

Dear friend of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight,

Old codger. Young hero. Who do you see?



How about old hero?

Look at the picture. What's the difference between the man at the sink and the one in the mirror? Time. Only time.

I must confess, now with some embarrassment, that when my dad passed away in 1992 and was to be buried in the National Cemetery in Phoenix, I asked the funeral home to get an active-duty unit for his flag detail. I didn't want a bunch of old men.

Now that I've come to work with veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam eras, I realize what rockstars these men and women are. I look at their story and mine, and I realize they're out of my league. When I think of who they were and are, I realize I'm not worthy to carry their water. And yet I get to work with an amazing bunch of volunteers to give them the Trip of a Lifetime.

George Washington Carver said, *"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these."*

Some people look at our veterans and say, *"old codger."* We look at those same people and say, *"Rockstar."* We've had the privilege of having WWII bomber pilot and Wausau Insurance Companies President Jerry Viste, now 100 years old, speak at our preflight dinner twice and fly with us once. *Rockstar.* I happened to meet Ross Perot's personal pilot on our April flight – he was one of our honored veterans. *Rockstar.* And the 4,184 others who did their duty and came home to work and raise their families unnoticed – *Rockstars all.* If we knew just a fraction of what these veterans we serve have been through, we'd be begging for a way to show them honor. And you're on this mailing list because you do.

When a veteran thanks me for his or her Never Forgotten Honor Flight experience, I say, *"My privilege."* And I mean it. It is a huge privilege to show them the honor they deserve. Thanks for all you do for them.

Here's a look at our Scoreboard:

Veterans flown				Waiting list			
WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total
1,045	1,242	1,899	4,186	0	0	828	828

For the heroes,

Ken Moberg  
President, Never Forgotten Honor Flight