Wabash. We had a good turnout of around 45 volunteers. There were new volunteers as well as several long-time volunteers. It was a great to see everyone together again. The board members were introduced as well as the Bus Captains and Committee Chairs. The energy in the room was amazing!

**February 8<sup>th</sup>** was our first planning committee in two years! Our volunteers and Board members were excited to be together and start working on flight EVV12. Committee chairs were working with seasoned volunteers as well as new volunteers. So, it was a refresh for some and a new experience for others. We love our volunteers!

## TO THE SUMMIT!

February also heralded the National Honor Flight Summit in Baltimore, Maryland where Hubs from around the country came together for training and fellowship. We had six board members in attendance for the two-day event that was held Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Our time in Baltimore was very educational and fun. There were tours available for the Naval Academy as well as the National Monument tour at night. Both tours were amazing!



Board members in attendance, as pictured: Tonya Hanson – Data Base Manager, Heather Laflen – Red Bus Captain, Larry Rogers – Admin/Gold Bus Captain, Julie Holtz – President, Mary Dishman – Flight Director, Jill Herr – Treasurer

While some of us were attending the Summit, the EVV Airport agreed to let HFSI have use of the whole Command Post. So, a team back home, spearheaded by Diane Shaw and MJ Miller, worked diligently to get all our inventory and items moved to the new areas at Command Post. Now, all our supplies and equipment are held under one roof!

## FORWARD MARCH!

Lots of moving parts and planning during March to get ready for Flight Day.

**Call Blitz Day** was held on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. It was amazing! There were around 30 volunteers throughout the building working in various areas. The board members were in attendance to lend a hand and support where needed. We started the day with a great breakfast provided by Primrose of Newburgh. The Bus Captains worked with volunteers diligently to contact their veterans to set appointments for Interview Day on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Interview Day** dawned with excitement. Command Post was set up and proudly dressed in patriotic colors throughout the areas needed for Interview Day. The day started with a volunteer training refresh for those doing veteran interviews. This training was conducted by Larry Rogers -Admin/Gold bus Captain.



A sweet and delicious breakfast was provided by Bauer Haus Tent Rentals. There were volunteers inside and outside greeting, escorting, and visiting with veterans and guardians waiting for their interviews. The energy and excitement were very high. In all, we interviewed around 81 veterans as well as an additional four alternates. The willingness from volunteers and board members to do whatever was needed was amazing!

Though I'm not a mechanic, I think Honor Flight of Southern Indiana runs like a well-oiled machine and couldn't be prouder!

**March 20<sup>th</sup>** brought the board members together for a recap of Interview Day. We also discussed upcoming tasks needing completion prior to the training sessions and events ahead of us as we near Flight Day.

Are you all ready? Because April is going to be our busiest month yet!



## COUNTDOWN TO FLIGHT DAY!

All training will be held at the Command Post located at 5607 Highway 41 North, Evansville, IN 47711  
 We look forward to seeing all those participating at these training sessions and events!

April 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 VOLUNTEER TRAINING 5:30-9:30 PM	6 VOLUNTEER TRAINING 5:30-9:30 PM	7 GUARDIAN TRAINING 5:30-7:30 PM	8	9 GUARDIAN TRAINING 9:30-11:30 AM
10	11	12 PLANNING COMMITTEE & BOARD MEETING 5:30 PM	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 MEET & GREET DECORATING <i>THE COLISEUM</i>	21 MEET & GREET EVENT 4:00-6:00 PM	22	23 EVV12 FLIGHT DAY!! 5:30 AM-9:00 PM
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

*“Never was so much owed by so many to so few.” –Winston Churchill*

