

Dear friend of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight,

We invite a lot of veterans to fly with us, and sometimes they turn us down. Often we'll hear them say, "*I never got shot at,*" or "*I wasn't in a combat zone.*" I understand the sentiment, but if that disqualifies a veteran from flying, then most of the people we've flown shouldn't have had "the trip of a lifetime."

Truth is, it takes a lot of personnel who *don't* get shot at to support one who does. Take the Army alone: about 10% of the US Army is Infantry. Add to that the rest of the combat arms (Artillery, Armor, Special Forces and Combat Engineers) and you're up to about 25%. And not all of those get deployed into combat zones – they're just *ready*. That means more than three-quarters of our Army veterans have not been on the front lines. But here's the key: all of them signed the same blank check that said, "*I'll pay any price, up to and including my own life, to defend our nation's freedoms.*" Our Navy veterans signed that same blank check. So did our Marine Corps veterans. And our Air Force veterans. And our Coast Guard veterans. And our Merchant Marine Veterans (yes, we've flown some of them too).

Our *vision* at the Never Forgotten Honor Flight is "*A nation where all of America's veterans experience the respect, gratitude, and honor that they deserve.*"

Note the key word "*all.*" *All* of our nation's veterans signed that same blank check. *All* of them deserve our respect, gratitude and honor. *All* of them deserve "the trip of a lifetime."

If you know a veteran who hasn't had a day of honor like that, please invite him or her to contact us. We want to show *our respect to them*, restore their *self-respect*, express our collective *gratitude* and give them the *honor* they deserve. And if they tell you they've never been shot at, tell them they'll be in good company.

We are so excited to begin another flying season with our April and May flights. We anticipate flying 105 veterans on April 17 and 112 on May 15. Here's our updated scoreboard:

Veterans flown				Waiting list				
WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total	TLC	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total
1,045	1,239	1,694	3,978	2	0	0	789	791

By the way, six of your board members took part in the National Honor Flight Summit in Baltimore, February 9-12. It was a great time of connecting with other leaders from across the country, sharing best practices and encouraging one another. We were able to give some well-deserved special honor to our President Emeritus, Mike Thompson, as well.

Thanks for your investment in fulfilling our vision.

For the heroes,



Ken Moberg  
President

Never Forgotten Honor Flight

