

Dear friend of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight,

This isn't 1968 anymore. We can all be thankful for that.

I just finished reading James Strauss' book, *The Cowardly Lion*. It follows his trilogy, *Thirty Days Has September*, and recounts the first part of his recovery from wounds received in the A Shau Valley that almost killed him. As I read its pages I was reminded of how very disrespected people in uniform were during the Vietnam War. We could put on our "civvies," but our haircuts would still give us away. I remember working at a civilian job after completing Jump School, and hearing a fellow employee say, "*¡Mira el pelo!*" ("Look at his hair!") as I walked by, thinking I couldn't understand Spanish. I could – he was trying to single me out as "one of *them*."

We're living in a different era now, one in which veterans are justifiably proud to wear caps and shirts that speak of their time of service to our country. And we at the Never Forgotten Honor Flight want not only to encourage veterans to take pride in what they've done, but also to help other people give veterans the respect they deserve. Of our [ten core values](#), respect leads the way.

Respect is a funny thing – we feel it most strongly when it's missing. Our goal at the Never Forgotten Honor Flight is not just to *remove the disrespect*, but to fill the void where *respect* has been absent.

To all who were advised to slip into civvies when you returned, we say, "*You're our heroes, and we're proud of you.*" To all who continue to help restore the respect by your contributions of time, talents and treasures, we say, "*Thank you.*" You're truly making a difference.

Here's a look at our scoreboard. Between "veterans flown" and those on the waiting list are 214 more who will fly this month and next. Come on out to the airport on April 17 and welcome them home!

Scoreboard:

Veterans flown				Waiting list			
WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total
1,045	1,239	1,694	3,978	0	0	793	793

For the heroes,



Ken Moberg  
President  
Never Forgotten Honor Flight

