

Jim,

When I first heard of the Honor Flight I was told that I get to go to Washington DC to see the monuments that were built in my honor. Since I had already seen most of them I thought let someone else have that spot. I was also told it was to get the welcome home that I never received after serving. I never felt that I was deserving of a welcome home as I had never left the country. I joined near the end of the Vietnam war and at that time troops were starting to come back home. I was more of a cold war veteran keeping the nuclear carrying B-52s locked, loaded, and flying during Operation Chrome Dome.

I signed up for the Honor Flight and found that it was so much more than I expected. Mostly due to the appreciation and respect that everyone showed for all the members that served. Pointing out that even if you did not serve overseas you helped your fellow brethren by making the food, keeping the equipment running, and everything else that goes along with keeping our military strong and superior.

The honor flight has helped me appreciate my own service more than I had realized in the past. I was taken back by all the love and honor that everyone showed us.

I want to thank you personally as you were the one that convinced me that I was worthy of this experience. Also a thank you to all of the people behind the scenes keeping this wonderful program going. I will do my part by encouraging other vets to sign up.

Louie Stark