

LAND OF LINCOLN HONOR FLIGHT, INC.

→ organized as a federal **501(c)3 non-profit** hub in March of 2009, directly under the auspices of the *Honor Flight Network*, and provided its first flight for 12 Veterans that May. LLHF is one of **144** hubs currently operating in **43** states & Washington, DC.

For more information on *Honor Flight Network*, or to find a hub outside this local area, please visit the www.HonorFlight.org parent web site.

→ serves the key Central & Southern **Illinois cities** of Alton, Bloomington-Normal, Carlinville, Champaign-Urbana, Charleston, Clinton, Decatur, Effingham, Jacksonville, Jerseyville, Lincoln, Litchfield, Mattoon, Mount Vernon, Springfield, Taylorville and Vandalia, as well as other communities in the surrounding area. (There are other Honor Flight Network hubs that cover the balance of Illinois.)

→ offers a free flight to Veterans who are able and willing to fly to Washington to visit their memorials on a one-day trip, in this priority order:

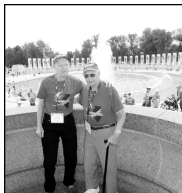
World War II ~ a soldier enlisted by **12/31/1946**
Korean War Era ~ **01/01/1947** to **12/31/1957**
Vietnam War Era ~ **01/01/1958** to **05/07/1975**

→ gives priority exceptions to any Veteran who has a certified terminal illness but is still able to travel.

→ aspires to provide six flights to DC in 2014 (March, April, June, August, September & October) pending available funds. These flights are financed by donations, fundraisers, merchandise, raffles, sponsorships, etc. (Land of Lincoln Honor Flight receives no federal or state government funding.)

→ has honored **1,938** Veterans since our founding, consisting of 99 in 2009, 320 in 2010, 414 in 2011, 423 in 2012, 512 in 2013 and 170 so far in 2014.

→ strives to provide military Veteran heroes with a memorable ***"One More Tour With Honor"***.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

→ **Help Us Find Eligible Veterans:** We are in a race against time to fly our senior heroes. Please help us find eligible soldiers (served before 05/07/1975) or help a Veteran sign up for a LLHF no-expense flight. Applications are available at our web site or contact a volunteer listed below for forms or more information.

→ **Make A Donation:** Any amount is appreciated or ask about a sponsorship level. A contribution is not accepted from a Veteran on the list for an Honor Flight. (A donation may be made after a flight, but is NOT expected or required from any Veteran.)

→ **Arrange A Presentation:** Allow us to share the Honor Flight dream at your business, church, club, group, organization, school, society, union, etc.

→ **Help Raise Funds:** Contact us for ideas on promoting LLHF logo items, booklets, raffle tickets, etc. or on holding a fund raising event. We can assist you.

→ **Become A LLHF Member:** Visit our web site for a form or contact a volunteer for more details.

→ **Sign Up As A Volunteer:** For additional ways you can help, please fill out an application on our web site or email to one of the addresses listed below.

→ **Sign Up As A Guardian:** Every Veteran flies with a Guardian, a non-spousal trained volunteer who ensures the Veteran's comfort and safety throughout their special day in Washington, DC.

Mail Applications, Donations or Communications to:

LAND OF LINCOLN HONOR FLIGHT
57 COUNTRY PLACE
SPRINGFIELD IL 62703-5310

www.LandofLincolnHonorFlight.org

QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION?

Joan Bortolon — President of LLHF
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Ray Wiedle — Past Chairman & Co-Founder of LLHF
Cell: 217.622.1473 Email: arwiedle@sbcglobal.net

John Dust — Volunteer & Marketing Director
Cell: 309.339.0227 Email: HonorFlightGuy@aol.com



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide round trip transportation from Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in Springfield, Illinois, for Veterans in order of their service, (WWII, Korean Era & Vietnam Era) who wish to visit their memorials in Washington, DC.

This day trip is provided completely free of charge to the Veteran in honor of his/her service to our country.

"One More Tour With Honor"



www.LandofLincolnHonorFlight.org

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

~ United States President Harry S. Truman

"It is our mission to serve those who served our country by providing them a day free of cost to visit their memorial with their comrades."

~ Earl Morse, co-founder of Honor Flight

HONOR FLIGHT SUMMARY...

On May 29th of 2004, the World War II Memorial was dedicated in Washington to the 16.1 million men and women who had served our country during the war, including the 405,000 who died in the name of freedom. Then a year later, six private aircraft departed Springfield, Ohio, with a dozen Veterans of WWII onboard, to fly them at no charge to see their new Memorial. By August, the growing list of Veterans led to use of commercial airlines, with a new goal to accommodate as many Vets as possible. Today, with multi-hubs in more than 80% of the States, the Honor Flight Network continues to expand to underserved areas in the country.



HOW THE DREAM BEGAN...

Honor Flight was conceived by retired Air Force captain **Earl Morse**, while working as a physician's assistant for the Department of Veteran Affairs in Springfield, Ohio.

With completion of the WWII Memorial almost 60 years after the war's end, Morse would ask his elderly patients if they would be traveling to the Memorial. Many felt that they would make it to DC, but as summer turned to winter, many Veterans would return to the clinic and reality had settled in for some. Due to their age, financial and/or physical limitations, they would probably never make the journey to see their Memorial. Most of these heroes were already in their 80's, with many lacking the resources or stamina to take a 3-4 day round trip to the nation's capital.

THE SPARK OF AN IDEA... Earl Morse could tell that many of these Veterans had given up hope of visiting the Memorial specifically created for them to honor their service as well as that of fellow comrades, many who had paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Morse decided there had to be a way to get these heroes out to DC. And, it just so happen, Earl was also a private pilot as well as a member of one of the nation's largest aero clubs, located in nearby Dayton, Ohio. So, in December of 2004, Earl asked one of his WWII patients if he could fly him out to DC, at no cost to him, to visit his Memorial. What Earl Morse was not expecting as an answer was for Leonard Loy to break down and cry. He told Earl that at his age he would probably never get to see the Memorial any other way and graciously accepted. A second WWII Veteran was asked, who also broke into tears of joy, enthusiastically accepting the trip. Earl realized there were probably many others who would most likely have a similar reaction, so he decided to ask for help to make the dream a reality for them as well.

In January of 2005, Earl addressed his aero club, outlining a volunteer program to fly Veterans of WWII to their Memorial in Washington, DC. He had two key stipulations:

First, that the Veterans not pay anything for the trip. Second, the pilots would personally escort the Vets around DC for the entire day. After Earl finished his presentation to his fellow pilots, eleven of them stepped forward to volunteer, having never met any of his patients. And, thus *Honor Flight* was born!



THE DREAM TAKES FLIGHT... Moving along quickly, a board of directors was formed, volunteers joined, funds were raised, and that first flight took to the air in May 2005. The favorable responses from both the Veterans and pilots were overwhelming, so more private flights were planned and flown. As more WWII Veterans wanted to participate, soon commercial aircraft were added to accommodate up to 40 Veterans on a flight at one time.

Commercial flights were being used exclusively by 2006 due to the growth of the number of Veterans on the waiting list and the fact that adverse weather conditions could often ground the smaller aircraft.

HONORAIR ARRIVES... The mission of Honor Flight began to spread and other cities and states became aware of Morse's efforts. One of these was **Jeff Miller** of Hendersonville, NC, who had formed the *Hendersonville County HonorAir* and...



was the first to obtain full funding to fly an entire jet load of local Veterans and their guardians out to DC to see their World War II Memorial. Miller



shared his expertise with others who then started their HonorAir program in other portions of the country. Then in February 2007, Earl Morse and Jeff Miller combined their programs to form the current "*Honor Flight Network*".

PRESENT AND THE FUTURE... A network of hub programs are now in place (and growing) to support our country's senior Veterans, including the Korean and Vietnam era. Experiences are shared, resources are pooled, and alliances have been formed throughout the nation to respectfully and safely fly these heroes to view and reflect at their Memorials & Monuments.

From the first 137 Veterans flown in 2005, which includes those original 12 who flew on May 21st, to the 891 the next year, **Honor Flight Network** through the end of 2013 has now transported nearly **120,000** Veterans! But the dream still continues. It has always been the Honor Flight's vision that all the brave men and women who served their country more than deserve this trip and the program is just a token of gratitude for all those who gave so much. We have so many more to honor but for those more elderly Veterans, remaining time is running out! So, please stand up for these heroes now. See the back panel of this brochure to view how **YOU** can support the *Land of Lincoln Honor Flight* hub meet their goal of flying them on "*One More Tour With Honor*".

The Honor Flight Network's motto comes from the words and wisdom of that plain speaking philosopher, Will Rogers:

"We can't all be heroes... Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by."



www.LandofLincolnHonorFlight.org

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