

Dear friends of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight,

I had the privilege of traveling to Arlington National Cemetery in December to experience the interment of a man who once commanded the 1st Battalion, 321st Field Artillery, 101st Airborne Division, US Army. He was my boss, and he made a huge difference in my life. Being present at his interment at Arlington was a huge honor and a very moving experience: horse-drawn caisson, flag-draped casket, riderless horse, Army band, flag detail, rifle squad.

One of the most gripping moments of that day, and one that I've experienced in other similar settings, was when the detail commander presented the folded flag to the widow and said, "*On behalf of the president of the United States, the United States Army and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service.*" It always puts a lump in my throat. Maybe it does the same to you.

A grateful nation.

When the Never Forgotten Honor Flight arrives at Reagan National Airport, and we leave the jetway and step into the gate area, we get a picture of *a grateful nation*: crowds applauding and cheering, thanking the men and women in the gold jackets, shaking hands when they can.

When we visit the memorials and run into school groups, we get a picture of *a grateful nation*: kids looking at our veterans like the heroes they are, thanking them for what they did to preserve our freedoms.

When we come home to the Central Wisconsin Airport and see the community has come out to welcome our heroes home, we get a picture of *a grateful nation*: band playing, flags waving, grandkids cheering, placards held high, spouses kissing.

It's a good thing to experience the appreciation of *a grateful nation*. It's what Honor Flight is all about. One of our core values is *gratitude*: we want to show our veterans how grateful we are for them, for their having stepped up when duty called, for their having put on the uniform and gone somewhere they really didn't want to go. Honor Flight lets us say, "Thank you." And it lets us say it when they're still able to hear it, not just when a soldier, sailor, airman or marine presents a folded flag to their widow.

Thanks for all you do to help us express the appreciation of *a grateful nation* to our heroes. You're truly making a difference.

Here's a look at our Scoreboard:

Veterans flown				Waiting list			
WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total
1,045	1,242	1,789	4,076	0	2	824	826

Another 109 will fly on May 15. Come on out to CWA and welcome them home!

For the heroes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Moberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ken Moberg
President
Never Forgotten Honor Flight