

9:11 AM (3 hours ago)

Good Morning,

It has been a couple of days since Dave and our son Brian, as his guardian, went on the Never Forgotten Honor Flight #36. This has given us time to reflect on the trip itself and everything leading up to it and since.

We can not be anything but so grateful, thankful and humbled by the experience. From the time we arrived at the Hilton on Sunday afternoon, where volunteers rushed across the parking lot to retrieve our luggage to Tuesday morning when we departed. We were treated special and important, as was every Veteran, spouse and family member.

The opportunity for Dave to meet and talk to other veterans on this level and in this venue let him know that others really had shared in or experienced some of the same things he did. It was the start of the healing process. It was a long time coming. However I am not sure it ever would have happened, had he not been involved in this particular event.

The experience for us has changed us for the better and has given Dave the keys to open that little "black box" which contained his memories and experiences from Vietnam. Up until last week, Dave had spoken very little and was very guarded in what he did share. Since then, he has opened up and shared so many experiences about that era in his life. And that era had a profound impact on shaping him into the man he is today.

We would like to THANK YOU, the Never Forgotten Honor Flight organization for all that you have done for us. This includes every board member and all volunteers. We have the highest respect for everything you have done. We can't imagine how many hours of preparation prior to and during the event was involved. And the compassion and caring that was given to each veteran and each family member was so appreciated. And the guardians were exactly that! They were the guardian angels that took care of our veterans during a very emotional and adrenaline filled couple of days. They were there and took care of every little want or need, whether expressed or not.

We would also like to Thank Chuck Ghidorzi and The Hilton Garden Inn for providing us with "over the top" accommodations. The venue was perfect and allowed everyone to meet, relax and socialize with other veterans.

Again, THANK YOU TO ALL INVOLVED and God bless. Your impact on our lives will never be forgotten!

David and Linda Hoover