

NEVER FORGOTTEN HONOR FLIGHT.  
Sunday April 7 and Monday the 8, 2019

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Gentlemen:

What can I say!?? Marvelous, Outstanding, Fabulous, Sentimental, Heart Rendering, Penetrating, Once In A Lifetime!! Yes, I was impressed and overwhelmed!

A sincere and deserving tribute to citizens who swore allegiance to the U. S. Constitution and served with honor and dignity in peace and war.

What I loved was the "intensity." I say that in a positive way. From the moment I walked into the Hilton Garden Inn, and was greeted with open arms by Larry, and my old friend, "Roxy" - my "Excitement Meter" jumped close to the one hundred limit! All the folks in red sweaters waiting to help with baggage and answer any questions — wonderful! From that point on, it was a swirl of awe and activity — meeting folks in red shirts, photographs, a gift box, waiting for my Guardian son, Dirk, to finish orientation and having a beer of two with my wife "Lolly" to calm the waves of excitement.

That was just the start - the Sunday banquet and ceremonies, speeches, the singers made you proud to be part of it. Also our hotel room was distinctive and comfortable.

The pace continued with the Monday, 4:30 am boarding the bus. The processing at the airport went smoothly. The flight entered clear weather and the reception at Reagan National Airport was in unexpected — all those lovely ladies and warm handshakes!

The police escort was spectacular — we could not have visited so many memorials in one day without them — exciting intensity! The special grand finale, or almost, was the Marine Drill Team. What a sharp group of dedicated young men.

Another wonderful surprise on the return flight, at 30,000 feet plus, was "Mail Call." What a great idea! I was so impressed and moved by the sentiment and congratulations by my family, school children and others.

More delicious “frosting on the cake” was applied when we were greeted at the Central Wisconsin Airport by a band, music and hundreds of “Thank You For Your Service,” hand shakes by family, friends, service men and young children. The motorcycle escort back to the hotel was a lovely final touch.

Lastly, I have a few minor suggestions which you might consider — I hope I’m not being too petty —

At the Sunday night dinner, we were sitting more toward the back of the room. I noticed that behind the performers, was a dark doorway or wall which was the same color as the singer’s costumes. A white curtain or the like would enhance any of the performers. In addition, the speakers at the microphone, yourself and others would be more visible if elevated or standing on the stage. Better visual contact.

I realize there is difficulty in gathering this information— (You all did a fantastic job on that last photo brochure.), — I wondered if in some way the vets could share where they were last stationed and the unit in which they served? I thought maybe such shared information would enhance the camaraderie — maybe even after we return home. Possibly some vets don’t remember or wish to remember and that’s understandable too. (I only served eight months in Korea, 1954-55, with a unique 440th signal corp unit — “Special Category Army With Air Force”). It would be fun to meet another Wisconsin veteran who had also served in that unit. Just a thought!

A point about the cap logo, It is a significant and important advertising message of pride. I wondered if at the next ordering of caps — the words “ Honor Flight” could be a bit larger and distinguishable? The plane also could be a bit larger and definitive. Obviously, both are highly important and I believe should be easily read.

Lastly, (And finally you say!), I am very proud of my service and greatly appreciate the heart rendering opportunity to experience the “Never Forgotten Honor Flight.” It will stand as one of the great highlights in my life! I have already contacted five veterans to encourage them sign up!

Most sincerely,



William C. Fucik