

Jan Wendtland's (NFHF VP of Operations) Email to the NFHF BOD
Fri, Sep 6, 9:14 AM (2 days ago)

Thank you Mike for the recognition of EVERYONE involved. It was no less than an all hands on deck effort. I too, am so very proud of everyone for stepping up to make a less than perfect situation workable.

I thank you for keeping in touch with us at home so we knew what needed to be done. All BOD & SO (Special Ops) on the flight to take care of, no doubt, nervous veterans & guardians.

Thank you to Jeni Hinz who made certain that all spouses staying at the Hilton were on the bus to return there at 12:45 am when you were diverted to Milwaukee, then stayed up until 3 am with them because they were nervous. Thank you Rocky for taking over at the Hilton at 5:30 am & waking the spouses at 7:30 to let them know their veterans were coming home....again!! and that we were not providing bussing for them back to the airport because there was no time. Thank you Matt Bertz who filled in to take Veteran Joe Dahlke back to Lakeview care center when AbbyVans was booked at that time. Thank you to Sara, Rocky & Winkle, Chuck & Donna Strek, Andy Kaminski, Sherri Messerschmidt, Betty who makes our spouse lunch, Tina Moberg, Tess Kaiser & perhaps anyone I missed who stayed at the airport til 5:30 am when the plane was diverted back to MN. Thank you Dave for taking over as emcee at the airport until I arrived because I was otherwise engaged in farming activities which needed to be completed before the storm hit. And it was! Thanks to the crowd at the airport upon your final arrival who made a 30' receiving line look & sound like the largest crowd we've ever had! Thank you Pam for coming from work to help out then.

Mike had Margie in FaceTime & wondered if we were all drinking but our giddiness was honestly due to lack of sleep Thank you Sara for allowing us to play games at your expense during that time.

Our providers/vendors deserve a huge thanks as well. Hilton staff made rooms available for those spouses who had originally only had one night booked. Hilton restaurant staff for their gracious service Tuesday Morning. (By the way, I told Rocky to have them add the Tuesday Morning breakfast to HF bill. I did not want to add insult to injury by having anyone hand them a bill for breakfast.) AbbyVans worked with me as they changed the pickup point for veteran Lambrecht. They were also off-on-off again for Mr Dahlke. First Student managed to provide bussing at the last minute after dropping the kids off at their first day of school. All this without question or complaints & with very much understanding!

As I am sure you can agree, this one took not only an Army but the Navy, AF, Marines, CG & Merchant Marines as well! There were no small parts to play & everyone played their part.

Thank you all.

God bless you all for all you do.

Jan Wendtland