

Good Friday Everyone,

I cannot begin to put into words what the trip meant to me this week. As many of you know, I have been a big supporter of NFHF for several years now and Flight #37 only made me fall more in love with this amazing organization. Having my father in law on the trip was a bonus and I want to thank you all for allowing me to be part of the Special Ops program and be able to fly with him. I struck up a couple new friendships with Jay Davis and George Jorgensen after they told me their stories on Monday as well. It's humbling when a complete stranger will share something so personal if you simply lend an ear and a few minutes of your time. That's the power of the Honor Flight program isn't it?

Caring for a couple of our Honor Chair veterans brought with it an entirely different set of emotions for me too. Having just lost my father in July and being one of his caregivers the past 10 years, it was easy to identify with what these men were going through in needing assistance on and off the plane/bus and trips to the restroom. It was truly an honor to assist them and others who required extra attention and I will answer the call again whenever I am needed for Special Op detail.

The only obvious disappointment, and completely out of our control, was the delayed welcome home and the fact that these deserving men didn't get to see an airport full of supporters upon arrival. I had a difficult time holding my emotions in check Monday and Tuesday and finally quit trying when I saw my wife and the others who did show up Tuesday morning, several being friends of mine that saw a frantic post on social media to attend if possible.

In closing I just want to say again how thankful I am to be a part of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight family. With the creation of HHA USA, my veterans nonprofit launching this fall, I will continue to use the talents and connections I have been blessed with to raise money for this cause and bring a greater appreciation to the men and women who have served our country. My goal is still to sponsor an entire flight in the next 2-3 years and I look forward to the day that we hand that check over. 48 has always been a favorite number of mine (I am a big Jimmie Johnson fan!) so maybe we can arrange that to be the



HHA USA Flight?

Thank you all again for everything that you do to make this amazing train go down the tracks. This guy will ALWAYS be a passenger.

Keep up the great work and have a blessed weekend!
Chris

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