

May Honor Flight. Standing: Volunteer Guardian Andy Chused of Pine Knoll Shores. Seated from left to right: Graham Tyler fought in WWII, Korea and Vietnam; George Besa was in the Navy in WWII; John Engeman was a prisoner of war at Stalag 17 in WWII.

Honor Flight of Heroes

By Phyllis Makuck

The local Honor Flight of Heroes Program is seeking WWII veterans to honor. The program escorts veterans to the WWII Memorial in Washington DC. So far, there have been two Honor Flights originating from Coastal Carolina Airport in New Bern, one last year on September 22 and one this year on May 5. Both were very successful.

Honor Flight Volunteer Tim McLear says: "We enabled 216 WWII veterans to visit the memorial and other sites in DC and be welcomed home in a wonderful way at the airport. We would very much like to have another flight in September. Our top priority is generating veteran applications. We currently have around 20. We have set a target of 60 ... for a September flight." The program would like to reach this target by early July.

Enthusiasm for Honor Flight is apparent when those who have participated on past flights begin to describe their experiences. Tom Tempel, one of the volunteer guardians escorting vets on the May flight, says: "It clearly was one of the most extraordinary and wonderful experiences of my life, and judging by what I observed in others, the same thing can be said of everyone who participated. It was an amazing, emotional and patriotic experience that makes you proud to be a citizen of our great nation."

Andy Chused, another guardian on the same flight, describes the program as "an incredibly well-organized one-day event." Program planners have done a superb job anticipating all the possible needs of those participat-

ing, so the trip requires very little physical effort on the part of World War II veterans. Oxygen and wheelchairs, for example, are provided, so being physically handicapped is not an issue. There is a special set-up at Dulles Airport. Coast Guard personnel help put veterans on the plane, and marines are on hand to help take them off. Box lunches are provided. All expenses are paid for the WWII veterans. The support team in May consisted of over 40 volunteers, including 36 guardians, three team leaders, two flight directors, two nurses and a doctor.

If you know any World War II veterans, please contact them and ask that they consider applying for the flight in September. It may be the last Honor Flight from New Bern's Coastal Carolina airport.

McLear adds, "This is a special opportunity for these ordinary heroes in their older age to be recognized and thanked for their service. They will be well taken care of." An application can be downloaded from www.honorflightsenc.org.

Those interested in making donations or being volunteers may also go to this Web site. Tom Tempel has this to say about being a volunteer: "Being a guardian...was a wonderful experience in every way.... The guardians pay all their expenses as to flight, meals and special needs items you carry in a small backpack. It takes preparation and planning, which is fun. You meet your veterans and receive a special briefing the week before, and that is a pleasant experience. Any person who cares about people and is willing to spend a little time on this volunteer effort would enjoy being a guardian. Guardians all apply to serve, and if selected, they receive more information on the process.... If you take the Honor Flight as a guardian, you will be glad you did."

John Brodman Joins The Shoreline

By Jacquie Pipkin

In 2004, after vacationing on the Crystal Coast off and on over the years, John and Sylvia Brodman bought their Pine Knoll Shores home at 107 Pinewood Circle. After some renovations, they became permanent residents in 2005 while John continued working in Washington DC at the US Department of Energy, until his retirement in 2006.

John, a native of Rochester, New York, and Sylvia from Alexandria, Virginia, married in 1989. Between them, the Brodmans have two sons and two

John and Sylvia are members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). In addition, John serves on Pine Knoll Shores' Parks and Recreation Committee, which he currently chairs, and Sylvia is a member of the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). John is also a member of the Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) and has actively volunteered with Kayak for the Warriors for the past several years. John also serves on the Mayor's Beach Advisory and Sidewalk Advisory Citizen Panels.

John graduated cum laude from the University of New Hampshire and attended graduate school at the University of Florida. Prior to his retirement, John was Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Energy Policy and held a number of senior management positions in the Office of Policy and International Affairs. John is an expert on the international oil market, the Middle East and OPEC. John's extensive travels took him to all corners of the world. He has lived in Paris and West Africa and has taught economics at universities in the United States and France.

We welcome John and his extensive experience and the broad base of knowledge he brings to The Shoreline, where he is a contributing editor and writes a monthly column, "What's up with the PARC," detailing the activities of the Parks and Recreation Committee. He also contributes articles on current public policy issues in energy and econom-

When not doing all of the above, John and Sylvia are active in a number of outdoor sports and are members of The Country Club of the Crystal Coast. They are thoroughly enjoying their home on the beach and being a part of the Pine Knoll Shores community.

