

12-07-15

Dear Honor Flight,

I would like to start this letter by saying thank you for all that you do for our vets. Thank you!

About 3 ½ to 4 years ago I signed up to be a guardian for our vets after hearing about it on TV and from friends. Early April of this year I received a call asking if I was still interested. Without hesitation, I said yes!

As time grew closer, my anticipation grew greater and greater. Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> came along and I was able to meet Pete, an honor war veteran. I did not meet Pete before this day. Among a few other things we were told in our training, one was to talk about what they did. That was the best advice, because once Pete started talking it was nonstop throughout the dinner and into the evening. By the way, the meal and the training were also great.

Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> came and off we went. While we were in Washington the history lessons I got from Pete as well as the other vets was never taught in any of my history lessons. With the exception of a few detours due to a DC visitor, the Japanese Prime Minister, I think over all the tour was great.

The flight back home was again, truly remarkable. The mail call had to have been the best part! The welcome home in Mosinee was even better. Again, thank you.

My story goes on:

After I got back to my normal routine I got to talking to a longtime friend of mine who is also an honorary war vet. We got to talking about my trip and my adventure with Pete and the other veterans. As you know better than I, a lot of vets who were not on the front line or didn't see action seem to think these flights are not for them. However, I convinced my friend that it was for ALL veterans and he agreed he would fill out the form to go. He then told me the only way he would go is if I could go with him.

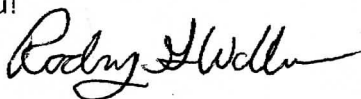
I, again, filled out the guardian application and explained to them that he was requesting that I go with him. By email, I was informed that it should work out. My friend, Gerald, got his call to go on the September 28<sup>th</sup> flight. In July, I got the call as well.

My time with Gerald on this flight opened him up like I have never heard before. I got even more history lessons about the Korean War and World War 2 as he has four brothers who served in World War 2.

A couple things that really stood out to me on this second flight were being able to be one of the wheelchair captains on my bus. Being able to help the veterans in and out of their wheelchair and helping them get on and off the bus was really nice! This trip was also the first one with a police officer to escort us everywhere we went.

In closing, I would like to say this was the best \$1,000.00 I have spent and I know I would do it again if requested. I am looking forward to being a volunteer going forward. I would also like thank everyone on the board of director, all the staff, everyone at Howard Johnsons, the Sun Country flight staff, the DC bus driver, and the tour guide.

Again, thank you!



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