

October 16, 2018

Dear Board of Directors:

I have just returned from the 34th Never Forgotten Honor Flight. What a wonderful experience!

Everything was top-notch, from the preflight dinner and entertainment to the transportation and meals, the guide on our bus, etc., etc. You have mastered the details, and it is much appreciated. Even with an unplanned side trip to get more fuel in Pittsburgh, you folks adjusted and made everything work. Wow.

Highlights for me were things that you could not entirely control – the amazing welcome from travelers at the airport in Washington and the overwhelming welcome home at Central Wisconsin Airport. It is clear that you understand that “Welcome home” are the words most appreciated by Vietnam Veterans.

I had anticipated becoming emotional, and I was, but not the emotions I expected. There was nostalgia, yes, but it was pride and appreciation that came to the surface.

I'd been to Washington, DC a few times before, and had visited the Vietnam Memorial. I appreciated seeing it again. To me, the Korean Memorial was the most powerful one, by far. As I studied the statues, an Army veteran next to me identified the equipment portrayed. He had trained with that same kind of equipment when he was on active duty.

During the visit to the World War Two Memorial, the reporter from WJFW-TV interviewed me about my experience on the trip. I hope she uses my comment on encouraging other veterans to sign up. I know there are many who feel undeserving. Those of us who saw combat know full well that every single person who served was needed and crucial to our nation's goals.

Thank you for everything.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gil Buettner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gil Buettner