

# WE TURN WISHES INTO SWEET MEMORIES



WWII Veteran Vincent Gramarossa and his wife, Betty, enjoyed a flight on the B25 Bomber "Show Me" from the Missouri Wing of the Commemorative Air Force. The flight was part of our 2020 Wish Campaign.

## Our Mission

Our sole mission is to fly our heroes to Washington, DC to visit their respective memorials and reflect upon their service, sacrifices, and memories. Every service member deserves a THANK YOU and a WELCOME HOME in the first class and grandest style ever. Honor Flight Bluegrass honors our heroes, recognizes their sacrifices, and takes extreme pride with our unwavering gratitude and utmost respect to provide this service to World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans who served during that time.



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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Season Greetings,

We hope all is well with you and your families during these challenging times. For the last 12 years, Honor Flight Bluegrass has flown Veterans to Washington D.C. 2 to 3 times a year creating smiles and lasting memories to all who have flown with us. This year we were unable to fly our Veterans, so we created other ways to honor them. With 36 events that began in March, we have been extremely busy with drive-by birthday parties, granting WWII Veteran Wishes, parading by state run Veteran homes, and writing letters. We even took the opportunity to fly 14 WWII Veterans on a WWII B-25 bomber (each with a family member). This plane was flown by the Commemorative Air Force Missouri Wing which was graciously sponsored by Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII.

As we continue searching for ways to ease the pain of the loneliness of our treasured Veterans, we have just launched a Christmas Cheer Campaign. We are asking the general public to send us Christmas cards so we can package them and mail them to Veterans in our database and deliver bags of cards to the 4 state run Veteran homes in Kentucky. Please see additional details in this newsletter or go to our website, [www.HonorFlightBluegrass.org](http://www.HonorFlightBluegrass.org). In addition, especially during this holiday season, our older Veterans who have been confined to their homes or residences are always looking for a phone call or something to read, so please take a moment to call a Veteran to check on them and tell them how much you appreciate their service to our country. A simple phone call can make a difference in the life of a Veteran who gave their time and often more, for all of us.

As 2021 approaches, Honor Flight Bluegrass is diligent in making preparations to fly next year! One of our goals is to locate WWII or Korean War Veterans who have not been on a Honor Flight and fly them to Washington D.C. for a day they will never forget. These older Veterans are now in their mid 80's and 90's, so time is of the essence. So please help us find these men and women so we can get them to D.C. to see their Memorials next year.

Finally, we want to thank all who still continue to support us with their generous donations. As a reminder, we are an all volunteer run organization who depends solely on your contributions. We are so very grateful when we see a check come through the mail or an online donation comes in....YOU are the reason why we can continue to serve our Veterans. We look forward to a time when we can all meet again, whether it be at the Louisville airport or in Washington D.C. Our mission is to fly Veterans to Washington D.C. to see their memorials. This has never changed and never will. As always, when you see a Veteran thank them for their service.

Warmest wishes for the season,

Jeff Thoke  
Chairman

*Wall of Honor*  
Your gift of \$100 or more will help us fulfill this mission, and give you an opportunity to recognize a special veteran in your life.  
[www.honorflightbluegrass.org](http://www.honorflightbluegrass.org)

Every service member, regardless of age, branch, or duty station deserves a thank you in the style that Honor Flight Bluegrass is legendary for.

Contact Us: (888) 998-1941

P.O. Box 991364 • Louisville, KY 40269-1364

[honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com](mailto:honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com)

**[WWW.HONORFLIGHTBLUEGRASS.ORG](http://WWW.HONORFLIGHTBLUEGRASS.ORG)**



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# CHRISTMAS CHEER

We are gathering Christmas cards this year to send to Veterans in need of some Christmas Cheer. For more information on how you can help, please go to our website, email us at [honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com](mailto:honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com), or visit our Facebook Event Page. Thank you to the Shelby County leaders for their participation.



*Christmas Cheer  
Campaign*

Don't Forget the Vet  
..... you've never met

Mail your Christmas cards  
by December 12 to:  
Honor Flight Bluegrass  
c/o Christmas Cheer  
PO Box 991364  
Louisville, KY 40269



# CELEBRATIONS

Being grounded from flying didn't keep us from celebrating 18 birthdays this summer! They were all in their mid 90's or older, with the oldest, Mr. Mason, who celebrated his 103rd birthday. Thank you to all the families that allowed us to be part of your treasured Veteran's birthday this year!



# WISHES GRANTED

This year, we have granted 18 wishes so far, including visiting the LST in Evansville, flying in a WWII B25, and riding in a WWII jeep. Some wishes are deeply personal, like visiting a family cemetery for a Veteran who could not leave his nursing home, or granting a last wish for a Veteran who passed before he was able to see his brother one last time. Our volunteers are always eager to help these Veterans make their wishes come true.



# B25 BOMBER RETURNS

The Missouri Wing of the Commemorative Air Force is always looking for a reason to come back to Bowman Field and show off their B25 Bomber "Show Me". This time it was extra special because they granted 14 wishes for our WWII Veterans and in turn created smiles and great memories. All the Veterans also had the opportunity to fly with a family member, so children and grandchildren witnessed the smiles and the thrill of their loved one as they flew over the city of Louisville. Thank you to the Kentucky Veterans Trust Fund from the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs for sponsoring the entire cost of bringing in the B25.



# WWII VETS:

*What's your wish?*

Here are some ideas!

**Ride in a WWII Jeep?**



**Ride on a Motorcycle?**

**Fly  
in a  
Hot Air  
Balloon?**



**Go Fishing?**

**Fly in a B-25?**



**Try Scuba Diving?**

First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER:  Male  Female DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: Day: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ WISH DESIRED: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out & mail to: 2020 Wish Campaign • Honor Flight Bluegrass  
PO Box 991364, Louisville, KY 40269-1364 • 888-998-1941

# WWII VETERANS BOOK TO COMMEMORATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WWII



To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, we are asking our WWII Veterans to complete the form on the next page and return to us for inclusion in a booklet we are creating to honor these heroes. **Please mail it to Honor Flight Bluegrass, P.O. Box 991364 • Louisville, KY 40269-1364.**

If you would like to speak to someone in person to give us a more thorough interview, please call Kelli Oakley at (859) 433-6495.





# Remembering the End of World War II Questionnaire

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age Today: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit you were connected to: \_\_\_\_\_

How many years of service: \_\_\_\_\_ From what year(s) did you serve: \_\_\_\_\_

1. When & where did you serve during WWII?

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2. How soon after the war ended did you return home? Do you have any special memories of the trip home? Were you able to notify your family that you were heading home before you got there? Who was the first person you saw or wanted to see when you returned home? What was the first thing you ended up doing?

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3. What are some life lessons you learned from your time in the military?

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4. What message and life advice would you like to leave for future generations?

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5. Please feel free to add a short biography of your service.

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# VETERANS DAY PARADE

This year the Kentucky Veterans Day Parade turned into a Reverse Parade at Southeast Christian Church. While military organizations were set up throughout the parking lot, the public drove through the Corridor of Freedom and waved their American flags while thanking our Veterans. The theme was "On the Homefront" and the Grand Marshal was Rosie the Riveter. Thank you to our Veterans and their families that represented Honor Flight Bluegrass!





# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Our mission cannot continue without the dedication, hard work, and commitment that HFB Ground Crew gives our organization. From events to the "welcome home"...their bright shirts and bright smiles can be easily seen. Their backgrounds are different, but they all have one thing in common and that is they have a tremendous amount of patriotism and love for our Veteran community. Here's to you Ground Crew...THANK YOU!



**OUR HFB  
GROUND TEAM  
IS AWESOME!**

