



NORFOLK COUNTY RSVP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Your Invitation to Respond to Your Community

614 High Street P.O. Box 310 Dedham, MA 02027 781-329-5728



Dedham Savings Bank is the 2015-16 Leadership Sponsor of NCRSVP

from the director's desk:

WW II Veteran and Purple Heart Recipient Al Kotler- RSVP Veteran Rider and Book Club Contributor at 92

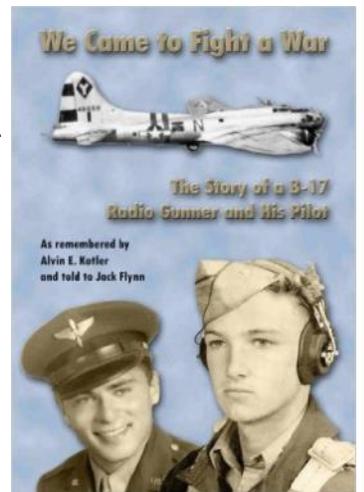


I finally got to meet Al Kotler over a cup of coffee last week. I have been speaking with Al on the phone more than once a month over the past year and half that I have been with Norfolk County RSVP. Al speaks clearly and rapidly, betraying my sense of what a nonagenarian should sound like. Al gets regular rides from RSVP volunteer drivers to his medical appointments at the Jamaica Plain VA and Deaconess Hospitals. He thinks the world of his drivers, and it's clear to me that they think of the world of him, too. "They are terrific people... every single one of them. You got a great crew," exclaims Al. He knows that the volunteers who sign up to drive Veterans have a lot of heart and really care about their Veteran riders.

Al was a World War II Radio Gunner on a B-17, saw a lot of action and flew over 25 combat missions with his pilot, out of Italy. They played a huge part toward ending the war in Europe, by bombing enemy oil refineries. Al Kotler received the Purple Heart for his great valor in coming through a harrowing mission over Austria where he nearly lost his life. He has written a book about his experiences called "We Came to Fight A War: The Story of a B-17 Radio Gunner and His Pilot". The main purpose of the book is to set the record straight on Bill Flynn, Al's pilot who was served heroically and with distinction, 'and who was wrongly accused and betrayed by the army air corp that he so proudly served'. Al has presented his story in a very straightforward and compelling way. When I asked Al if we could present his book at an forthcoming Veterans Book Club meeting later in the year without a moment's hesistant he replied that he would be very pleased to donate book copies for the club. "You guys are offering such a great service to me and others. I am happy to do it." Thank you Al for your service to our country. We at RSVP are most grateful to know you and very pleased we can give back to you.

Sincerely,
Robert Pierson

Gunner Al Kotler, left;
Pilot Bill Flynn, right



Spring Volunteer Opportunities

Farming Volunteers and Farm Maintenance Volunteers at the Needham Community Farm

Farming Volunteers will assist with cutting, weeding, planting seedlings, washing, picking and packaging produce. Farm Maintenance Volunteers will assist with mowing, repairing and building new raised beds.

Weymouth After School Volunteers

The WeyCare program provides a caring and nurturing environment for Weymouth's elementary and middle school age children. Volunteers assist in a range of individual and small group activities (e.g., reading, homework assistance, creative game-play, to name just a few).

Lunchtime Dining Site Volunteers in Needham or Brookline

Assist the Meal Site Manager in the daily operations of the lunch program, meeting nutritional needs while providing opportunities for socialization and companionship. Set tables, sign in participants at reservation table, assist with noontime meal serving and clean up. Two sites in Brookline and one in Needham, need volunteers through Springwell.

Help Grow Local Produce in Dover

Outdoor volunteering at Powisett Farm in Dover where produce is donated to local food pantries.

'Journey to Recovery' Veterans Outreach Volunteers needed in Quincy area

Outreach Volunteers provide communication, connection and education about significance of addiction for 'Journey of Recovery' Program to help veterans and non-vets in early recovery, to local organizations and government agencies. Outreach support is accomplished through phone calls, presentations and reporting. If you have a passion for recovery, supporting vets and others in recovery please contact us to help!

Seeking Veteran Volunteers for Veteran-Hospice Partnership, Norfolk County, MA

Veteran Volunteers make a great difference in improving end of life care for fellow Veterans. Visit a Vet in their home for friendly visiting and comfort giving. Receive Hospice training and become a veteran-hospice volunteer. Recognize your fellow veteran for their service to their country with a certificate of service and handmade afghan.

Please contact Cris or Robert at the Norfolk County RSVP office at 781-329-5728 for more information.

RSVP is funded in part by a national Senior Corps grant and sponsored by the Norfolk County Commissioners:

• Peter H. Collins of Milton,
Commissioner

• Joseph P. Shea of Quincy,
Commissioner

• Francis W. O'Brien of Dedham,
Chairman

Profile: RSVP Meals on Wheels Volunteer- Marie Duffy

Marie Duffy has been volunteering for RSVP as Meals-on-Wheels driver in Canton, MA since 2010. As one of our longest serving MoW drivers, Marie’s warmth, caring and ongoing presence in serving homebound individuals has touched many.

On being a MoW driver: The 8-12 individuals on my route look forward to my visits every Friday. I bring a little light into their lives and they can open up with me.

Why become a MoW driver? Once you begin as a MoW driver, you recognize the important need you are serving and feel really good about your role. Apart from delivering meals and being a friendly presence, you are the “eyes and ears” for the organization on how the MoW recipients are doing.

Memorable moments: One of my homebound residents was a survivor of a concentration camp. He was lonely and liked to talk. He was so forthcoming about his past, his struggles, escaping from Poland and how he came to Canton. Every week he would tell me a little more. If he became sick his family would call me.



Volunteer Ellen Ogilive and RSVP’s Robert Pierson with donated lap robes for Vets from First Church Squantum.

Lead school volunteer Joanne Douglas speaking with guest at the Franklin Fair.



RSVP’s Sally O’Connell and Cris Goldsmith bookend volunteers Roberta Poff and Claire Pauley at Dedham’s Endicott Estate event.

Father Bills and Mainspring: Food support for the homeless; Friendly Visiting of Vets

There is significant need in Quincy for help at Father Bills. On Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, Lunchtime Kitchen Support Volunteers prep and service lunch between 11 AM –1 PM for homeless people. Can you or some one you know help out?

Additionally, we are now seeking volunteers for friendly visiting of Veterans in their homes at the Shiela McIntire House in Quincy and for visiting Veterans throughout Norfolk County as well; Whether taking a vet out a couple times a month for a cup of coffee or visiting them at home, more isolated Veterans wish to have company and would benefit greatly from an occasional or regular visit. Please pass on the word or take the step if you have the time and are able, to give back to our Veterans in this way. Call Robert at 781-234-3445 for details.

Upcoming: Mayor Koch to Recognize Quincy Volunteers for National Mayors Day



Mayor Koch acknowledges the hard work of ‘Quincy Knitters’ in making afghans and lap robes for Veterans in our VA hospitals.

Mayor Tom Koch of Quincy will host this year’s National Mayors Day Appreciation Event on April 5th at Quincy City Hall. Over 30 Norfolk County RSVP volunteers serving from and in Quincy will be recognized for their contributions in

delivering Meals on Wheels, supporting Veterans, working at food pantries and assisting elementary school students. Last year, 2,786 elected officials representing more than 150 million citizens participated in the third-annual Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service. The City of Quincy along with the Norfolk County Commissioners join cities and counties throughout the U. S. A. in honoring RSVP volunteers significant contributions to their communities for 2016.

Outstanding Volunteer: Nancy Bacevich

Each quarter, we recognize an RSVP volunteer who goes well beyond the bounds of their volunteer requirements with a \$10 coffee house gift card. This season, we recognize Nancy Bacevich, an RSVP school volunteer since 2008 at Old Post Road elementary school in Walpole. Steve Fortin, principal at Old Post Road said the following about Nancy’s role and impact: “Nancy has truly distinguished herself through her lead role in teaching our 4th grade. If not for her contributions, we simply wouldn’t have this very special program. She is extremely professional, always smiling when she arrives at school and has a significant impact on those young learners fortunate enough to get to work with her.”

