

Feature Story March 29, 2013

Seniors take on latest technology at LHP Library

By Marty Lenkowsky

PELICAN WRITER

Lighthouse Point - If you think computers and today's advanced electronic gadgetry are strictly for the youngsters, guess again because you are 100 percent wrong. The Lighthouse Point Library's iPad workshop is living proof of that. The workshop meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m., and all attendees are of retirement age. In fact, instructor Bill Borough himself is 88 years old and a WWII U.S. Navy veteran. He served in the Pacific and is a retired graphic artist living in Deerfield Beach.



Today's class was comprised of only women; however, once in a while a man does show up. "They're out playing golf," jokes 20-year Lighthouse Point resident Elizabeth Westbrook who describes herself as a "winter bird" South Florida resident. Westbrook simply loves her iPad. "Everything I do on this I do on my laptop," she said. "I love the face time. That's the best thing about it." Everyone in the class agrees the small size of their iPad makes it easy to use and transport. They find it more convenient than their laptops and said it's a "must" if someone does a lot of traveling.

As an instructional tool, Borough hooks his iPad up to a wide screen TV mounted on the wall. His personal iPad screen appears on the TV displaying a beautiful waterfront picture of Portofino, Italy as his wallpaper. With the Italian port city as a backdrop, he shows the class his various apps and how to open them. He showed the class how to open a free Broward County Library app they can use to download books onto their iPads.

Borough said he and another man usually do the course together. Unfortunately, his teaching partner was out due to personal illness. Through the music app on Borough's iPad, Frank Sinatra's crooning voice played from the TV's speaker system.

Eighty-two-year-old Virginia Hayden is no stranger to computer technology. She also has a laptop. "I pay all my bills online," she said. "My daughter taught me how." Yet, she particularly enjoys using her iPad. "I love this one the most," she added. "I learn better on this." Hayden said her daughter, whom she describes as being very good with computers, bought her the iPad for Christmas.

Borough said he finds himself using his own iPad more and more each day. "It's so convenient to check my email," he said as he walked around the classroom patiently answering questions posed by his students.

The setting for the iPad workshop could not be more appropriate. The class is conducted in a room with technology-based art on the walls. One is a painting depicting a tiny baby pounding a computer keyboard. Another picture displays a laptop next to a cup of coffee. Another picture features a keyboard
<http://pompanopelican.webs.com/apps/blog/show/16808607-may-12-honor-flight-s-visit-to-the-ww-ii-memorial-in-washington-d-c-included-local-vet-bill-borough>

with the word “help” highlighted. Ruth Sepanski uses her iPad to watch Indiana University basketball games. “Because I’m from Indiana,” she proudly adds.

And should everyone buy an iPad? “Depends on what you want to do with it,” Sepanski says. “If you have an iPhone, you already have most of the apps.”

Photo of iPad workshop instructor Bill Borough explains an app to student Virginia Hayden.



Feature Stories July 6, 2012

May 12 Honor Flight's visit to the WW II Memorial in Washington, D.C. included local vet, Bill Borough

By Phyllis J. Neuberger, Pelican staff

There are an estimated 1,000 World War II Veterans dying every day. It is therefore very thrilling to know that an all-volunteer organization, Honor Flights, is paying tribute to and honoring the service of those veterans who are still living by transporting them to see the WW II Memorial in Washington, D.C. at no cost to them.

On one of the recent trips from this area, veteran Bill Borough, well known Deerfield Beach artist says, “It was a high point in my life.”

He was happy to share some of the highlights of his recent flight and visit. “Two Honor Flights, donated by U.S. Air and piloted by volunteers, left from West Palm Beach on May 12, each with over 80 veterans on board. Each of us had a volunteer guardian who stayed with us for the entire trip. Each guardian, in addition to volunteering his time, paid \$400 for the privilege of traveling with us. Isn’t that amazing? My buddy John Belisi and I had two retired fireman as our guardians. Before we lifted off at 7 a.m. two fire trucks gave us a water salute on the runway to send us off on a high. These dedicated and patriotic fireman did the same thing when we landed.”

Borough flashed back to talk about his service in 1943. “I enlisted in the U.S. Navy and became an Electricians Mate, Third Class on the USS PGM 31. I was in for two and a half years. We were in the Pacific supporting those who were fighting in Okinawa. Our job was to follow mine sweepers and detonate the mines. After the Japanese surrendered, we were hit with a typhoon. The Japanese told us how to get into a safe harbor. Imagine that. They saved our lives. On the day after we had stopped killing each other, they were willing to



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save our lives. I always wanted to thank them for that. We were the first ones into Japan but that fact was never recorded because MacArthur wanted that honor for himself. “

With a sigh Borough left those long ago memories to share highlights from his recent unforgettable one day in Washington D.C. thanks to the all volunteer Honor Flight. “We were greeted on our arrival by crowds of cheering men, women and children and music. All of those folks just wanted to shake each of our hands and thank us, one at a time, for our service. There we were, sitting in wheel chairs, getting love and respect like nothing I had ever experienced. We were all in tears and so were those wonderful people who had come to welcome us.”

Five buses were on hand to take us first to the National Cemetery and the Changing of the Guard. Then we had lunch in the park, along side of the Potomac. After lunch we traveled to the W.W. 11 Memorial which gave most of us goose bumps and tears. There is a gold bordered memorial on the west side overlooking the Lincoln Memorial. Filled with gold stars, each star represents 100 lost servicemen and women. Never forget, women did serve. In fact, we had a former WAC with us on this trip.”



“The names of the battles fought are engraved on the Atlantic and the Pacific sides. I had a picture taken on the Okinawa and Japan engraving. For most of us, this was a first viewing of the monument and a very emotional day. We also visited the Iwo Jima monument for group photos. We returned home at 9 p.m. after a day to remember forever. Most of the veterans felt that this was the welcome home they had always wanted.”

The History of Honor Flights

The first Honor Flight took place in May of 2005. Six small planes flew out of Springfield, Ohio taking 12

World War II veterans on a visit to their memorial in Washington D.C. By August of that year, there were so many veterans on the waiting list for an Honor Flight that commercial airlines were contacted and the Honor Flight Network was created. 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. When the memorial was finally completed and dedicated in 2004, Earl realized it was a major topic of conversation among his veteran patients. Many hoped to visit the memorial but were unable to do so because of physical and financial limitations. Most of these senior heroes were now in their 80s and they lacked the physical and mental wherewithal to complete a trip on their own.

Earl decided there had to be a way to help. When he asked some of these veterans if they would like a free trip to see the memorial, they often broke down and cried. He decided to ask for help from other pilots. He addressed the 150 members of the aero club during a meeting, specifying that the veterans must pay nothing. Volunteer pilots had to pay to rent the aircraft for the day at a cost of \$600 to \$1200. The pilots had to promise to not only fly veterans free, but they also had to escort the veterans around D.C. for the day. Eleven pilots volunteered and the Honor Flight was launched. In May of 2008, Southwest Airlines stepped up by donating thousands of free tickets and was named the official carrier

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of the Honor Flight Network. Now there is a network of participating programs nationwide to assist our senior heroes to get to visit their memorial safely.

Success in the numbers

In 2005, Honor Flight Network, or HFN, transported 137 veterans at no cost to them.

In 2006, the number became 891.

In 2007, the number grew to 5,000.

And so the number of veterans were transported, at no cost to them, for their one day visit to the memorial. By the end of 2011 flying season in November, HFN had transported more than 81,000 veterans of WW 11, Korea and Vietnam to see the memorials built to honor their suffering and sacrifice to the keep this great nation free and a world leader.”

Make this a bold tag line as an act of kindness or even box it.

Every WW 11 veteran is invited to make this one day, sentimental journey. To contact Honor Flights, go to the web site: www.honorflightsefl.org/

Call Elaine Penn and Tony Reese at 1- 772-781-2212 or email:honorflightsefl@live.com

About Bill Borough

Boroughs is a Deerfield Beach painter, well known in South Florida for his water colors of Key West homes and marine scenes. His work was seen at most art festivals from 1982 to 1998. Although he has stopped painting, his fans continue to seek out pieces from his remaining collection. He still shows at the Lighthouse Yacht Club annual art show. Married to Virginia for over 60 years, they have three daughters, six grandchildren and one great granddaughter.