

news release



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91 Area Veterans Flying Free to Washington D.C. on Monday, September 9

(Attention Editors and News Directors: The Honor Flight provides dozens of wheelchairs at the airports and at the memorials for tired veterans. Some of the wheelchairs are loaned from area health care providers, and recently the inmates at the Redgranite Correctional Facility in Redgranite, WI refurbished and restored about 20 wheelchairs that had been donated to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. If you would like to find out more about this project and the effort it takes to load and unload about 60 wheelchairs multiple times during the trip, contact Jim Coleman at 715.218.1365 (cell) or 715.359.0757 (home) or email him at vicki_coleman@yahoo.com.

Also, a pre-flight dinner on Sunday, September 8 at 4:30 pm at Howard Johnsons in Rib Mountain, WI will honor the veterans and their guests. Veterans will be checking in at the hotel between 2 p.m. and 3:30 pm Sunday if you would like to interview some of them. Korean War veterans may have some interesting perspectives about dealing with current tensions in North Korea and other parts of the world. The Never Forgotten Honor Flight Hub based in Wausau serves veterans in these 12 counties: Marathon, Portage, Wood, Taylor, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Vilas, Iron, Barron, Price and Rusk.)

(Wausau,WI) The Never Forgotten Honor Flight organization based in Wausau and the many organizations, businesses and individuals who fund it will fly 33 World War II veterans, 55 Korean War Veterans and three Vietnam War veterans to Washington, D.C. to see the memorials that honor their service on Monday, September 9, 2013. Sixty guardians will accompany the vets on the trip to assist them on their whirlwind one-day round trip that departs Central Wisconsin Airport at 7:00 a.m. and is scheduled to return at approximately 9:30 p.m. The public is invited to the Central Wisconsin Airport to welcome the veterans home Monday night, and Honor Flight officials recommend arriving by 8:30 p.m. Free parking for those welcoming the veterans home will be provided.

"This next flight will bring the total number of veterans we've honored to 1,221," said Mike Thompson, co-founder and president of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight organization. "We will fly again October 21 and are planning two more trips next spring. We encourage any veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to submit an application as soon as possible."

Veterans receive a free round-trip flight, and guardians pay \$500 for the opportunity to accompany one or two veterans on the trip. Veterans and guardians interested in taking a future Honor Flight must complete an application at: www.neverforgottenhonorflight.org or contact the organization at 715.573.8519. The veterans are selected based upon the order in which their applications are received and the conflict they served in. Preference is given to World War II veterans, then Korean Veterans and then Vietnam veterans. War veterans who are terminally ill, regardless of when they served, are also given preference. Currently, the wait list for Honor Flight trips includes 8 WWII veterans, 178 Korean War Veterans and 148 Vietnam War veterans. Each flight can seat approximately 90 to 100 veterans and 50 to 60 guardians. Guardians should be 18-69 years old and able to lend physical assistance to the veterans. Completed applications for veterans and guardians also can be mailed to Never Forgotten Honor Flight, P.O. Box 5056 Wausau, WI 54402-5056.

Countless area businesses have donated to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight during the past four years and continue to do so. Top donors include Junion Photography, Ghidorzi, Kwik Trip, Inc. First Weber Group Foundation, Inc. , Kinziegreen Marketing Group, The Judd S. Alexander Foundation, Bull Falls Brewery and the Veteran's Benefit Ride, all of whom have donated \$20,000 or more in services and cash. Many other donors are listed at www.neverforgottenhonorflight.org.

Contributions to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, a 501c3 corporation, are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to Never Forgotten Honor Flight and mailed to Never Forgotten Honor Flight, P.O. Box 5056 Wausau, WI 54402-5056. Online credit card donations also can be made at www.neverforgottenhonorflight.org. Individuals who make an online donation are invited to honor any veteran of their choosing on the Never Forgotten Honor Wall that's posted on the website.

North Central Wisconsin's Never Forgotten Honor Flight is the nation's 77th regional hub and one of six Wisconsin Honor Flight hubs. The Wausau-based organization was certified by the National Honor Flight Network office in Springfield, Ohio on December 11, 2009.

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