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Honor Flight Bluegrass kicked off 2019 with a bang! On May 28th we flew 20 WWII Veterans, 58 Korean War Veterans, and 7 Vietnam War Veterans...and brought them home to an appreciative crowd of over 1,000 people who welcomed them in a manner that was well deserved. We heard several of the Veterans say this "was one of the best days of their lives." We followed this flight with "Operation Bravo Zulu" on June 6th to honor our WWII Veterans on the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

We gathered together 109 WWII Veterans ranging in age from 90 to 103 and honored them with thank you's, entertainment, and special presentations. WWII Veterans Dale Faughn (Marines), Wallace Rivers (Army), and Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams (Marines) led the charge with their comrades during this special occasion. This historic event was among a week of activities to thank the members of the "Greatest Generation" for their sacrifices during WWII. Partners for the week included the Frazier History Museum, Louisville Bats, Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund, Commemorative Air Force - Missouri Wing, Kentucky Farm Bureau, Woodmen Life, and so many others. With our partners, sponsors, and volunteers, we were honored to pay tribute to 171 WWII Veterans during this truly historic week.

We are excited to be sponsoring two more flights this year on September 4th and October 16th as we continue our mission of flying our treasured Veterans to Washington DC! We hope to see you at our Welcome Home celebrations at the Louisville airport so you have the opportunity to thank these amazing men and women who have served our country proudly. In addition, we are making plans for the 2020 year, so our wheels are always turning. Again, thanks to all of you who support Honor Flight Bluegrass. Without you none of this would be possible.

-- D-Day Committee and HFB Board Members

### ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ VETERAN SPOTLIGHT ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



*As a first scout, Mr. Ruel Robinson found himself alone in the Normandy Hedgerow area. As he approached the hedgerow, he saw an open spot in the hedge and decided that was the best place to cross the hedge. As he approached, he saw a head pop up in the opening waving a little white flag. Mr. Robinson waved him out, and he emerged followed by two other German soldiers. All three surrendered. In Mr. Robinson's own words: "I thought I'd captured the entire German Army." He later found their machine gun and a German Luger which he took. He had to surrender it when he went into the hospital and was promised he would get it back. He never saw it again. For his actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star.*

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*Your Gift*

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

[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.

# KY VETERANS PROGRAM TRUST FUND SPONSORS MAY 28TH FLIGHT!



## Serving Members of Our Past Wars as Honor Flight Guardians

When we speak of World War II Veterans, we speak of the generation of men and women who literally saved our way of life, who saved the freedoms that we enjoy from enemies who would have made us slaves and pawns to evil governments. These men and women were rightfully named our Greatest Generation. Just a few days before the 75th Anniversary of D-Day I had the honor of being with and serving 20 World War II Veterans on May 28 on a very special Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. Honor Flight Bluegrass is an outstanding program dedicated to taking Veterans free of charge to experience the various Memorials in Washington DC that are dedicated to those who served our country including those who paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving their life for our country.

As the Chairperson of the Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund, a fund dedicated to assisting Kentucky veterans, I invited six members of the Fund's Board of Directors, COL Fred Bates, Dave Jarrett, CW5(R) Dean Stoops, MAJ Carla Raisler, Carl Kaelin and COL(R) Blaine Hedges to serve with me as guardians for this amazing group of heroes. This is a fast disappearing generation and escorting them to pay homage to the various war memorials in D.C. was the honor of a lifetime. Watching these Veterans tear up at the World War II Memorial, as they recalled those who never made it back alive, was a moving experience to each and every one of the guardians. We could almost see them remember the famous battles, Pearl Harbor, the Battle of the Bulge, Iwo Jima and Midway, Anzio, and so on.

We also had the honor of serving 58 Korean War and 7 Vietnam War Veterans on this special day of thanks and remembrance. So much was sacrificed by those generations as well and their service and sacrifice must not be forgotten. Visiting the Korean War Memorial, standing near the 19 servicemen on patrol during the Korean War brought back many memories for those who fought so bravely in a war that many refer to as the Forgotten War. However, Honor Flight Bluegrass makes sure we as a nation do not forget about those that returned and more importantly those that did not come home.

Our Vietnam Veterans finally received the long overdue recognition for their service and sacrifice from a nation that was torn to its very core in support of those serving and dying in Southeast Asia and those that did not want us there. The long black granite Memorial touches young and old alike, visually seeing the price this nation paid in defense of those who wanted the same freedoms that we hold so dear. We as a nation can never say "Thank You" enough to this generation of heroes for what they endured in battle and the ridicule they received upon returning home.



Gen. Adams recently served as Guardian for Veteran William Weller.

Every Honor Flight ends with a heroes welcome. This special mission, taking these aged and honorable Veterans, was no different except that these were the heroes who kept us free. Their welcome was filled with onlookers at the Louisville Airport who understood the moment and who gave these veterans a well-deserved and in some cases a long overdue one last hurrah.

I hope every citizen, young and old, has the opportunity to participate in an Honor Flight and personally see the impact it has those that served to protect what we hold so dearly. To realize and understand that "Freedom is Never Free" and more importantly that All Gave Some and Some Gave All.

-- Benjamin F. Adams, III, Brigadier General, US Army (Retired)  
Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

# MAY 28TH HONOR FLIGHT



Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund sponsored our first flight out on May 28th. General Benjamin Adams, Commissioner of Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, and six of the Trust Fund board members traveled with us and proudly served as honored Guardians for WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans.



# WELCOME HOME HEROES

No flight is complete without a proper "Welcome Home" for our treasured Veterans. Hundreds of people line up at Louisville International Airport to shake hands, give hugs, and cheer for our heroes as they come home from a flight. We welcome the public to come out and experience this for themselves on September 4th and October 16th around 9:30 p.m.



# SLUGGER MUSEUM & FACTORY

Several WWII Veterans visited the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory on June 5th. They received a top-notch tour that reflected back to the factory production during WWII. Hillerich & Bradsby Company manufactured gunstocks, tank pins, and billy clubs. In 1944, H & B received the Army-Navy E Award for significantly contributing to the war effort with high standards of quality.



# FRAZIER HISTORY MUSEUM

WWII Veterans and others gathered June 5th to listen to a WWII panel discussion hosted by Rachel Platt. The panel included: Marine WWII Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, Marine WWII Kentucky past Poet Laureate Dale Faughn, and Army WWII 101-year-old Ernie Micka. They discussed their childhood days, war times, and present day.



# LOUISVILLE BATS GAME

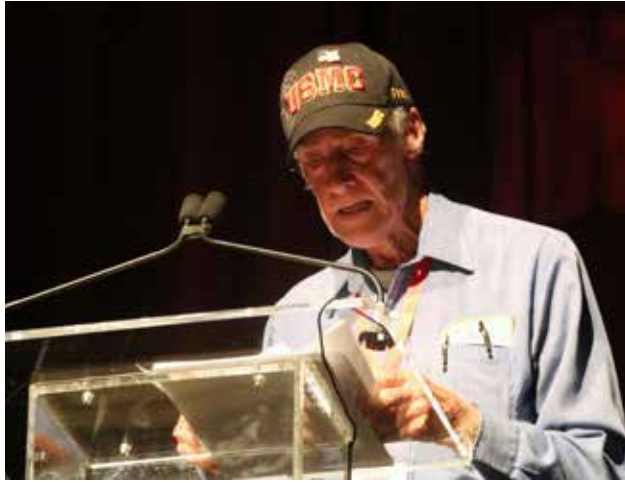
The Louisville Bats hosted a WWII Veteran night on Wednesday, June 5th while they played against the Indianapolis Indians. The Veterans enjoyed being brought out on the field for introductions and then watching the game from the suites. In addition, the following WWII Veterans stepped up to the plate to throw the first pitch out: Herb Raderer, Ernie Micka, Hershel "Woody" Williams, and Donald Lung... and all were pretty darn successful!



# OPERATION BRAVO ZULU

The 75th D-Day Anniversary Operation Bravo Zulu (Thanks for a Job Well Done!) celebration was held at historic Louisville Memorial Auditorium, which was built after WWI and is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. The program included a Presentation of Colors by the Marine Corps League Detachment 729. Special guest speakers were Marine WWII and Kentucky past Poet Laureate Dale Faughn, the KDVA

Commissioner Brig. General Benjamin Adams, Marine WWII and Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, and French Consul-General Guillaume Lacroix. A special centerpiece that replicated "storming the beaches of Normandy" was created by Chef David Dodd and students from Sullivan University Center. Catering was provided by Mission BBQ on Shelbyville Road in Middletown.



## Salute to Normandy Invaders, June 6, 1944

By Dale Faughn, WWII Veteran and  
a Kentucky Poet Laureate

Can be sung to tune of "Just As I Am"

You changed the continent so much;  
You changed the lives so many ways: Re-  
storing freedom as you went,  
Though lives were shortened many days.

The freedom that many had lost,  
You paid the price and bought it back;  
With heart and hand and head and all;  
You fought bravely and did not slack.

So many on that day who fought,  
So soon were laid beneath the sod;  
So much high praise is thus due you,  
For all you gave, we thus thank God.

For all of you who have survived,  
Though time may have taken its toll,  
We never have forgotten you;  
We pray God's blessings on your soul.

And may the government we have,  
Never decide to you forget;  
And may the spirit that you had,  
Remain with you forever yet.

Great thanks we give to all of you;  
For fighting that you did, we hail;  
Keep loving thus the USA;  
With God's help may it never fail.



# D-DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY



Two of Kentucky's most passionate patriots, Rachel Platt and Heather French Henry, emceed the evening with a special roll call of each attending WWII Veteran. Entertainment was provided by the Don Krekel USO Orchestra and the Ladies for Liberty, along with singers Barbara Polk, Harvey Turner, and Janis Carter Miller.

A special video presentation was created by Visual Presentations, Inc. with Mr. Wayne Hettinger as Producer and featuring the many talents of DC Creative. Special thanks to the Ky Patriot Guard, active duty members of our military, and the Boy Scouts for volunteering with our parking needs, flag presentation, and wheelchair duties.



# OPERATION BRAVO ZULU



Our evening included a display of WWII memorabilia, historical reenactors, and a jeep from the KILROY Chapter of the MVPA. Special sponsors such as Kentucky Farm Bureau & Trilogy Health Services were vital to making this event possible for our wonderful Veterans.



Among our treasured WWII Veterans in attendance was 103-year-old Jack Tyree enjoying an evening of honor and gratitude (seen below). During WWII, Mr. Tyree served in Antwerp, Belgium, and Remagen, Germany where he crossed the Rhine River. He was our oldest Veteran in attendance that evening.



# D-DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY



Woodmen Life and the WWII Memorial Museum took part in a special presentation for all of our WWII Veterans. Woodmen Life donated all of the 3x5 American flags that were flown over Arlington Cemetery and Frankfort. The WWII Memorial Museum generously donated specially made 75th D-Day Anniversary Challenge Coins. Each WWII Veteran received these gifts by active duty military members.



**WoodmenLife**  
Standing Strong For Generations



# B-25 "SHOW ME" AT BOWMAN FIELD



On June 7th, the Ky Veterans Program Trust Fund sponsored the Commemorative Air Force WWII B-25 Mitchell Bomber "Show Me" from Missouri and flew 20 WWII Veterans throughout the day at Bowman Field. This twin-engined medium bomber, after retirement, began its life as a living history aircraft and one of the few elite bombers of the Ghost Squadron.

**KENTUCKY  
VETERANS**  
Program Trust Fund

