

Honor Flight was trip of a lifetime

EDITOR: I recently returned from a trip of a lifetime to our nation's capital with the Never Forgotten Honor Flight organization in the Wausau area. I'm not sure where to begin. Number one, I guess, would be the volunteers. There were over 150 of them when we arrived on Sunday afternoon and again at 4 a.m. Monday and again at 10:30 p.m. when we arrived home. True dedication.

We visited the three major monuments — World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, along with the Marine Corps War Memorial, the Air Force Memorial and the changing of the guard at Arlington Cemetery, which was the highlight of the trip for me. Another highlight was when we landed at Reagan National Airport and a large group of people in the gate area were cheering and greeting us, shaking our hands and thanking us for our service.

On the plane back to Wausau we each received a large envelope filled with mail from family, friends, and people and organizations from around the state. I also received one envelope from three teachers and their students at Eagle River Elementary School. It brought me nearly to tears with the kind remarks, questions they asked and the thank you's received for my service.

Upon our arrival back in Wausau each veteran along with his guardian was introduced to a crowd beyond my wildest expectation — police, firefighters, VFW, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, friends, children and people from the area. What a truly moving event.

Every veteran from this era should seriously consider applying for the trip. I sincerely thank this organization for the things they do for our veterans.

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