

To all our regular and prospective Honor Flight volunteers,

Honor Flight's goal when it was originated, right here in Springfield, Ohio, was to get every WWII Veteran to Washington DC to see the memorial built for them in 2004-2005. It was built 60 years late, and we were losing these Veterans before many of them could see THEIR memorial. One person's good will to take a Veteran to see his memorial turned into a nationwide organization that, as of the end of 2014, has now taken 138,817 Veterans (WWII, Korean War and now Vietnam War) to see their memorials free of charge. In addition, 88,434 guardians have paid their own way to take care of these Veterans on these trips from 134 flight/travel hubs in 42 states. Honor Flight Dayton is an incredible organization. To learn more about Honor Flight, not only in Dayton, but across the United States, there are many sources you can turn to and some are listed at the end of this letter. I recommend you read the Honor Flight Dayton web page for information, events, etc. The most current flight schedule is posted there.

We are asking for volunteers to come to the airport when these flights return home to Dayton. We want to cheer for the Veterans, yell thank you and make sure that they know that we appreciate what they did for our country. Many of them do not realize that they did anything special and they did not get welcomed home when they returned from conflicts across the globe. We cannot express thanks enough for you all to consider thanking these WWII, Korean and Vietnam Veterans in person when they return home from these trips. We want to give them the best possible welcome home... one that many of these heroes never got when they served. **Our purpose, as active/retired military, DoD civilians, friends, family and free people, is to make sure these Veterans know that we'll never forget what they did for us, and that they never forget how we feel about them.**

Enclosed are the details for coming to the Dayton Airport to welcome Veterans home from each flight this year. We will update and resend these instructions prior to each flight when modifications are made to the contact list, the procedures, flight times/dates, etc. Please use the contacts below to ensure you are on distribution for future news, updates and procedure changes. We intend to distribute this information prior to each flight. Please contact us directly as many times plans/flights change, and times brokered with the Airport personnel to allow us to the gate area are modified throughout the year.

The flights this year are all Saturdays: 11 Apr, 2 May, 23 May, 5 Sep, 3 Oct and 7 Nov. All the flights this year are charter flights and scheduled for a Saturday 10:35pm arrival. But it's important to note that in order to be in the gate area, you must acquire a gate pass from the **USAirways** Ticket counter (**American Airlines** for the Nov Flight) and then process through TSA security all before **9:00pm**. They may close promptly, even if people are in line. They are doing us a great service by staying open later than required for us, so please be early. Representatives and Honor Flight board members and volunteers will be in the gate area with instructions, information and will be available for questions if there are any.

Contacts for support from Wright-Patterson AFB this year are:

- Glenn Greet, [glenn.greet@us.af.mil](mailto:glenn.greet@us.af.mil) or [ggreet-hfd@woh.rr.com](mailto:ggreet-hfd@woh.rr.com), W: 257-1244, H: 431-8242, C: 829-1772
- SMSgt Steve Miller, [steven.miller.18@us.af.mil](mailto:steven.miller.18@us.af.mil)
- Mark Eiteuner, [mark.eiteuner.2.ctr@us.af.mil](mailto:mark.eiteuner.2.ctr@us.af.mil)
- If others are interested in being a unit POC, please contact Mr. Greet.

Organizations providing assistance and supporting from Wright-Patterson AFB are:

- WPAFB Top III, WPAFB Rising6, USAFSAM, CGOC, leaders from the 88<sup>th</sup> ABW, NASIC and WPAFB Spouses Groups, Chiefs Group, Skywriter/Cox media group, Team RWB, AFSA, etc.
- If others are interested, please contact Mr. Greet.

If the wait after arriving before 9:00pm is too long, since the flight does not arrive until 10:35pm, you can still attend the reception in the ticket counter area after they deplane and process out through security. We'd recommend you be there about 30 minutes before the flight arrives. But we really think you miss the looks on their faces when they come off the plane, turn the corner and see us all lining the hallway cheering and saying "thank you" up close. If you can make it to the gate, we really recommend it... so read on for how you can do both.

## ROEs

1. Make the veterans feel welcomed, loved and respected.
2. Dress is casual and patriotic. Military is requested UOD. This is not required, however you are noticed and recognized by our veterans more easily. First responders, clubs, teams, etc, are also welcome to wear their uniforms if permitted by your organization. Whatever you wear or bring must be able to get through the TSA checkpoint!
3. Parking is your only cost. Recommend the Economy Lot. The walk or ride is not far, and it's limited to \$6/day. Park-N-Go (1140 West National Road, near the airport) offers free parking, but you must take the shuttle to the airport. Call them directly to verify parking with them.
4. Get a gate pass from the USAirway ticket counter (American Airlines counter in Nov) and process through the TSA checkpoint prior to 9:00pm. They will close promptly, so please be early if possible.
5. There is free, super speedy(?) Wi-Fi in the airport.
6. Often the restaurants stay open late for our volunteers. It is a nice way to spend some time waiting for the plane to arrive without sitting at the gate. (Treat them well!) Please be in the gate area by 9:30pm for announcements, especially if it's your first time, you want to hear the instructions, write thank you letters for the veteran's mail call, or if you have any questions. There will be representatives in the gate area the whole evening, along with information and applications for the program.
7. Announcements/Questions in the gate area approximately 9:30pm.
8. We need volunteers for:
  - a. Military (4): Helping with the march (read down for details).
  - b. Mil/Civ (4): Working the elevators after the plane arrives. Keep them full and moving!
  - c. Military (5-10): Aiding the HFD board members in preparing the veterans for the final march at the bottom of the stairways/elevators.
9. Plane arrives approximately 10:30pm:
  - a. Line each side of the concourse, spread out, and cheer for these heroes. We discourage hand shaking as it takes a long time if they all shake everyone's hand, but if they come to you, you'll know the right way to greet them. Have at it. They are real heroes.
  - b. Signs, waving, noise, clapping, are all encouraged. Unit pride as you show at promotions and important events is welcome here, too.
10. After the last veteran deplanes and travels through our gantlet of fans:
  - a. Civilians: Process out of the airport TSA checkpoint, then join the crowd to the left. Yes, there is another crowd downstairs. (If you cannot be at the airport earlier, then consider just being in that area about 10:00pm.) Ray Girard and the Miami Valley Young Marines run the show at that location. They can tell you where to stand or what to do if you have questions.
  - b. Military: Whoever wishes to participate in the march, please form two lines in front of the veterans. The veterans will be held up at the bottom of the stairs until they are all deplaned and grouped again. Two of the volunteers will lead each column and be briefed on the march, so for everyone else, it's follow the leader. You'll march all the way out to the ticket counter area and be called to salute, then the veterans following you will pass your salute and be greeted by their friends and family at the end of the ticket counter area. (Their families are super impressed by this.)
11. NASIC Color Guard is at most homecomings and usually waits for the military precession at the exit of the TSA checkpoint. The two column march will fall in behind them as they lead the veterans out.
12. The USAF Band of Flight (Wright Brass) will be at many of the homecomings directly in front of the group as they exit TSA. They are awesome and always get great comments by the veterans.
13. We usually have great volunteers to sing the National Anthem (Patriot PinUp Girls or active duty military members). Lend them your ear!
14. You might be asked to have your picture taken with these heroes and their families.
15. There is usually a sales desk set up selling hats, shirts, patches and DVDs (the Honor Flight movie). All proceeds pay directly for a veteran to travel. There are no paid Honor Flight Dayton personnel. We are volunteers just like you. Volunteerism and goodwill makes this program possible.
16. It's been a LONG day for these travelers having arrived at the airport at 3:00am that same day. If they request anything, or if any Honor Flight Board member asks for your help, we'd really appreciate it. These rules are a guideline. If you are unsure about anything, see Rule 1.

### **Spread the word!**

If you like doing this, tell your friends. Help us get more people out. We'd like to see WPAFB fill up the airport. In 2011, we started with 6 volunteers at the gate. The most we've had were 300+ people at the end of 2014! You have helped us expand this support more than we ever imagined! Bring family and friends. The vets love to see kids! Stay in contact with any of the organizing partners to verify times/details. We appreciate any consideration, and so does the Dayton Honor Flight. Since we continue to grow our partnership with orgs across WPAFB (and I want org POCs), future calls may be coming from members of those organizations. Please give them the same consideration you've given us and realize that we're all doing the same thing. We're just trying to expand our team, raise awareness and ensure maximum participation at all future HF returns.

On behalf of myself, my partners, HFD, and the Veterans, we thank you all and look forward to renewing friendships from previous homecomings and making new ones this year. Honor Flight, nationwide, reached 138,817 Veterans to Washington last year since its inception in 2005-2006... all free of charge to see the memorials built in their honor. We don't have much time to get the remaining WWII Veterans there, but now Dayton is flying Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans, too. Spread the word and come say thanks to those that fly from Dayton!

Thank You

Glenn

**Honor Flight started here in Dayton right after the WWII memorial was completed. One person, with a private plane, flew a Veteran to DC to see it. On his own time, and out of his own pocket. The two primary tenants that are still in effect... the Veterans does not pay, and the Guardians take the time to care for the veteran until they return them to their waiting families back home. One man's vision was taken up by others across the country, expanding to over 134 different cities/sites taking Veterans to DC to see THEIR memorials. It's possible because of tireless volunteers and because the board for Honor Flight Dayton is powerfully motivated. This is a proud DAYTON and WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB area tradition, and these welcome homes have become a part of that tradition. Help us continue.**

If you can't make it, but want to help...

- You can find WWII, Korean and Vietnam Era Veterans and get them in touch with HFD. We need to get them to DC! These memorials were built for them. They need to know that they are our heroes.
- You can write thank you letters for the Veterans. They have a "mail call" on every flight and try to give every Veteran 10 (minimum) pieces of mail. They can be personal, from school kids, from civic groups, or from anyone. It really helps supplement what they get from immediate families of the veterans. I'll bring paper to the airport and anyone that wants to write a thank you letter can.
- You can apply to be a guardian. Each Veteran is assigned a guardian for their flight. The guardian's job is to take care of their Veteran and return them safely to their families. Each guardian pays their own way, full price, for the privilege of doing this. Make sure you cheer for the guardians when they come home, too.
- You can find families of deceased (or unable to travel) WWII, Korean and Vietnam War heroes who never got to go on a flight. We run a program called "Honoring Yesterday's Heroes". There is a way you can have those heroes recognized by Honor Flight. Ask us! Many families of these heroes have done this as a way to honor these Veterans and to tell their story to their grand children and great-grandchildren.
- Honor Flight Dayton: [www.honorflightdayton.org](http://www.honorflightdayton.org)
- Honor Flight National: [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org)
- Honor Flight, The Movie: [www.honorflightthemovie.com](http://www.honorflightthemovie.com)
- Facebook Site: search "honor flight Dayton"
- YouTube trailers are numerous. Query on: "honor flight", "honor flight the movie", "honor flight Dayton", etc.
- Great Briefing on HFD by Al Bailey: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wX\\_CYVKCE2A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wX_CYVKCE2A)