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Editor
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HONOR FLIGHTS FOR AMERICAN VETERANS BY BRIAN BOYS

Oast & Hook recently learned about a organization called the Honor Flight Network, a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. Honor Flights transports veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at their memorials.

The Honor Flight Network (HFN) program was conceived by Earl Morse, a physician assistant and Retired Air Force Captain. Earl wanted to honor the veterans he had taken care of for the past 27 years. After retiring from the Air Force in 1998, Earl was hired by the Department of Veterans Affairs to work in a small clinic in Springfield, Ohio. In May of 2004, the World War II Memorial was finally completed and dedicated in Washington, D.C., and quickly became the topic of discussion among his World War II veteran patients. Earl repeatedly asked these veterans if they would ever travel to visit their memorial. Most felt that eventually, somehow, they would make it to D.C., perhaps with a family member or friend.

Now in its seventh year, HFN has transported more than 81,000 veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam to see the memorials built to honor their suffering and sacrifice, at no cost to the veterans. HFN estimates that we are losing World War II veterans at the rate of approximately 900 per day and therefore, gives top priority to World War II veterans and other veterans who may be terminally ill. After its efforts for World War II veterans are complete, HFN will focus its efforts first on our Korean War and then on our Vietnam War veterans, honoring them similarly.

If you know someone who would like to participate in an Honor Flight, would like to make a donation to HFN, or would just like more information about the Honor Flight Network, then please visit their website at www.honorflight.org, or e-mail HFN at info@honorflight.org, or call 937-521-2400.

Honor Flight Virginia - Historic Triangle operates tours from Hampton Roads to Washington, D.C., by motorcoach. To learn more about Honor Flights Virginia, visit their website at www.honorflighthtva.org or download their brochure at www.honorflighthtva.org/sponsors/4/22654/file_19743.pdf.

The attorneys at Oast & Hook can assist families with their estate, financial, insurance, long-term care, veterans' benefits, and special needs planning issues.

Brian Boys is an elder law attorney with Oast & Hook, and he practices in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust administration, special needs planning, guardianships and conservatorships, and litigation. Mr. Boys also works with personal injury attorneys and their clients to provide consultation on issues ranging from estate planning, maintaining public benefits, and the need for a guardian or a conservator.

Ask Allie

O&H: Allie, we've heard that the City of Hampton, Virginia, has a special team to assist pets during natural disasters. Please tell us about it.

Allie: Sure! The Hampton Community Animal Response Team (CART) began in 2008 as an extension of the State Animal Response Team that was created as a result of Hurricane Floyd and Hurricane Katrina. During those storms, the government found that many people would not leave their homes without their pets. The state recruited local volunteers to help run shelters as part of the emergency management and animal control departments. Hampton's CART became state certified in March 2009 and now has a fully equipped trailer, which includes blankets, crates, food, water, medical supplies, and a generator. In August 2011, the CART took care of 52 animals at the shelter at Bethel High School in Hampton during Hurricane Irene. The shelter for the animals was operated under FEMA guidelines, and it was open for three days until families were able to return to their homes with their pets. The CART wants to be prepared for winter storms as well as the more traditional storms in the summer. The CART needs volunteers, and there are several opportunities for training. For more information on becoming a volunteer, please e-mail fward@hampton.gov or call 757-727-1208. This is such a good idea! My feline buddy Crissy and I were safe in our home during Hurricane Irene, but it's good to know that we have a place to go if we need to evacuate. I hope everyone has a Happy Valentines Day . . . See you next week!

Announcements

Oast & Hook is pleased to announce that elder law attorney, Andrew Hook, was quoted in the February 9th edition of the *New York Times* in an article entitled: "Tables Reserved for the Healthiest." To read this article visit <http://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/09/tables-reserved-for-the-healthiest/?scp=1&sq=tables%20reserved&st=cse>.

Seniorcorp will present a free seminar entitled "Understanding Hospice" from noon to 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 28th. This seminar will be held at Seniorcorp, 240 Clearfield Avenue, Suite 300, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23462. Seating is limited so please register by phoning 757-419-2356 on or before February 24th.

Oast & Hook is proud to announce that it has partnered with Commonwealth Assisted Living to offer a series of veterans benefit seminars for veteran seniors and their families. Each seminar will cover issues facing veterans benefits, veteran's aid and attendance, elder law, Medicare, and long-term care planning. The seminars will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will end at 7:00 p.m.. Below are the dates and locations of each seminar. Seating is limited. If you have any questions or would like to register for one of these seminars, then please phone Darcee Hale at 757-967-9702.

March 8, 2012

Churchland House
4916 West Norfolk Road
Portsmouth, Virginia 23703
Tel: 757-483-1780

April 26, 2012

Leigh Hall
890 Poplar Hall Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502
Tel: 757-461-5956

May 24, 2012

Georgian Manor
651 River Walk Parkway
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320
Tel: 757-436-9618

June 7, 2012

The Ballentine
7211 Granby Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23505
Tel: 757-440-7400

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Oast & Hook encourages you to share this newsletter with anyone who is interested in issues pertaining to the elderly, the disabled, and their advocates. The information in this newsletter may be copied and distributed, without charge and without permission, but with appropriate citation to Oast & Hook, P.C. If you are interested in a free subscription to the *Oast & Hook News*, then please e-mail us at mail@oasthook.com, telephone us at 757-399-7506, or fax us at 757-397-1267.

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