

April 29, 2013

To everyone involved with Never Forgotten Honor Flight:

I would like to thank the Never Forgotten Honor Flight organization for the life changing experience I was so lucky to be part of on April 21st and 22ⁿ as a guardian. Even though my father Donald Brummond passed away unexpectedly 3 weeks prior to the flight your organization did marvelous things to make me feel like he was part of the trip. My family cannot thank you enough. These trips are extremely well organized and planned. Every trip is very special yet completely different for each person who flies. It's not just a trip to Washington D.C. It's what happens on that trip to Washington D.C. With that being said I would like to share in no particular order how I was blessed by all of the hard work of the committee, volunteers and donors.

- Being named a wheelchair captain. We made sure to help every single person on and off our bus safely all day. What a great responsibility to be given. Very exhausting. A true honor.
- Getting to be guardian for William Cybula and meeting his wonderful wife. He told me detailed accounts of his experiences and struggles in war that still continue to this day. I care very much for him. A true hero in my book.
- Getting to tell the veterans about my dad at the WWII Memorial and pushing the wheelchair with his flag and picture as taps was played and the vets saluted.
- All of the guys on the flight that I did not know but they knew my Dad and came to talk to me about him. So cool!
- Meeting other vets and talking and taking pictures of them. Amazing men.
- Pictures at Korean Memorial. I was there when two of the fella's in our group by chance met a man and his family from Korea. The man fought in the South Korean Army. They posed for a picture for me and held each other's hand and walked around the memorial together like only a father and son would do.
- Changing of the guard and full bloom cherry trees at Arlington.
- Patrick Bradley speech at the Marine Corps Memorial. He graciously gave a speech to everyone at the Memorial that rivals anything I have ever heard or seen. Thank you Patrick for your insight and powerful words.
- The group of students who asked to get in a group photo at the Marine Corps Memorial and thanked the men graciously. Afterward on their own they formed a semi-circle and sang the National Anthem to the Vets. Only in America!
- Of course "mail call" and the welcome home!

My family and I are forever grateful for all that you have done and do for all veterans and their families. Thank you so much again. My dad would have been in awe the whole trip.

Sincerely,

Steve Brummond and Family