



SPRING/SUMMER 2024

# REFLECTIONS



As we are about to bring this flying season to an end, we not only look back on the amazing opportunities we have had to serve so many Veterans, but we also reminisce on the number of stories that we have captured on flight days and other events. As the stories continue on, we are filled with an even deeper sense of admiration and respect for our Veterans and their families.

From the stories of camaraderie on the battlefield to the moments of quiet reflection during difficult times, their service has shaped not only our country, but also their lives and the lives of those around them. Their bravery during their time in service, and through any adversity they faced, is a testament to the strength of character.

Through these missions and time spent with all of our Veterans, their journey is shared (if they wish) through their eyes and emotions at each memorial. They may be reflecting on their own experience or those that they served with...it is still a journey of service to our country. We are grateful of the very small part we play to serve them, and we look forward to continuing our mission and capturing their stories and reflections.



## *A Veteran's Gratitude*

*Thank you volunteers, sponsors and total strangers for The Bluegrass Honor Flight Trip to DC.*

*The memorials and the changing of the guards were patriotic and emotional to me.*

*I was 18 years old when I signed up for active military duty in 1954.*

*It was off to Fort Knox, KY for basic training, then to Japan's sea shore.*

*I was in an anti-aircraft battery for a year and a half, it was a good job for me.*

*Planes would fly from Japan to Korea and drop bombs on the communists to keep South Korea free.*

*In 1956, I went back to school and received a BS from the University of Missouri under the G.I. Bill.*

*It's no wonder so many vets took advantage of this program, it was a good deal.*

*Now to the last leg of the trip from the DC airport to Louisville.*

*In place of rolling up the sidewalk at 9pm, Louisville rolled out the red carpet for this deal.*

*I could not believe it! Half the city must have been there. Demonstrations on tv news can't compare to this.*

*Flags were flying, music was playing, and people were greeting us with open arms and thanking us for our service.*

*After this trip I was more aware of the benefits and blessings I have today.*

*For it's a country full of God-loving people who love the USA.*

*Most veterans would put terrorist supporters in the same class with Bendick Arnold and Tokyo Rose.*

*These types are on the endangered list and may be on the extinct list on Blue Grass Veterans' trips.*

*Don't take freedom for granted, it's valuable and expensive in every way.*

*Only a strong democracy, economy and the best military can keep it this way!!*

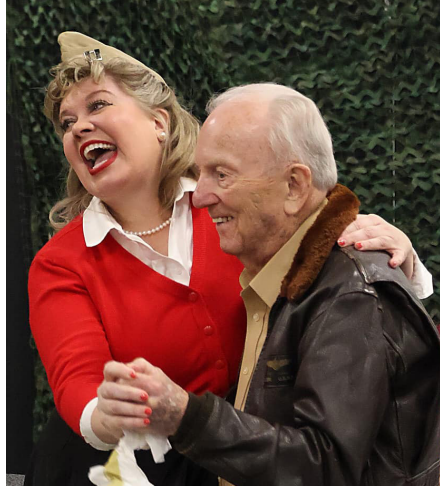
*God Bless,*

*Ed Penrod, U.S. Army Veteran*



# HAVING SOME FUN

What a great evening with the Roll Call Foundation who hosted a Mystery Dinner and an opportunity to raise money to fly more Veterans. This great evening brought in \$4,000 and a ton of fun! Everyone enjoyed the company of 101-year-old Navy Veteran Paul Jones, and we even got a visit from Ethan Almighty and his Poppa Jeff!





# MAY 21ST FLIGHT

Our May 21st flight was a great success in flying 84 Veterans that included WWII, Korea War, and Vietnam War Veterans. When wheels touched down in Louisville, there was nearly 2,000 people waiting to welcome the Veterans home and show their appreciation!









# D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Thank you to the Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund for sponsoring the B25 on June 6th, D-Day! We flew 18 WWII Veterans that day in the shiny silver B-25 Bomber named "Miss Mitchell."





# CAR SHOW

Thank you to our sponsors, supporters, volunteers, spectators, and especially our Veterans for supporting our Annual Honor Flight Bluegrass Classic Car Show! We had over 200 registered and raised over \$11,000 to fly more Veterans.





# WE LOVE BASEBALL!

What a fun Military Appreciation night with our Veterans at the Louisville Bats Game! Honor Flight Bluegrass was honored to have the opportunity to be among these amazing men and women! It was a great family affair, and we appreciate all of their families that brought them out to enjoy baseball, food, and a salute to their service!





When you are a 101-year-old WWII Navy Pilot and you flew with Ted Williams....and you have been following the Cincinnati Reds since you were a teenager and your all-time favorite Reds player is Johnny Bench...AND you still watch or listen to the Reds at every waking moment they play, dreams do come true! Mr. Jones got the chance to meet Johnny Bench, Barry Larkin, George Foster, and so many members of the Red's staff that made it all happen!





# NEW AMBASSADORS

These gentlemen are always willing to make the time for Honor Flight Bluegrass, and we are truly grateful! Their experience with their own HFB flight keeps them coming around to our events and helping us promote our mission. We are proud to announce our new Ambassadors: WWII Veterans Harry Greaves, Paul Jones, and Lee Smith have joined the ranks of Ambassadors for Honor Flight Bluegrass. They were congratulated by Ambassador and Korean War Veteran John Shircliff. Together, these men are ready to serve!





**SAVE THE DATE  
TO ATTEND THEIR HOMECOMING!**



**SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**



**HONOR FLIGHT BLUEGRASS**

Please visit us at: [www.honorflightbluegrass.org](http://www.honorflightbluegrass.org)

**Sponsored by:**







We could not be prouder of these two amazing ladies from WHAS 11 News. Brooke Hasch and Jessica Farley won an Emmy this year for their dedicated work on "84 Strong." Their journey side by side with our Veterans on our May 2023 flight was priceless.

Please check out the YouTube link below to watch it!

<https://youtu.be/2bVf0PcQqBM?si=yspdZEPQX2j40VuK>

## *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 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.



# SAVE THE DATE!

## November 9, 2024

# OPERATION: RENDEZVOUS

**The most massive undertaking to honor our Veterans yet.**

**Exciting details coming soon!**

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