

Never Forgotten Honor Flight
Board of Directors
P.O. Box 5056
Wausau, WI 54402-5056

ATTN: Mike Thompson

Dear Mike,

Just a note to convey my thanks for the thousands of people, young and old, who participated in making the "Never Forgotten Honor Flight" a truly memorable event. It is extremely difficult to express my gratitude for all of the many seemingly small things which when looked at in hindsight become immensely huge. From the very beginning of the event on Sunday, being taken around the building by a Boy Scout named Brennan, to the Mail Call on the airplane on the way back to Mosinee, every detail was so coordinated and showed a great deal of not only thought but effort on the part of so many who participated to make the event such a grand success. When I think of the lines of people at both airports, the police escort in Washington, the fire department making the water cannon arch in Mosinee, the Harley motorcade, the welcome home signs and flags, all of the food, entertainment, comfortable lodging, bussing and tour guide, they were absolutely incredible. This was indeed a memory which will be indelibly etched in my mind. There are things which I carried back with me - precious mail, shirt, jacket, cap, fanny pack, camera, Korean War Memorial book, Served with Pride record book, the Honor Flight pin and coin, Trillion CD, Girl Scout cookies, candy, and tote bag. Thank you for arranging for the Operation Gratitude box. I received a hooded sweatshirt, a zip pullover, book, and oral care travel pack.

It was a real treat to spend time with many of the Veterans, making new acquaintances which I am sure will stand the test of time. I really thought a lot of my Guardian, Greg Ramlow, who was most helpful as we walked around the Memorials. Speaking of the Memorials, they were a sight to behold. I especially prized the Korean War Memorial, not only because that corresponded with my time in Service but because of the thought that went into the construction both in art and engineering. The reflective wall is an absolute masterpiece.

Thank you so very much for those who were involved in taking care of my wife while I was in Washington. My report from her was she really enjoyed the delicious luncheon and apron presentation at the Yawkey Museum and the tour of the Mansion.

We were greeted so warmly at the Highland Community Church. Many thanks to all who were involved in preparing the name tags, the beautiful carnation corsages, and the programs for the after dinner entertainment. We enjoyed the special speaker, Gerry Viste, whose message was very inspiring.

Many thanks to all those involved in putting together the packet we received in the mail prior to the trip with all the detailed instructions and maps. The correspondence and visits with all the contributors and

major donors must have taken an immense amount of time. And a big thank you for all those wonderful volunteers in red who couldn't do enough for us.

Even the school children got involved by sending personal notes and designing special cards and making a picture for our motel room door.

What a wonderful remembrance you gave us with the 12 page colored newspaper insert with all the pictures of the Veterans while in Service along with their Honor Flight picture - all decked out in yellow.

Thank you to Channel 7 for the TV coverage and for the photographer that went along on the trip and posted all those pictures for us to enjoy.

Our thank you to the Lord for giving us perfect weather and a safe flight.

This was truly a "TRIP OF A LIFETIME"!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elmer Pedersen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail.