

BROTHERS REUNITED



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... ... WOUNG
... ... SBY II

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• JAMES L M LITTLER III • RA
• WARREN
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• RONALD K WEISTER • PHIL
• ERNIE LE
• BERNARD F DUT
• DANIEL M
• EUGENE L MARKWE
• MICHAEL
• ALEXANDER A ROCZEN • C
• WARDELL SMIT
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• HENRY A LED
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• WILLIAM R CURR
• SFORD Jr • ROBE
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• WOOD



SPRING/SUMMER 2023

FROM THE BOARD

To all of our Veterans and supporters,

We're wrapping up another great year of serving Veterans. and we know it cannot happen without all of you! We've had the privilege of conducting two flights this year, flying over 160 Veterans to Washington, D.C. to see their memorials. Since the inception of Honor Flight Bluegrass in 2008, we have flown over 2,500 Veterans. We know, and you know, our job is not complete until we fly all the WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam Veterans who want to go.

We are a bit different from other Honor Flight hubs because we try to get together with our Veterans outside of the actual flights. It is important to all of us to keep history alive and honor special days. Our Veterans love the fellowship with other Veterans, so we try to bring them together as much as possible, whether it be Victory in Europe Day or a Veteran's 90th birthday.

We are also truly blessed with such a great, dedicated volunteer base that loves and admires our Veterans! From cheering on the Veterans at the airport as they are welcomed home to simply sending a letter of thanks or a birthday card to them. Every bit of time, treasure, or talent our volunteers bring to the table helps us carry out the mission.

As we plan our 2024 flying season, we hope to get back to flying three flights a year as we have in previous years. With that said, it takes an enormous amount of funding, approximately \$117,000 for each flight. Our guardians pay their way, but it leaves about \$80,000 to raise for our Veterans to travel "all expenses paid." It is a tall order each year, and we are always looking for ways to raise money. If you have a fundraising idea or want to make a donation, please visit our website or reach out to us at honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com.

We want to thank everyone who has helped our organization keep flying and carry on the legacy of our Veterans. As Honor Flight Bluegrass looks back over the last 16 years of flying, we remember the stories that were told and the smiles that were brightened. We never think we do enough for our Veteran population, but we are confident we are making a small difference in their lives. Please follow our social media platforms and check out our website. As we embark upon 2024, we invite you to be a part of our family and help us continue the mission!

To our Veterans, we salute you!



AMBASSADOR MOONEY

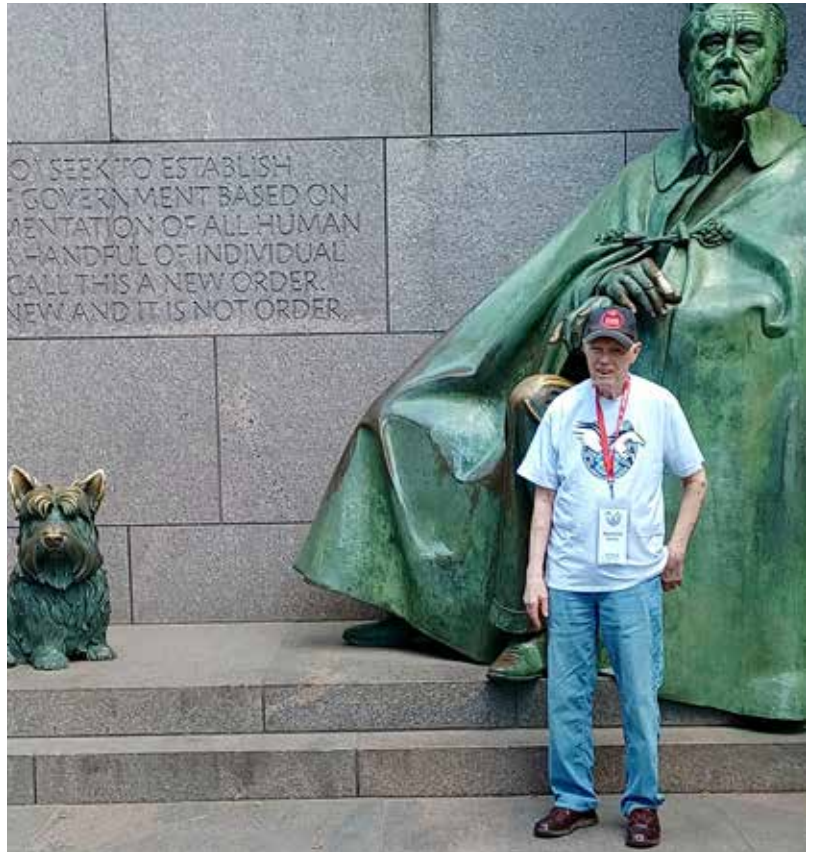
We are deeply saddened at the loss of one of our own, WWII Navy Veteran Jack Mooney. It just took one time to meet him and take him on a flight...and then a relationship began. Throughout the last few years, we had the privilege to call him our friend, our mentor, and our Ambassador. He was a proud Veteran and a loving family man. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. We salute you, Mr. Mooney, for your service to our country and to Honor Flight Bluegrass. Rest In Peace. Fair winds and following seas!



MAY 17TH FLIGHT

We started our flying season on May 17th, and we proudly flew 83 Veterans, including one World War II Veteran, seven Korean War Veterans and 75 Vietnam War Veterans. We had great weather, great memories, great volunteers, and as always, great Veterans. For us, it was another opportunity to capture so many stories and witness true healing. The “touch” of the Vietnam Wall connected several Veterans to the ones they had lost and brought reflection, tears, and closure. We thank you and salute you in giving us the privilege to be part of your big day.





3RD ANNUAL CAR SHOW

Another great year with our classic car enthusiasts who helped us raise over \$11,000! Thank you to our sponsors, Veterans, volunteers, participants, and all who supported our 3rd annual Classic Car Show.



Honor Flight Bluegrass Classic Car Show July 15th! Thank YOU for Your Support!

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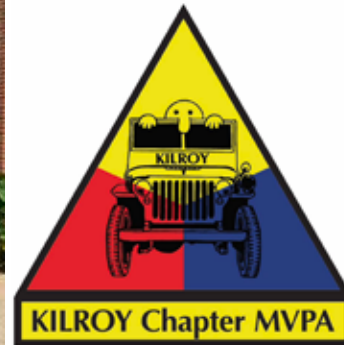
BASEBALL FUN

Honor Flight Bluegrass was represented at the Louisville Bats game for Military Appreciation Night on July 23rd, as well as Gold Star Families Night on August 27th. Joining us on July 23rd was WWII Veteran Paul Jones, Korean War Veteran and HFB Ambassador John Shircliff, WWII Veteran and HFB Ambassador Herb Raderer, and Vietnam Veterans Marj and Bill Graves. We also took a special trip to the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory with WWII Navy Veteran Paul Jones...only a 100 years old and ready to play! Mr. Jones actually flight trained with famous baseball player and Veteran Ted Williams! Paul was given a private tour behind the scenes, including visits to the bat vault, bat-making machines, paint area, the Ted Williams display. At the end of his visit, Paul was presented with a custom-made bat!



V-J DAY • SEPT. 2ND

On August 14, 1945, it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II. September 2nd is recognized as "Victory Over Japan Day," or simply "V-J Day," because it was when the formal surrender took place aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay. Our WWII Veterans know this day well, so we always recognize it and bring them together for it. This year, we had 10 WWII Veterans and a convoy with KILROY military vehicles in attendance!



SAVE THE DATE!

November 11, 2023

**OPERATION:
RENDEZVOUS**

The most massive undertaking to honor our Veterans yet.

Exciting details coming soon!

SEPTEMBER 5TH FLIGHT

We ended our flying season on September 5th with 79 Veterans, including five WWII, 15 Korean War, and 64 Vietnam War Veterans. All of our Veterans leave a special place in our heart as we see them walk through the Welcome Home celebration. We were honored to have a Korean War POW, Mr. Russell Kingston, on our flight. He was a prisoner for 31 months, so can you imagine what that Welcome Home meant to him. Thank you to all who came out. You bring joy to our Veterans' hearts and often tears of gratitude to their eyes!





HEALING CAN TAKE YEARS, BUT IT'S NEVER TOO LATE.



Honor Flight Bluegrass Chapter is a 501(c)(3), all-volunteer, non-profit organization, and 98.7% of our funds go straight to the mission! Our WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans do not pay for their trip. The cost for a single veteran to fly and visit their memorials is estimated at \$700, but that will vary due to increased fuel costs. We are reliant on the public to fund our mission of serving Veterans, and we cannot complete our mission unless we have the funds to do so. We need your help!

Your Gift

Makes it possible for OUR VETERANS to visit their memorials in Washington, D.C.

www.honorflightbluegrass.org

Every service member, regardless of age, branch, or duty station deserves a thank you for their service to our country.

Our Mission

Our sole mission is to fly our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit their respective memorials and reflect upon their service, sacrifices, and memories.

Every service member deserves a first-class THANK YOU and WELCOME HOME in the grandest style ever. Honor Flight Bluegrass honors our heroes and recognizes their sacrifice. It is with extreme pride, unwavering gratitude, and utmost respect that we are currently able to provide this service to World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans.

Contact Us: (888) 998-1941

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