



USS WISCONSIN BB-64

“The Last Battleship”

★ 1944 - 1991 ★

September 26, 2024

Never Forgotten Honor Flight

225780 Rib Mountain Drive #234

Wausau, WI 54401

Dear friends at NFHF,

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

My deepest gratitude to all of you for the pleasure of participating in the Never Forgotten Honor Flight on September 23rd, 2024. It was more than I could have wished for. Special thanks to Tess and Sara for their patience on the phone with this old sailor, and also to Roxy for her kindness during the trip. Also to all of the volunteers whose names I do not recall, for their great skills in keeping things moving so smoothly. Thanks also to those who entertained us at dinner. As one of those who's organized past reunions for crewmembers of USS Wisconsin BB-64, I know what goes into such an undertaking. You folks have mastered it.

At the World War 2 memorial I remembered my uncles Ben and George Patrykus, 25th Americal Division, US Army, who fought in terrible battles at Guadalcanal, Bougainville and New Georgia in the Pacific, and also our neighbor, John Corey, Sgt., 103rd Inf. Div., US Army, who was killed in France on January 11, 1945, the day after my 9th birthday. At The Wall, I thought of a boyhood friend, Navy Corpsman Leroy “Mick” Siegel, who received the Purple Heart in ‘Nam and who died too young of an exotic cancer from his service there. I’m sorry they didn’t have the opportunity to experience a **Never Forgotten Honor Flight**, which they so richly deserved. While I am proud of my service in the US Navy which included serving in battleship USS Wisconsin during the Korean War, my contributions pale in comparison to theirs. I dedicate my Honor Flight to their memory.

Again, from me and my guardian, grandson Reid Kronberger, thank you all.

Sincerely,

David Patrykus

Visit our website at www.usswisconsin.org