



thank
you!

Never Forgotten Honor Flight - Mission 31

Dear Mike, Ken, Jim & the entire Honor Flight team..
I just wanted to take a moment to say "THANK YOU" for
the Mission 31 - Never Forgotten Honor Flight experience
that my dad & I got to participate in.

From the moment we walked into the Hilton on Sunday
4/22/2018 to the day we checked out, the outpouring of
respect, gratitude and appreciation shown to our
Veterans was incredible!

- The kind gift from the Ghidorezi Family of free rooms for
the Veterans and their guardians was much appreciated.
- The initial reception was warm and welcoming and we
joined our green and gold attire! The Pre-flight Dinner
was a wonderful honor to our Vets. The entertainment
was fun and very enjoyable. It was nice & informative
to hear more about the "Never Forgotten Honor Flight" mission
& purpose. Such an impressive commitment to our Vets!
"Also THANK You to all the Volunteers, Color Guard, Boy Scouts,
Entertainers, Charities/Donors, HODA6 Ladies & the wonderful
people of Central Wisconsin & the Nation!"
- Morning came early - but the reception at the airport
was festive and so supportive. To my dad's delight -
volunteers were passing out donuts. The flight to Washington
DC was great!
- Landing in DC we received such a grand welcome!
Everyone reaching out to thank each Veteran as
they started on their days journey.
- We boarded the buses and headed for our first stop at
the WWII Memorial. The welcome we received as we
stepped off the bus was mind blowing. It was so
wonderful to see all the people - especially the
young students & kids lined up with signs, hands
extended and a few hugs here and there. It brought

tears to our eyes. This happened at each site! We loved it. Seeing the memorials brought back memories and old stories for my dad - which he shared throughout the day with me.

- We have to give a big shout out to the logistics team and our personal escort motorcade - everything ran so smooth - including getting those wheel chairs on & off the buses! ☺ Also, a big shout out to the Photographer - Hearing cats (VETs) at the WWII memorial for a group photo. It was nothing less than miraculous! He did it all with such humor and a smile. Thanks too - to the Dr.s - they got us all home safe and sound...
- It was very somber at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We enjoyed hearing from the young soldiers themselves to talk about their job guarding the Tomb.
- The Airforce Memorial was a great place to end - have dinner - reflect - then head to the airport.
- We boarded the plane with a big day behind us, tired - ready for the ride home. I can't express in words very well what it felt like as we took off from DC - speeding down the runway - lights go off on the plane - my dad peering out the window at Washington DC & the song "GOD BLESS the USA" played - I will NEVER forget that moment looking at my dad - it will forever be a very proud - sweet memory for me!

- Mail call was spectacular - we read letters for days!
AND when you thought it couldn't get any better, we landed in Mosinee to a reception that was beyond belief! There were bands playing, people cheering, signs showing, smiling faces, hands extended for a hug + kiss to welcome each Vet home! My mom, dad and I walked down that hall and experienced a moment of a LIFE TIME! It was so inspiring to see so many people take the time (late at night) to say "thanks" to a Veteran! — PRICELESS!!

- With a motorcycle escort back to the hotel,

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a quick snack and a drink with new friends and family; it was soon time for sleep.

It was a Great day - a trip of a lifetime!

We can't thank you all enough!



Zazzle

Sincerely
Robert J. Larson & Debra Hutchinson