



# 2017

## Annual Report



Twin Tiers Honor Flight

[twintiershonorflight.org](http://twintiershonorflight.org)

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## Message from the Director

Dear Friends,

With the help of committed Board members and volunteers, 2017 was a year of growth, change, and improvement. For example, we took our first overnight bus trip on Veterans Day weekend. The veterans appreciated the extra time we had to see the sights at a relaxed pace. For the first time, we were able to visit the United States Navy Memorial, the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, and many buildings and landmarks of downtown Washington, DC, in addition to the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, and the Arlington National Cemetery Changing of the Guard. Overall, Mission 6 was a great success for our hub. This report highlights some of our activities and fundraising for 2017 within its pages:

- Service to veterans
- Flightless Honor Flight
- Outreach activities

We continued our major fundraising efforts with another [Spaghetti Dinner](#) at McGirk's Irish Pub in Binghamton and our annual [Ride for the Memories](#) motorcycle ride, which also served as our [TTHF Reunion](#) in 2017. The ride was hosted once again by Finger Lakes Harley-Davidson, and featured live music, a motorcycle donation to a veteran, recognition of two former TTHF veterans who have passed away, our thanks to Ithaca's recently retired Chief of Police, John Barber, and a special guest appearance by Officer Colin Hayward Toland (a young honorary member of the Ithaca force who serves as an ambassador of goodwill while battling brain cancer). Officer Colin received a special Patriot Guard Riders leather vest in recognition of his service.

The success of our development committee's efforts, donations from many individuals and groups (including the national Honor Flight Network), and our *Stars and Stripes* campaign (in which donors were able to fill in stars or stripes or the field of blue on a virtual flag, depending on the level of their support) made this year a good one from a fundraising standpoint. Although we were not able to raise enough for a flight this year, our choice to do a less-expensive bus trip left us with a strong financial start moving into 2018, including a promise of a substantial grant from the Broome County Veterans Service Agency.

However, challenges lie ahead. We made the decision to turn our tax preparation over to Sciarabba Walker & Co., LLP in Ithaca, and the result is better fiscal management and smoother annual state reporting. We are registered as a charitable institution under Pennsylvania and New York laws, and Pennsylvania requires an annual CPA compilation (a form of audit). This year, the firm of Kenneth A. Peworchik, CPA, performed our compilation. Both companies gave consideration to our not-for-profit status, but professionalizing our annual accounting will continue to be part of our operating costs moving forward. We consider the expense to be a significant investment in transparency and best practices to ensure the highest possible standards of fiscal management given the all-volunteer nature of our hub.

Another challenge looming in 2018 lies in the change in tax law for charitable giving. The standard deduction used by Americans has been doubled. That means that many individuals who may have been able to reap financial benefits through itemized tax deductions will *not* have that incentive to donate in the future. *We hope that increased donations from wealthy individuals, businesses, veterans*



*groups, and foundations will help to offset any potential decrease in individual donations.* On the positive side, many, if not most, of our donors give to TTHF to help local veterans without consideration of the tax advantages. We hope that recognition of the importance of our mission overrides any decreased financial incentive for individual giving.



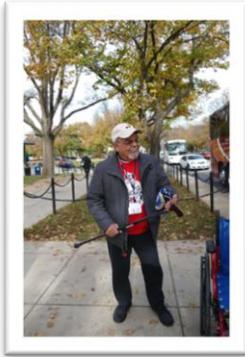
Dedication to our mission guides our decisions and our efforts, and it would be impossible to carry out our plans without the support of our many volunteers and in-kind donors. From the youngest Cub Scout who offered to escort our veterans to the Vietnam Wall and the Korean War Memorial, to the Common Threads Quilters' Guild quilters who worked tirelessly with us on a quilt fundraiser (and the Sew It Is creators of quilts - and some afghans! - for each of our veterans for the frosty November trip), to the Women's Auxiliary of Binghamton's American Legion Post 1645, the Public Employees Federation, American Legion Riders, Patriot Guard Riders, American Legion Post 80, and Civil Air Patrol volunteers who worked our Mission 6 send-off and welcome home, to the public officials like Broome County Director of Aviation David Hickling, NYS Sen. Fred Akshar, Broome County District Attorney Steve Cornwell, and Broome County Executive Jason Garnar . . . to all of you, and to all who were not mentioned by name, on behalf of the veterans we all serve, we are eternally grateful. ***Thank you all!***

## Mission

Our mission at *Twin Tiers Honor Flight, Inc.* is to transport local veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honoring their services and sacrifices, without any cost to the veterans.

## Programs

## Trips to Washington, DC



So far, Twin Tiers Honor Flight has transported 239 veterans to DC. On Mission 6, we had one WWII veteran, four Korean War veterans, and 18 Vietnam veterans. However, we still have 62 veterans who have applied and are waiting to go, as of this writing. Of those, 6 are WWII veterans, 11 are Korean War veterans, 43 are Vietnam veterans, and 2 are classified as "other" because they served in multiple conflicts. We have four families waiting to have a Flags of Our Heroes ceremony performed by an Honor Guard to remember

the service and sacrifices of veterans who passed away before we could take them on an Honor Flight trip.

## Flightless Honor Flight



To reach veterans who cannot take an Honor Flight voyage, this year we began to offer Flightless Honor Flights (FHF). In an FHF, veterans are "welcomed aboard" with a gift and shown a video tour of the DC memorials and the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns. They are "welcomed back" with refreshments and music.

The first FHF took place at the New York State Veterans Nursing Home in Oxford on Veterans Day through the efforts of Robert and Vivian Gardner and TTHF Volunteers.



## Outreach Programming



The Bath National Cemetery was the location of our latest outreach activity, when Board members and volunteers honored deceased veterans as part of the *Wreaths Across America* effort in December. Other outreach activities this year included two *Adopt-A-Highway* clean-up days, participation in *Blues on the Bridge* in Binghamton, attendance at Southern Tier Veterans Support Group meetings, tabling at numerous events, and talks given to civic and

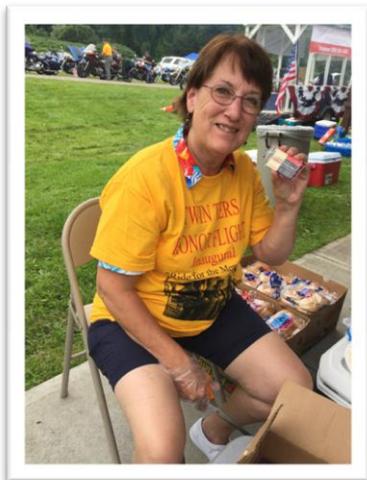
social organizations across our hub's region. We also worked this year to improve our parade float for use in parades with parade captains Tammy and Chip Longabaugh.



Reconnecting at the *Ride For The Memories Motorcycle Ride* and *TTHF Reunion 2017*



Volunteers come out for the spring *Adopt-A-Highway* clean-up in the Elmira/Horseheads area



Volunteer Extraordinaire Marilyn McNaughton prepping cheese from sponsor *Cabot Creamery*



Community members come out to support TTHF at our annual spring *Spaghetti Dinner* at McGirk's Irish Pub in Binghamton, NY

## Impact: Veterans and Guardians

Sometimes the experience of an Honor Flight trip can be an emotional one not only for the veterans, but also for their guardians. Until someone actually goes on a trip, it's hard to explain how people suddenly understand how history, community, and caring come together with deep respect and gratitude for veterans' service and sacrifices.



### “Pep” and Traci

Joseph (AKA Pep) is a World War II Army veteran. Traci is a local media celebrity who hosts a morning country music show on 98.1 The Hawk. She shared Pep's journey through her Facebook posts and videos throughout the trip and afterward. Here is what she said about the trip to accompany one of the videos she posted:

*"I sent photos and video to my mom of my trip to Washington, DC with local veterans through the [Twin Tiers Honor Flight, Inc.](#) and the first thing she said was, "Pep really grabbed your heart, didn't he?" Yes. Yes, he sure did. 91-year-old Pep of Endicott served in World War II and it was my honor to stand with him as he visited his memorial and as he was recognized*

*for his service. This video doesn't do our experience justice but will allow you a glimpse into this touching experience."*

**Mission 6: November 11-12, 2017**

### Jim and John

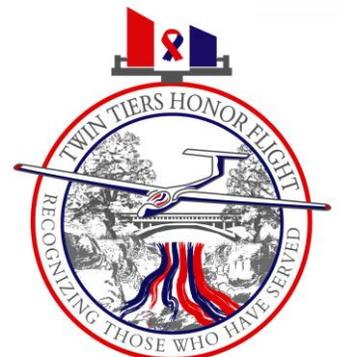
As part of caring for a veteran throughout an Honor Flight trip, guardians stand by and offer support at some of the toughest moments in their days, when memories are likely to become overwhelming.

**Veterans know someone always "has their six" (is covering their back) on our trips.**



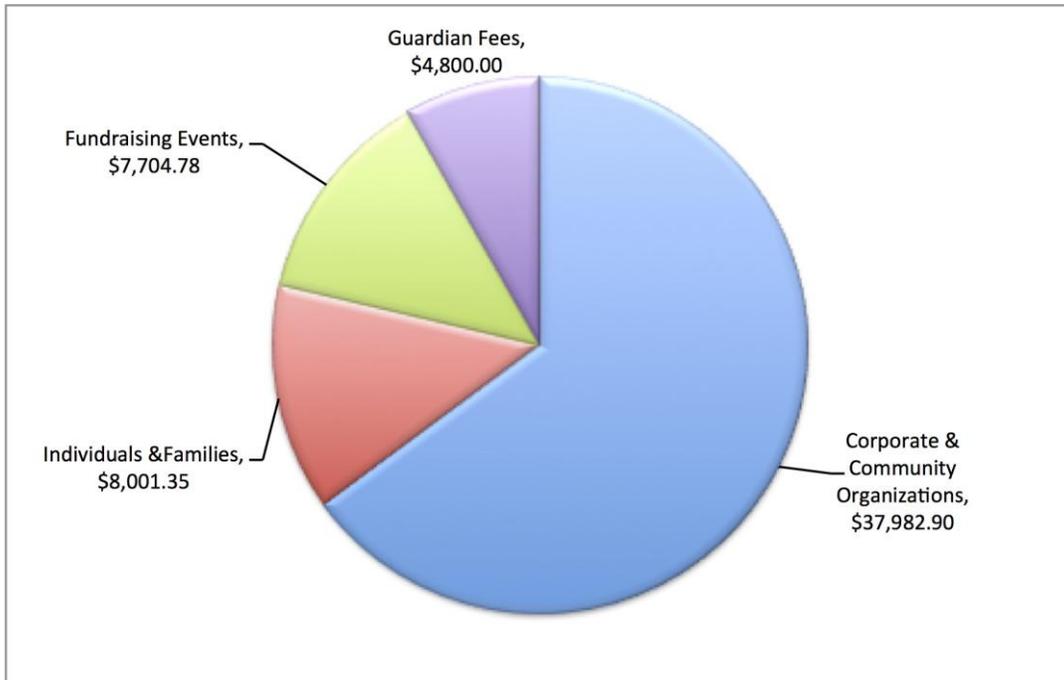
As John's guardian, Jim saw firsthand how the experience impacts veterans, and he decided to become more involved with Twin Tiers Honor Flight.

He is now a member of the Board of Directors.

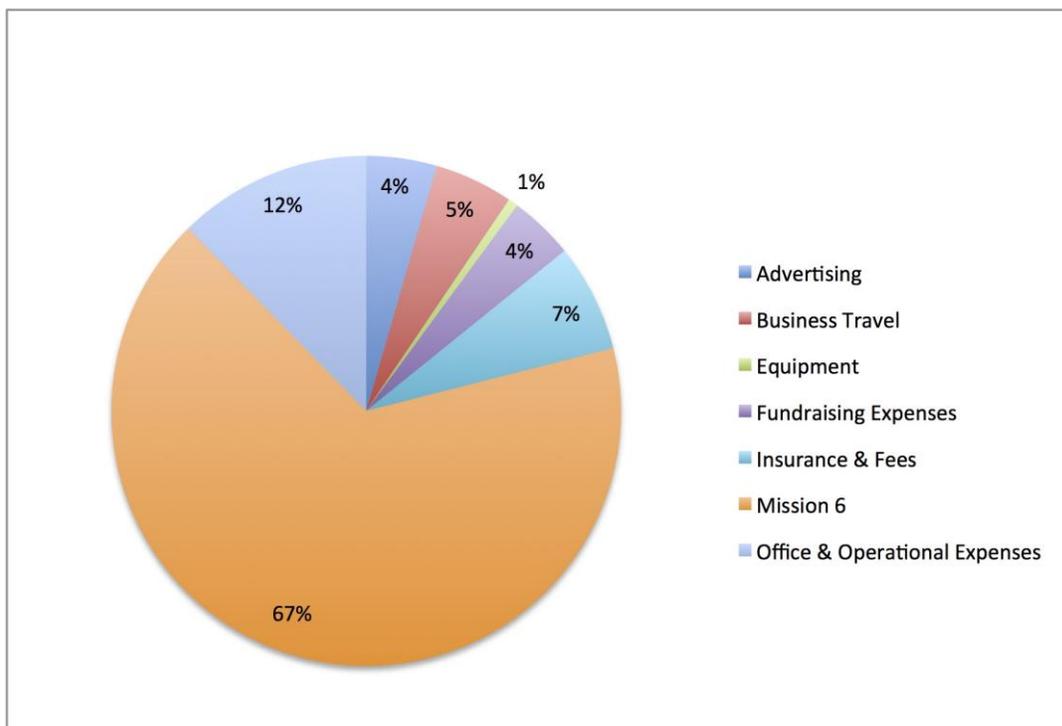


## Resources & Financial Management

Through donations, fundraising activities and guardian fees, our hub raised \$58,489.03 in fiscal year 2017, with additional support through in-kind donations.



While our mission expenses decreased due to a smaller and less expensive bus trip in 2017, our administrative expenses increased. This was in large part based on our decision to seek professional accounting services and also to purchase a broader general liability package.



## Looking Forward

The next Flightless Honor Flight will be at the Bath VA Medical Center in the winter of 2018. This is an exciting development for all of us, and we look forward to being able to serve more veterans in this way. Our eventual goal is to be able to do a flight and a bus trip annually, and Flightless Honor Flights as needed. We have Bronze-level transparency with Guidestar charitable reporting, and will continue to strive for excellence in all our activities and practices.

## 2017 Board of Directors

Nancy Kane, *Director*

John Fracchia, *Treasurer*

Patricia Vincent, *Medical Director*

James Benedict

Linda Conway

Ross Herman, Esq.

Tammy Longabaugh

David Longabaugh

Madlyn Lopke

Shelly Schaffer

Kent Tryon

## 2017 Advisory Board

Mr. Leo Gonzalez, *USAF, Korean War*

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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IRS 501(c)(3) #45-5614866

NYS Charities Bureau #44-32-54

PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations #105768

Facebook: Twin Tiers Honor Flight, Inc.

Twitter: @TwinTiersHnrFlt

## We Need Your Help

*Every gift supports the safe transport of local veterans to Washington, DC. Your support gives these heroes a day full of honors on the trip of a lifetime, and creates a bond with their community that brings living history into the lives of families, schools, local organizations, and the general public.*

### Gifts of Cash

This gift is usually made by Paypal or credit card, or check payable to Twin Tiers Honor Flight, and is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. To donate, visit the Donations tab at [www.twintiershonorflight.org](http://www.twintiershonorflight.org) or write a check to Twin Tiers Honor Flight, 2735 Slaterville Rd., Brooktondale, NY 14817-9507.

### Honor and Memorial Gifts

Gifts may be given in honor or in memory of a specific individual or loved one. When a commemorative gift is received, the honoree or the family of the deceased is notified.

### Matching Gifts

Matching gift programs boost your contribution and provide strong dollar support by doubling or even tripling donations. Corporate matching gifts offer an exceptional opportunity for you to substantially increase your gift to

Twin Tiers Honor Flight and help us to reach our goals.

### Planned Giving

One of the best ways for you to help us ensure that veterans will continue to be able to take trips with Twin Tiers Honor Flight is through Planned Giving.

A planned gift is any major gift made in a lifetime or at death as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate plan. Planned giving often allows individuals to make larger gifts than they could make from their annual income. These planned gifts include gifts by will, gifts from retirement plans, gifts of paid life insurance, or gifts by estate note. Gifts by will are a type of bequest that may be for a specific sum, or for a specific percentage of an estate, the residue of an estate, or on a contingent basis. The estate will

receive a charitable deduction for the value of the gift passing to Twin Tiers Honor Flight. If you intend to include TTHF in a will or trust, please call Nancy Kane at (800) 683-5403

# Thank You to All of Our Donors!

Twin Tiers Honor Flight is able to conduct our mission through the generosity of our donors who helped us raise over \$45,000 in FY 2017. Our *Stars & Stripes* campaign, in its first year was particularly successful and raised \$26,500. No matter how large or how small, all donations ensure that our veterans receive the trip of a lifetime.

## **\$10,000 - \$5000**

Honor Flight Network  
Triad Foundation

## **\$4,999 - \$1,000**

American Legion Post 221  
Broome County  
Common Threads Quilters Guild  
Disabled Veterans of Cortland County  
Gault Auto Mall Inc./Gault Gives Back  
J E Wheelock Home Association  
Dr. Bai Lee  
Public Employees Federation (PEF)  
Tioga Downs Racetrack, LLC  
Tompkins Charitable Gift Fund  
Vulcraft of New York

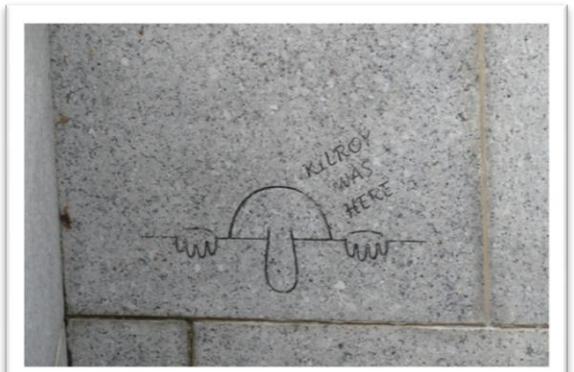
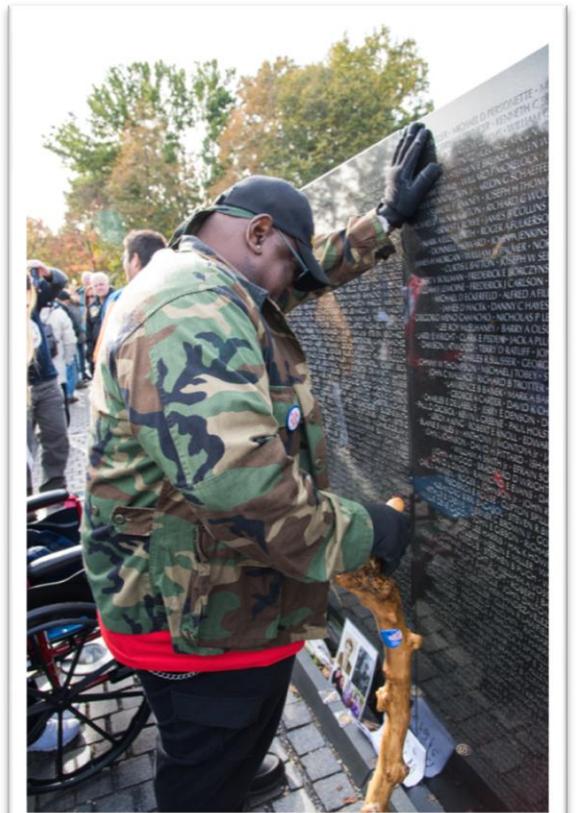
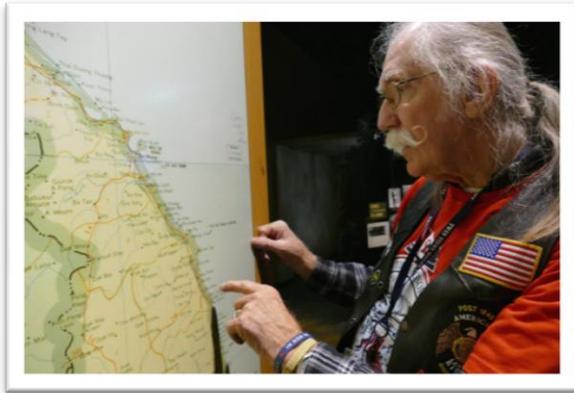
## **\$999 - \$500**

Advanced Mechanical Solutions  
American Legion Auxiliary Post 82  
American Legion Auxiliary 974  
Bunker Restaurants  
Sandra Gordon  
Herbert H & Mariea L Brown Charitable Trust  
In Memory of Wilbur Fisher  
In Memory of Lawrence Tuttle  
Johnson City Elks  
KM Axtell Jr. Foundation  
La Familia Motorcycle Club  
John and Carole Schubert  
Triple Cities Chopper Club

## **\$499 - \$1**

Ancient Order Of The Hibernians  
- Msgr. John J. Lee Division  
American Legion Sixth District  
Athens American Legion/Riders

B.P.O. Elks  
Irene Borawski  
Arthur and Mary Jo Carey  
Elton & Alice Carr  
Linda Caughey  
Chester J Jaskiewicz Post 1305 Auxiliary  
Columbian Financial Group  
Kathleen Conboy  
Knights Of Columbus  
Timothy & Carol Edwards  
Ida & Patti Hart  
Debi Hays  
In Honor of Floyd Benedict  
In Memory of Richard Bonczek  
In Memory of John Lee  
In Memory of Patrick McElligott  
In Memory of Leo Welch  
In Memory of Louis Withiam  
Susan Korbett  
Gail Kovac  
Kevin and Laura McGurgan  
Steven Moyer  
Cynthia Own  
J. R. Peters  
Francis Philip  
Diane Rouse  
Nancy Savory  
Simmons Rockwell Autoplaza, Inc  
William A. Smith  
Southern Tier Antique Tractor Club  
Kent Tryon  
VFW Auxiliary 6609  
Willow Run Foods  
Ryan Wade  
Diane Wood  
Bonita Zepp  
ZMK Construction



**Connect With Us!**

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