

Dear friend of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight,

Who better to ask about the start of the NFHF than our co-founder and longtime president, Mike Thompson? Here's Mike's take on what got this whole thing started:

*It was October 2008 when my brother Chuck called me from our hometown of Sioux City Iowa to ask if I would like to be a guardian on their first Siouxlnd Honor Flight. I asked, "What's an Honor Flight and what does a guardian do?" Chuck explained to me that the HF flies WWII veterans to Washington DC to see the newly built WWII Memorial. Since the WWII vets were in their 80's and 90's at the time, and many of them could not travel on their own, couldn't get around by themselves very well, or couldn't afford to take that trip, they would need guardians to help them throughout the day. He said that the trip was free for our veterans and the guardians paid their own way of \$500. "WOW, what a great concept," I said. "Unfortunately, I have prostate cancer surgery the Friday before the flight so I can't make it, but keep me in mind if you have another HF in the future."*

*In May 2009, I got another call from Chuck with the offer to fly on their second HF in June. I told Chuck that I was transitioning my business to an interested person who would take it over so I could retire, so I wouldn't be able to do it then either.*

*In August 2009, Chuck called me again and asked if I still had dad's casket flag from his 21 gun salute ceremony. I said, "Yes I do." Chuck said, "We're about to fly our last Honor Flight here. I want you to bring Dad's flag so that we may use it for our 'Honor a Fallen Comrade' ceremony, a ceremony that honors Iowa veterans who didn't live long enough to see their memorial." (NFHF continues that practice for Wisconsin veterans).*

*Immediately I said "I'm there. What's the date?" He said, "October 13, 2009." I put it on my calendar and Margie and I drove the 500 miles for my first HF.*

*After an amazing day in DC, the flight got back to Sioux City after midnight. We then stopped for a beer with other guardians and veterans, and talked about the experience for a couple hours. That HF had such an impact on me that the next day on our 8-hour drive home, I was often in tears as I shared with Margie what that trip was like for my three vets and me.*

To be continued...

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	8	749	757

By the way... If you have a Never Forgotten Honor Flight story you'd like to share, please send it to me at [moberg101@gmail.com](mailto:moberg101@gmail.com).

For the heroes,

*Flotky*

Ken Moberg

President

Never Forgotten Honor Flight

