

Efforts of all involved acknowledged in the Lakeland Times:

To the Editor:

As a veteran of World War II, I was included in the "Never Forgotten Honor Flight" which took place Monday, April 18, 2011.

That day will be etched in my memory forever. On behalf of myself and all the other vets involved I want to thank the many people and organizations that contributed their time and money to make the day such a huge success, and the people who sent me the 53 letters which I received at "Mail Cal" during our return flight from Washington. D.C.

Because most of the letter writers did not include full names or addresses it is impossible for me to contact them personally so I hope you will do so for me by printing this note of heartfelt thanks.

I want to single out a few of the people, organizations, and schools whose names I did receive.

First of all the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and members of the "Never Forgotten Honor Flight," including Mike Thompson and Jim Campbell, the co-chairmen. Also a extra special thanks to Henry Severson who was the guardian assigned to Jim and me. He deserves a medal for spending an entire day looking out for us during the trip.

In addition I want to thank the teachers and students of the following schools: D.C. Everest Middle School, Weston; Alexander Middle School, Nekoosa; Arbor Vitae-Woodruff School, Arbor Vitae; Newman Catholic School; Schofield School; and the Luxemburg-Casco Primary, Intermediate, and High Schools.

A special thanks goes to the Howard Johnson Hotel whose executives provided us with two nights lodging at no cost to us. And, last but by no means least, the many sponsors and donors from North Central Wisconsin and elsewhere who contributed to our big day.

As with any operation of this magnitude there are so many people and organizations involved that I am sure that I have overlooked some. For this I am very sorry and rest assured that your efforts are appreciated.

Dexter VanHoozen

St. Germain