

Dear friends of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight,

Let me take a moment to thank you for your involvement and to introduce myself as I take over the presidency from Mike Thompson. My wife Tina and I have enjoyed our association with NFHF since I was invited to give the invocation at the preflight dinner for mission #1, back in April 2010. We went as guardians on mission #2 and began volunteering at the airport on the next flight. Tina helped launch a luncheon for the spouses, meeting alternately at the Woodson Art Museum and the Historical Society. I was invited to serve on the board as Entertainment Director, lining up singers and speakers for our preflight dinners, and eventually was asked to take over Logistics, lining up airplanes, buses and other things in DC as well.

On a personal level, Tina and I have lived in Wausau since 1985, when we planted Highland Community Church – the church that hosted our preflight events when the Hilton Garden Inn was under construction. As for my own military experience, I “signed the blank check” in 1974 and served on active duty as a field artillery officer in the 101st Airborne Division. Those were formative years, and I’m privileged to have served.

We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Mike Thompson, co-founder and first president of our hub, and to his dear wife Margie. Tina and I had the opportunity to sit down with Mike and Margie, and to ask them some questions about their experience with NFHF. Here’s what they said:

1. How did you get started with Honor Flight? *I heard about HF and went with two brothers on a flight out of Iowa in 2009. We were privileged to honor our father, who didn't live long enough to experience the memorials in DC. I came back and began to think about the need for a hub in central WI.*

2. How did our hub begin? *Jim Campbell and I linked up in October 2009 to discuss starting a hub for our area. We recruited a bunch of people to form a board and began to recruit veterans, guardians and volunteers, and to raise funds. We committed to a \$75,000 budget for our first flight when we only had a few thousand raised. And on April 27, 2010, the first mission took off with 103 WWII veterans and 61 guardians onboard.*

3. Share a favorite memory from these past 13 years. *On our first flight, we were watching the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns when two groups of schoolchildren were scheduled to lay a wreath. They decided to forego the wreath ceremony in order to greet our WWII veterans as they were leaving the Tomb. There wasn't a dry eye in the place.*

4. What's been Margie's role? *Margie has been our First Volunteer, my sounding board and my personal right hand. I couldn't have done it without her.*

5. If you could have 3 wishes for NFHF, what would they be? *(1) Fly every veteran from WWII, Korea and Vietnam eras; (2) continue with Desert Storm and Afghanistan; and (3) continue the rich relationship with our Board of Directors and volunteers.*

I'm glad Mike and Margie will continue to be involved as we press on together to continue what they and so many have started. Thanks for your own support of NFHF – your donations of time, talent and treasure to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. You're truly making a difference.

Here's a scoreboard of what we've accomplished so far:

Veterans flown				Waiting list			
WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total
1,045	1,239	1,694	3,978	0	0	952	952

By the way, this first monthly letter was a little longer than I intended, but I wanted to include some personal words from Mike and Margie. I look forward to connecting with you each month.

For the heroes,



Ken Moberg
President
Never Forgotten Honor Flight

