

PRESS RELEASE

Saturday, 8 Sep 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



HONOR FLIGHT DAYTON
Serving the Greater Miami Valley Area and Beyond
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**Saturday, 8 Sep 2018 – Dayton International Airport
World War II, Korean and Vietnam Veterans Are Returning
Please Come and Welcome the Honor Flight Veterans**

Honor Flight Dayton is extremely pleased to announce that thanks to the generosity of patriotic sponsors, approximately 100 WWII, Korean, and Vietnam veterans will be able to see the memorials built in their honor. Be part of this patriotic event and experience it first-hand. Come to the Dayton International Airport by 8:30 PM on Saturday, 8 September 2018. Oh yes, it is earlier. ☺ **The new flight schedule will have Honor Flight arriving at 9 PM (not 10:30 PM as in previous flights).** Be there to welcome and cheer for the brave men and women who fought for our freedom. “The Dayton International Airport is proud to be the host Airport and work with Honor Flight of Dayton in this great opportunity to honor our veterans,” says Terrence G. Slaybaugh, Director of Aviation for the City of Dayton.

The veterans arrive at 3:30 AM to prepare to board an aircraft at 5:30 AM. They then fly to Washington DC to visit the WWII Memorial, Korean Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, USMC War Memorial, USAF Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, the Changing of the Guard at the Tombs of the Unknown Soldiers and other sites. It is an exciting day for them and this FREE once-in-a-lifetime tour is a “thank you” for the service they rendered and the freedoms they secured for all of us, when they served in the U.S. military so many decades ago.

Upon arrival back at the Dayton Airport, the veterans may think their day is over. Not so!! As they deplane, a Military Guard of about 200 USAF personnel welcome the veterans and form a symbolic Honor March to accompany the veterans from the arrival gate to the Honor Corridor for their final special welcome. The Honor Corridor is lined by the Color Guards of the United States Air Force, Air Force Junior ROTC, and the Miami Valley Young Marines. The entire corridor is lined by additional military groups, Vietnam Veterans of America, Boy Scouts of America, Patriot Pin-Up Girls, Knights of Columbus, members of Police and Fire departments and of course, a large multitude of the veterans’ loved ones.

Join the cheers of the waiting families, friends and grateful citizens. See the smiles and tears of the veterans as they pass through the Honor Corridor under the colorful U.S. and Military Service Flags. Join in the singing of the National Anthem and the enthusiastic cheering. All of these assure a singularly memorable event for the returning veterans and those who honor them. For many veterans it is the welcome home they never received and a small tribute for those who gave so much.

Honor Flight Dayton is inviting **ALL** who wish to attend this event. Please help to welcome home the returning veterans. Patriotic attire and signs are encouraged. Present and former military and public safety personnel are encouraged to come in uniform. It’s free, no charge and no reservations needed. Just show up, stand up, and cheer from the heart.

The Dayton International Airport supplies complementary water, beverages, fruits, and pastries to the outbound veterans as they make their way to their departure gate in the morning. Additional Airport staff, Police, and Fire Fighters are on hand to assist the group in their departure and return to the Dayton International Airport.

**For questions contact:
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“We can’t all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by” - Will Rogers



NATIONAL HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK STATISTICS FOR 2017

Total Veterans Flown 2017: **20,631** (WWII: 4,187 20%; Korea: 8,687 42%; Vietnam: 7,453 36%; Other: 304 1%)

Total Guardians Flown 2017: **17,655**

Total Veterans Flown Since 2005: **200,892**

Total Guardians Flown Since 2005: **143,384**

Honor Flight Hubs: **132**

Number of States Covered: **46**

Total Waiting List (Nationally): **35,487** (WWII: 1,915; Korean: 7,447; Vietnam: 25,224; Other: 901)

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