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Never Forgotten Flight, Inc.,

I wanted to write you to say how much I enjoyed the 32nd Honor Flight on September 2, 2019. I must admit I was coursed into going by other American Legion members, for I didn't think I deserved to be on the flight never touching my feet on Vietnam soil. In fact, I was disfellowshipped from my church where I was studying to be a minister for joining the Army during the Vietnam War. Part of the punishment was not to be spoken to for one year. But it didn't matter for I was in the army for three years and wasn't around to see anyone from my congregation. But during the time I was in the service, I was beaten two times in my uniform in my home town, one being thrown out of a bar by the bartender and five fellow high school friends. I was told to take the uniform off if I wanted to come back in, but that didn't happen. I

wasn't of age to be in a bar unless I wore my uniform. On returning to California after 18 months overseas, we were detained on the plane and had to go out the back and get out of our uniforms for protestors were waiting for us. There were other hurtful incidents that left scars on many of us veterans. But I felt like I didn't fit in with either side never being in Vietnam.

But this Unforgettable Flight trip helped me in finally find some peace and self assurance that I did nothing wrong. It was a healing experience. I learned a lot from this trip.

First one is I am Old! Yep! I finally can accept I am getting old. I realized that I am fortunate to have reach this age from the sacrifices of those whose names are on the Vietnam Wall who never got the chances I have received from their ultimate sacrifices.

Two, I finally feel like I belong to the "brotherhood of veterans". All these years I felt like I didn't belong with the veterans that served in Vietnam itself and not accepted by our Nation for being a Veteran at the time of the Vietnam war. But now with all those wonderful "Welcome Home" from Strangers, friends and family on this trip, and spending the time with all veterans on this memorial venture, I feel at peace and pride knowing I now belong.

Three, I got to see some peace come upon others on the trip. I had the greatest guardian named Sheila Jones who was also the guardian for her Marine Father, Dale Seng, with his little dog Susie.

I personally am a caretaker for my 86 year old mother, I worked with boys at Homme Home and was a Youth Counselor/prison guard at Lincoln Hills School. I'm now in the American Legion helping other Veterans and our Community. When we got to the Vietnam Memorial facing the wall, our guardian's father started to talk about his five friends on the wall. He was opening up, which was the time for me to walk away, for this was an important moment for him and his daughter. My father was a Silver Star, Purple Heart Navy sailor of World War II. And in the end, my father opened up to me about what he went through. My father and I got closer as Veteran Brothers. He helped me and I helped him. This was our Guardian's moment with her father. I heard her father say, "I never have opened up about any of this" and "I finally can say good-bye to them now". It was a moment and important to both father and daughter.

Yes, this trip was like a blessing and needed healing for many. And as for the Unending Flight, it was the best. The turbulence, the many take off's that happened, learning how important bathrooms were, gas, cramps, I even slept on the floor for a

while, it was the greatest. All took it well and are proud to say we were the ones on the flight that never ended. And we were treated the best by all.

This might sound like a bunch of hot air talking, but I want you to know this little old man had the time of his life. And I'm looking at life a little bit better than before.

Thank you all for a wonderful healing, rememberable and great experience at this time of my life. And thank you for allowing my grandson Artemis to be there to take care of his Grandmother at the Hilton. You all made our day.

Sincerely

James E. Londer