

Making a Difference

When our founders started the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, they felt a sense of urgency to fly World War II veterans to see their memorial in Washington DC, in light of the fact that 1,500 of them were dying daily. But they had no idea of the difference the Honor Flight experience would make in people's lives. They only discovered that difference as flights started coming back.

We conclude our tour through the core values of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight with a look at “making a difference.”

A World War II veteran signed up with a buddy to fly on first flight. But before those plans came to fruition, his buddy died. At the WWII Memorial, he was seen walking around and shaking something. Turns out he went before the flight to the hunting shack where both of them hunted every year and brought back a jar of dirt from there in honor of his friend. He was shaking it out on the grounds of the memorial, a tribute to his friend.

A Korea veteran hugged Jim Campbell after his flight and said, “It's over.” When Jim asked him what “it” was, he said for 60 years he had been angry at his country for ignoring the Korea veterans when they came home. He said his anger ended the day he visited his memorial.

A Vietnam veteran recalls **being on R&R in Hawaii** when 35 members of his company were killed in an ambush. On his Honor Flight he put his hand on 35 names on the Wall, all clustered together because they died the same day. He wept as he remembered his buddies. He would later report that the guilt he had been carrying for five decades ended that day, along with his nightmares. His Honor Flight experience made a difference not only for him but also for his family.

Multiply those experiences by 4,399 – the number of veterans we have flown since NFHF's inception. Think of the lives, the families, the communities that have been changed for the better. Who could have imagined the difference we have made in the lives of them all? Thanks to you, we're making a difference.

We look forward to making a difference in many more lives. Here's a look at our Scoreboard:

Veterans flown				Waiting list			
WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total
1,045	1,247	2,107	4,399	0	7	683	690