

Good morning, NFHF Team,

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of the passing of my grandfather, Verlyn "Spike" Ehlers, 86 of Chippewa Falls. Grandpa served as an electrical technician on the USS Fulton, a submarine tender, during the Korean conflict. He and my dad traveled with you all on his the September 28 Honor Flight. You were generous enough to let me hop on the buses with you all for the day so that I could spend time with my dad, my grandpa, and grandpa's best friend (Kenny Pitsch). Grandpa was initially reluctant to come on this trip, but after Kenny agreed to go with him, we started planning. His Honor Flight had a supremely positive impact on his life -- after he got home, he proudly displayed his pictures, and talked about it with his friends and family. For his burial this morning, he requested to have three things buried with him: his pocketknife, his USS Fulton challenge coin, and his Honor Flight challenge coin. The photo collage that you all put together for him was proudly displayed next to his casket, along with the NFHF Group photo at WWII. You all made an incredible impact on his life (and mine) and I am proud to volunteer for this organization. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Summit in February, and when you are back in DC this spring.

http://chippewa.com/news/local/obituaries/obituary-verlyn-r-spike-ehlers/article_41ec8c2f-fdf8-5421-a733-1b9a1ae28a79.html

My fiance and I have mailed you a check so that another Veteran can go on his or her Honor Flight and have such a wonderful experience as my grandfather.

I have attached several of my favorite photos from his Honor Flight that I wanted to share with you all -- this is how we will remember him -- with a great, big, Honor Flight smile. God Bless you all.

Merry Christmas,