

Honor Flight #14 Returns from Washington, DC



Veteran Gary Page of Thief River Falls, MN spends time with Diane Moderow, Secretary, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial viewing many of his fallen comrades' etched names

Honor Flight #14 has returned to the Red River Valley and, as usual, it was an incredible time! On October 15th we were wheels-up from the Grand Forks International Airport (GFK) carrying 109 precious Veterans and a full team of volunteers, escorts, and medical crew.

Immediately upon touching

down, our heroes were treated to a Hero's Welcome, and then we were off on our whirlwind tour!

Day One saw us visiting the National Museum of the US Army and the WWII Memorial before checking into the hotel for a hearty meal and fellowship time.

Early on Day Two, we made our way to the National Archives, US Navy Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and the FDR Memorial. After all that touring our Veterans were ready to enjoy a delicious banquet and full agenda of entertainment.

Day Three had another early call time, followed by stop-offs at the Marine Corps Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, United States Air Force Memorial, and Fort McHenry.

After all that sightseeing, it was time to wing our way back to GFK, where we once again arrived to the sweetest homecoming party our Veterans could have ever hoped for.

Memories were made, friendships were bonded, gratitude was shown by children, strangers, and politicians, and our Veterans were shown the sentiment they've deserved and patiently waited on for so many years.

And while this trip was truly all about filling our Veterans' buckets, our volunteers' and escorts' hearts were equally filled when all was said and done.

We look forward to Honor Flight #15 departing from Hector International Airport in Fargo to our Nation's Capital on May 19, 2024!

Special points of interest:

- VETERANS HONOR FLIGHT OF ND/MN WAS FOUNDED IN 2015
- SINCE ITS CREATION, APPROXIMATELY 1,983 VETERANS OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY AREA HAVE BEEN FLOWN TO WASHINGTON, DC
- HONOR FLIGHTS ARE ALWAYS EXPENSE-FREE FOR OUR VETERANS

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Get to Know One of Our Flight Veterans

Allow us to introduce MSG Judy Sateren, Ret. She was born and raised in McVille, ND and is happy to still call the area home. She joined the Army in Aug. 1967, serving until Aug. 1970, reentering the Army in Nov. of that same year, remaining active until Feb. 1979, and then

moving to the Army Reserve. She completed basic training at Fort McClellan, AL. Throughout her military career she worked in many capacities: clerk typist, administrative specialist, supply clerk, supply sergeant, and instructor. She saw time in (continued on next page)



US Army MSG Judy Sateren gave 35 years of service to our country before retiring

Get to Know One of Our Flight Veterans — cont'd

even more locales: Fort McClellan; Fort Sheridan, IL; Fort Ord, CA; Presidio of San Francisco, CA; S.H.A.P.E. in Belgium; and Fort Jackson, SC. Spending time working with NATO soldiers and making Master Sergeant are some of the highlights of her 35-year Army career.

Upon her discharge and while working as a citizen soldier, she was a security officer, bus driver, semi

driver (local and over-the-road), farmhand, and more!

She has so enjoyed traveling throughout the USA in her life. She also enjoys fishing.

Judy is the American Legion Past #135 Commander of and a Military Women's Memorial Charter Member.

Of her time on the Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN, she shares that a highlight of the tour was seeing how Washington, DC had changed since her last visit to the area.

She also shared that a letter she received from a fellow Legion member during the Mail Call portion of the banquet was incredibly moving. The author of the letter is a



Arriving at BWI Airport, shaking hands with a local Ground Crew volunteer

female Veteran from her Post who praised Judy for the work she's done to earn equal

respect and representation as their male counterparts. A staunch advocate for lady



Receiving fan mail from one of the Buffalo Dolls singers

Veterans, Judy encourages any and all women who are currently eligible for a trip to apply. She's adamant that yes, you do deserve this trip just as much as any of the male Veterans — and she's right!

Judy enjoyed getting to know a few of the other Veterans on this flight and learning about their time in the military. She looks forward to staying connected with them.

Before our Honor Flight was over, Judy and our other female Veteran on this trip, Linda Clark, were honored as members of the Military

Women's Memorial. Founded in October 1997, the Military Women's Memorial honors the service of the over 3-million women who have served in America's military branches since the American Revolutionary War. Judy is a proud charter member of the memorial and only wishes there had been more time to tour the grounds and nearby museum. She looks forward to going back to spend more time checking it out.

All in all, she had a wonderful time on her Honor Flight ... and we were thrilled to have her along!



Receiving recognition as a member of the Military Women's Memorial in Washington, DC

"I'D LOVE TO SEE

MORE FEMALE VETERANS TAKE THIS TRIP. SO LADIES, IF YOU QUALIFY, SEND IN THOSE APPLICATIONS! YOU DESERVE THIS, TOO!"

-MASTER SERGEANT JUDY SATEREN, USA (RET.)

First BBQ Competition Was a Delicious Success!



1st Place Winner — Keenan Golliet from KPG Smokin'

For the first time ever, Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN hosted a BBQ Competition.

Various chefs from around the area tried their hand at competing for top honors at this inaugural event.

The public was invited to lend their tastebuds for the Appetizer People's Choice

Award, while our esteemed judging panel of six BBQ aficionados selected the overall winners.

With his Smoked BLT Hard Boiled Egg, the Appetizer People's Choice went to Shawn Fugelseth. In the BBQ Rib competition, coming in 3rd place was home chef,

Ryan Whitford. Placing 2nd were the Smoke Jumpers team. Pulling in the top award was Keenan Golliet from KPG Smokin'.

Between the Silent Auction and BBQ Competition, \$1,100 was raised to send our local heroes on the trip of a lifetime.

Meet a Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN Volunteer

Jane Matejcek is president of the Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN. She has been involved with Honor Flight since 2007 when she served on the medical crew for the first flights out of Fargo and Grand Forks. In 2015, she re-established the Fargo-Moorhead hub that had been inactive for several years. Since then, she has organized and led many flights to D.C.

Jane is also a VA nurse at the Fargo VA Health Care System. She reviews all the applications for the Honor Flight

and makes sure Veterans have the medical needs and equipment they require for their trip. She also coordinates with volunteers and VA staff who accompany the Veterans as guardians and medical crew.

She is passionate about Honor Flight because it allows entire communities to express heartfelt gratitude to those who don't believe they did anything extraordinary because they were "just doing their job." She says that if she can help these unsung

heroes to say goodbye, close a chapter, grieve a loss, ease survivor's guilt, or tell a story for the first time, then her heart is full.

Jane is honored and humbled to be part of something so much greater than any of us could have ever imagined. She is a leader and a friend to all Veterans, and a role model for everyone who wants to make a difference in their own lives.



Jane Matejcek,
President

"HOW DO I TELL SOMEONE HOW INDEBTED I AM TO THEM FOR RISKING THEIR LIFE TO SAVE MINE?"
-JANE MATEJCEK, PRESIDENT

Busby Family Donation Tugs on Our Heartstrings

In late October, a Veteran who was waiting to make his Honor Flight, David Busby, sadly passed away. Instances like this are particularly devastating for our hub as we aim to get every deserving Veteran on their trip.

And while our sorrow was real, David's family's grief was profound. Rather than dwell on their despair, his

family chose to make good out of their sad situation.

David, a Vietnam Veteran and US Army helicopter mechanic, really valued his service and spending time in the air ... and his family knew it.

In lieu of flowers, David's family asked that loved ones send memorials in his name to three groups: the Fargo

Memorial Honor Guard, the Brady Oberg Legacy Foundation, and Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN.

We were so touched by their generosity and choosing to memorialize David in this way. The entirety of their donation was added to our fund to make sure more Veterans are able to make their trip. Thank you, Busby family!



David Busby, United States
Army Veteran

1/1/1951 — 10/20/2023

How You Can Help — Gear Sponsors Needed

On each of our flights, Veterans are gifted several wonderful items. American Crystal Sugar has covered the cost of the coats for all but one of our trips. For our next trip, the Moorhead American Legion Post 21 has picked up the cost of the duffle bags and the Red River Valley Motorcyc-

le Club has chosen to provide a baseball cap. Years after their flights, we see Veterans sporting their gear around town — it's great!

We are seeking sponsors for some tangible items for our next trip in May, departing from Hector International Airport in Fargo.

If you believe your place of employment, service group, church, or a private citizen would make an ideal sponsor for any of the following options, we'd like to talk more with you!

All sponsors will be given recognition on the items they've chosen.

Polo shirts — \$2,500
Luggage tags — \$200
C-rations and snacks — \$1,000
Group photo enlarging/
printing/ mailing — \$2,800

To discuss potential sponsorship options, please contact David Brunsvold, Treasurer, at 701.261.2049.



VETERANS HONOR FLIGHT OF ND/MN

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Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's Red River Valley Veterans for their sacrifice to our grateful nation. We are accepting applications from WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans. Applications can be found on our website. Flights occur in the spring and fall of each year, pending adequate fundraising.

We are a 100% volunteer, 501(c)(3) charity.

Join Us at Future Events!



With three Honor Flights in 2024, Giving Hearts Day is a critical fundraiser for our success — join us at the Moorhead American Legion Post 21 throughout the event as we work to put more Veterans on planes to our nation's capital

November 29 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill in Wild Rice, ND

December 9 — 3:00pm Bingo at the Hankinson Community Center in Hankinson, ND

December 13 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

December 27 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

January 10 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

January 24 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

January 28 — 11:00am Hotdish Contest and Silent Auction at American Legion Post 21 in Moorhead, MN

February 7 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

February 8 — Giving Hearts Day online fundraiser, all-day gathering held at the American Legion Post 21 in Moorhead, MN

February 21 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

March 6 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

March 20 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

April 3 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

April 6 — 1:00pm Spring Fling

Purse Bingo at TAK Music Venue in Dilworth, MN

April 17 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

April 28 — 11:00am Potato Dumpling Feed and Norwegian Bake Sale at American Legion Post 21 in Moorhead, MN

May 1 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

May 4 — 4:00pm Dinner and live music at VFW Post 5252 in Pelican Rapids, MN

May 11-12 — all day Spring Flower Sale at Lake Country Meats in Alexandria, MN

May 15 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

May 21 — 7:00pm Honor Flight Homecoming at Hector International Airport in Fargo, ND

May 29 — 5:30pm Meat Raffle at Wild Rice Bar & Grill

July 26-27 — all-day Summerfest and dance at American Legion Post 21 in Moorhead, MN

August 10 — Time TBD Honor Flight event at American Legion Post 15 in Detroit Lakes, MN

November 2 — 1:00pm Oh Deer! Purse Bingo at TAK Music Venue in Dilworth, MN



Scan our QR code to visit our unique donation page for Giving Hearts Day or find us online at <https://app.givingheartsday.org/#/charity/963>