

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 24, 2011

CONTACT: Jim Campbell, Co-Chair, Never Forgotten Honor Flight
Phone: 715-573-8519

Email: jkcampbelljr@yahoo.com

200 More Veterans Will See WWII Memorial on Two Fall Honor Flights

(Editor's and News Director's Note- The Never Forgotten Honor Flight Hub based in Wausau serves veterans in these 12 counties: Marathon, Portage, Wood, Taylor, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Vilas, Iron, Barron, Price and Rusk.)

(Wausau,WI) The Never Forgotten Honor Flight organization based in Wausau and the many organizations, businesses and individuals who fund it will fly 180 more World War II veterans to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on September 19 and October 17. An additional 60 guardians will accompany the vets on each trip to assist them on their whirlwind one-day round trip that departs Central Wisconsin Airport at 7 a.m. and returns at approximately 10 p.m.

“We have said it many times, but these trips simply would not be possible without the generous support of the many area businesses, organizations and individuals who provide the funding,” said Jim Campbell, co-chair of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight.

Among the top overall donors to the Honor Flights have been Kwik Trip, Ghidorzi Companies and Mid-Wisconsin Bank, each of whom have contributed well over \$20,000 in cash and in-kind services since the flights began in 2010. Wausau-based Ghidorzi Companies, which owns the Howard Johnson Inn and Conference Center in Rib Mountain, has donated free rooms to veterans and guardians who must travel from out of town to take the Honor Flight trip. During two very successful store promotions in the spring of 2010 and 2011, Kwik Trip stores all over Wisconsin collected several hundred thousand dollars from customers--which the company distributed to all the Wisconsin Honor Flights.

Mid-Wisconsin Bank is hoping to sponsor the entire flight October 17 by organizing an upcoming golf outing set for Monday, August 29, at Indianhead Golf Course and a motorcycle ride, raffle and Poker Run fundraiser to be held on September 10. A previous motorcycle ride last spring to the Veterans' Home in King, Wisconsin, sponsored by Mid-Wisconsin Bank raised \$20,000 for the Honor Flight.

The First Weber Group Foundation, Inc. also has been a significant contributor to the Honor Flight fundraising effort. This Saturday, August 27, the group will host its second annual Bike for Honor Flight in Wisconsin Rapids.

More information about the Mid-Wisconsin Bank Golf Outing and motorcycle ride, the First Weber Bike for Honor Flight and other fundraising events, as well as a complete list of donors, is posted online at www.neverforgottenhonorflight.org

“We continue to be overwhelmed by the donations, in-kind contributions and volunteer support we receive to make these trips possible,” said Mike Thompson, co-chair of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. “We are thrilled to be able to do our fifth and sixth trips this fall, and we are hoping we can continue to raise enough money to do more trips next spring. We encourage any World War II and Korean War vets to submit an application as soon as possible.”

Veterans receive a free round-trip flight on each Honor Flight trip, which costs the organization approximately \$80,000 to charter a jet, pay transportation costs and fund other amenities such as meals, jackets, shirts and caps.

Contributions to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, a 501c3 corporation, are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to Never Forgotten Honor Flight and mailed to Never Forgotten Honor Flight, P.O. Box 5056 Wausau, WI 54402-5056. Online credit card donations also can be made at www.neverforgottenhonorflight.org via the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin. Individuals who make an online donation are invited to honor any veteran of their choosing on the Never Forgotten Honor Wall that's posted on the website.

North Central Wisconsin's Never Forgotten Honor Flight is the nation's 77th regional hub and one of six Wisconsin Honor Flight hubs. Veterans all over Wisconsin can now participate. The Wausau-based organization was certified by the National Honor Flight Network office in Springfield, Ohio on December 11, 2009.

Veterans and guardians interested in taking a future Honor Flight must complete an application at: www.neverforgottenhonorflight.org or contact the organization at 715.573.8519. The veterans are selected based upon the order in which the applications are received. Preference is given to World War II veterans and to veterans who are terminally ill. Guardians should be 18-69 years old, able to lend physical assistance to the veterans and willing to pay the \$500 cost of their trip. Completed applications should be mailed to Never Forgotten Honor Flight, P.O. Box 5056 Wausau, WI 54402-5056.

###