

I was one of 98 WWII veterans who made Honor Flight #4 on May 2. No words can convey my thoughts and feelings as I deplaned and was met by the very large group of well wishers, bands playing, honor guards of the KC and other organizations who took time to display their thanks for a job well done by the veterans of WWII. Seven of my 10 children and two of my 19 grandchildren, were there to greet me, which made me very proud and happy. The people lined up with signs held aloft, shaking of hands and hugs. This was the way it was through out the trip to D.C. Vacationers at the various memorials would come over to us and display their thanks for having served our country, school groups were there and they would all line up, shake our hands and give us hugs. I received more hugs that day than I have in a long time. I am not complaining, just commenting. We had mail call on the plane on the way back and I received a large manila envelope with letters from my family and notes and cards from various school groups. It was such a wonderful feeling to experience this outpouring of love and gratitude. This reception gave us the feelings that we were in truth real heroes, where in reality we were only doing a job for our country and our families to keep them safe and free.

I cannot say enough for the organization that sponsored this trip and to the people and corporations that donated the funds to make this trip possible. The Howard Johnson Motel donated our rooms for two nights, which was generous of them. The Guardians on the trip were out of this world in the way they performed, donating their time and money so they could be of service to us. Wheelchairs were provided for those who had a need for them and the guardians pushed them around. My guardian on this trip was Dean Hess of Wausau. He is the principal of a middle school in Wausau and is also a retired Major with twenty years of duty with the National Guard Air Force, who flew Blackhawk helicopters with two tours of duty in Iraq. You couldn't ask for a nicer gentleman. He was very solicitous of our welfare as he kept saying he wanted nothing to happen to us on his watch.

The NEVER FORGOTTEN HONOR FLIGHT is well named as I will remember this event as long as I live. I heartily recommend to any veteran who has not made this trip sign up and be recognized. You will never regret it. Thanks again to all who made this trip possible.

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