

Vets appreciate Honor Flight day

"As a veteran of WWII, I was included in the Never Forgotten Honor Flight that took place on April 18. That day will be etched in my memory forever," wrote **Dexter VanHoozen** of St. Germain.

"On behalf of myself and all the other vets involved, I want to thank the many people and organizations that contributed their time and money to make the day such a huge success, and the people who sent me the 53 letters, which I received at Mail Call during our return flight from Washington, D.C. Because most of the letter writers did not include full names or addresses, it is impossible for me to contact them personally," VanHoozen wrote.

"I want to single out a few of the people, organizations and schools whose names I did receive. First of all the board of directors, executive committee and members of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, including **Mike Thompson** and **Jim Campbell**, the co-chairmen. Also an extra special thanks to **Henry Severson** who was the guardian assigned to Jim and me. He deserves a medal for spending an entire day looking out for us during the trip. In addition I want to thank the teachers and students of the following schools: **D.C. Everest Middle School, Weston; Alexander Middle School, Nekoosa; Arbor Vitae School, Woodruff; Newman Catholic School in Wausau; Schofield Elementary School; and the Luxemburg-Casco primary, intermediate and high schools,**" he wrote.

"A special thanks goes to the **Howard Johnson hotel** whose executives provided us with two

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nights lodging at no cost to us. And, last but by no means least, the many sponsors and donors from North Central Wisconsin and elsewhere who contributed to our big day."

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"I was one of the 96 WWII veterans on the Never Forgotten Honor Flight on April 18. I would like to thank the citizens of Wausau and the surrounding area for their wonderful support of the Honor Flight organization and the heartfelt honor they bestowed on us when we returned from Washington after a whirlwind tour of the many War Memorials," wrote **Robert Simenson** of Rice Lake, a former Signalman Second Class in the U.S. Navy.

"What an awesome experience it was to pass through the hundreds of well-wishers that had gathered at the Central Wisconsin Airport. It was glorious to be honored like that after 66 years. I didn't want to leave the airport and relinquish my 'Hero' status," he wrote.

"Also thank you to the school children in the area who took the time to write personal, encouraging letters to us as we received them during Mail Call on the return trip from Washington."