

Dear Mike and Jim:

Thank you for adding Greg's comments on your web site. He was very, very proud to have addressed the veterans from Wisconsin. My Dad received the Birthday present of a lifetime with your Honor Flight. He was especially proud that his Grandson was there to address them at "Your Memorial" as Greg called it between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Dad was moved deeply by the Tomb of the Unknown too and the changing of the Guard! His Navy memories run silent and run deep as he never shared them with us.

My Mom (and sisters not yet born at the close of the War) had an opportunity too to welcome Dad home with the Gala homecoming he and his Wisconsin veterans richly deserved with bands playing and everyday men, women and children reaching out to shake their hands saying, "Thank You For Your Service!" My Mom and Dad have a family of 14 children, 34 grandchildren, 61 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson...he was especially awed by the little children thanking him on their arrival at Dulles and when arriving back at Central Wisconsin.

I returned to Phoenix yesterday and some warmer weather...your Spring weather is coming. My send off on Tuesday after getting my parents home to Nekoosa was something to behold...they were young again with memories in full bloom like the Spring flowers being showered with the new fallen snow coming down that day. My slow drive to Milwaukee gave me a few hours alone to contemplate what a wonderful gift you are offering our Veterans and their families that gave so much during WWII. I was only four years old at the close of the war, and I recall vividly my Dad in his Navy uniform.

As I reflect on my rewarding experience as a Guardian, I first want to say "Thank You" for finding a spot for me on the flight. I saw up close and personal that the spirit of my Dad and these men and women has not changed...they would go again today if called. I can't put my finger on exactly what it was that I observed this past Monday that makes them who they are, the bloodlines of the American family runs deep within the veins and history of our country, but you know it when you see it. These were the men and women of the "Greatest Generation" that took up the battle lines on two oceans and three continents; producing the raw materials, food and equipment necessary; and, winning the World War.

You and me, we have that spirit too taking up the watch upon their return in places like Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf and many, many more. Our sons and daughters continue that priceless legacy of a free, proud and unselfish people. You and your staff are special men and women, a true reflection of our people in the mirror of America. You gave me the opportunity to salute my Dad and many more of our Hero's with your "Honor Flight"...a priceless moment that we shared...to be remembered, forever cherished and Never Forgotten!

I salute you and thank you for the opportunity...it was a ride through history. God Bless You! "OORAH!"

With warmest wishes, I remain

Fraternally yours,

George H. Czerwonka, Jr.