

Dear friend of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight,



Question: When did the last surviving American to serve in World War I die?

Answer: In 2011. His name was Frank Buckles, and he was 110 years old.

Another “110” comes to mind, also related to World War I. Something happened in the trenches of Europe 110 years ago this Christmas Eve. Accounts vary but broadly agree that it was the singing of Christmas carols that got it all started.

During the night before Christmas 1914, soldiers on both sides heard familiar tunes being sung across the battlefield trench lines that were so close that soldiers could smell each other’s cooking. One of the carols they sang that night was “Silent Night.” It was originally a German hymn, but both sides knew it and sang it.

Their voices joined in singing of that night so long ago when the Prince of Peace was born. And in the morning of Christmas Day 1914, soldiers of both sides cautiously laid down their weapons and hazarded out into the “no man’s land” that separated them. According to some sources, they played soccer and exchanged cigarettes, food, buttons and hats. And as the light of Christmas Day began to fade, they went back to their respective sides and prepared themselves for the grim duty that yet lay ahead of them.

The account reminds me that no one wants peace more than a soldier. And it reminds me that the only thing that can bring peace is something big enough to transcend the differences between us.



It’s been a tough and divisive election year. Wouldn’t it be nice to see the adversity of this election year transcended by something bigger than all of us, something we can agree on long enough to reach across the aisle and work together? Christmas of 1914 tells us it can be done.

Thanks for all you do to support the Never Forgotten Honor Flight. Here’s a snapshot of where things stand today after 50 missions:

Veterans flown				Waiting to fly			
WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total
1,048	1,267	2,499	4,814	0	1	502	503

For the heroes,

Ken Moberg  
President  
Never Forgotten Honor Flight