

Thanks to all the Veterans,
past and present,
who have served our country.
It is because of you
that we have our freedom.
When you see a Veteran,
thank them for their service!
[#WWIIOperationGratitude](#)



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

Happy New Year to Everyone!!

2019 looks to be an exciting year for Honor Flight Bluegrass. Our first flight of the year will occur on May 28th, just nine days before the 75th Anniversary of D-Day!

This flight is fully sponsored by a \$75,000 grant from the Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund, administered by the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs. We are profoundly grateful to Brigadier General Benjamin F. Adams III, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund, for selecting us as a recipient of the Trust Fund. This grant allows us to continue to fulfill our mission of flying WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans to Washington DC to see their Memorials. Our next two flights are scheduled this Fall. I want to personally thank the three 2019 Mission Directors: Mike DiGuio, Angela LaPierre, and Doug Foster for their commitment and dedication in putting together these flights. They sacrifice many weeks of their own time to direct an Honor Flight and we can't thank them enough.

This year marks a significant date in our history when 75 years ago on June 6, 1944, D-Day, 156,000 Allied troops landed in France, including 73,000 Americans. This was the turning point in WWII when the momentum of the war changed. Of the 16 million men and women who served in WWII, about 350,000 to 400,000 remain, with less than 4,000 remaining in Kentucky. WWII Veterans are now in their nineties and are given first priority on an Honor Flight. Time is of the essence! We are encouraging any WWII Veteran who has not gone on an Honor Flight to please contact us ASAP so we can put you on the May 28th flight. If you are a family member of a WWII Veteran or you know of one please go to our web site and sign them up.

In addition, in recognizing the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, we are presenting WWII Operation Gratitude the week of June 3-7. Our goal is to mobilize the entire community to honor and recognize those members of the Greatest Generation. Any organization, business, non-profit, government, or individual who would like to participate in paying tribute to our WWII Veterans please contact me at 502-645-5421 or Kelli Oakley at 859-433-6495.

And, on June 6, 2019, Honor Flight Bluegrass will celebrate and pay tribute to the largest reunion of WWII Veterans in the Commonwealth of Kentucky (and maybe throughout the country). We are encouraging WWII Veterans to join us here in Louisville on the 75th Anniversary of D-Day....and we encourage the public to join us. No matter where you live, we urge you to join us in honoring the Greatest Generation! If you are WWII Veteran or know of one please call Kelli Oakley at 859-433-6495. If you would like to volunteer or help sponsor this event please call us at 1-888-998-1941 or email us at info@honorflightbluegrass.org. A BIG thank you to Mr. Thunder and HFB Board Member, Wayne Hettinger for producing the powerful patriotic flyers that are in this newsletter and for planning the tribute to WWII Veterans.

In conclusion, the Board of Directors of Honor Flight Bluegrass would like to thank those of you who have contributed to us since we began flying Veterans in 2008. We could not have accomplished our mission of flying over 2,000 Veterans to Washington D.C. without your help. We are an all-volunteer organization that prides itself on 98.8% of our contributions going directly to our mission.

The mission continues...

Best regards,

Jeff Thoke,
Chairman

Contact Us: (888) 998-1941

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

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Your Gift

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

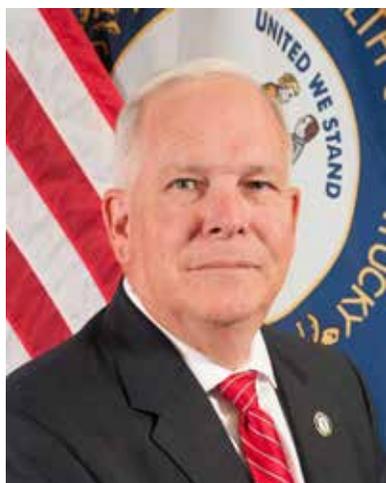
www.honorflightbluegrass.org

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

KDVA SPONSORS MAY 28TH FLIGHT!



Original photo courtesy of The National WWII Museum.
Donor: Ms. Patricia J. Williams



"KDVA is a proud supporter of Honor Flight Bluegrass. KDVA leaders and staff have proudly served as Guardians on multiple flights, and returned to encourage others to do so. Those of us who have served on Honor Flight all describe it the same way: "One of the greatest days of my life."

We all owe a great debt to Honor Flight for what it gives to our veterans, to the families of our veterans, to all those, especially the school children, who meet Honor Flight veterans at the memorials and all those who turn out late at night to welcome them home."

-- Benjamin F. Adams, III
Brigadier General, US Army (Ret.)
Commissioner

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs



WE WANT YOU AGAIN!

**CALLING ALL WWII, KOREA, AND VIETNAM WAR VETERANS FOR AN
HONOR FLIGHT MISSION TO WASHINGTON DC**

Veteran Information for Consideration

Honor Flight Bluegrass recognizes American Veterans for their service, sacrifices and achievements by flying them at no cost to Washington, DC to visit THEIR memorials. Top priority is given to WWII Veterans, then Korean War Veterans, followed by Vietnam War Veterans. Those who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness from those service eras are also given top priority.

“Qualified Guardians” travel with Veterans on every trip, providing assistance and helping Veterans have a safe, memorable and rewarding experience.

Please consider this opportunity to take an Honor Flight as a small token of appreciation for your service to our country. *It is because of you that we have our freedom!*

FULL LEGAL NAME (No Initials)

First _____ Middle _____ Last _____

GENDER: Male Female DATE OF BIRTH _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: Day: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

SERVICE HISTORY: BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____

SERVICE DATE (Check all that apply): WW II (12/7/41-12/31/46) _____
 Korea (6/29/50-1/31/55) _____
 Vietnam (2/28/61-5/7/75) _____

Please fill out this form and mail back to:

Honor Flight Bluegrass, PO Box 991364, Louisville, KY 40269-1364

Contacts for additional info: Tel: (888) 998-1941 • E-Mail: info@honorflightbluegrass.org • www.honorflightbluegrass.org

A Special Invitation...



WWII Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Herschel "Woody" Williams is leading the charge to gather as many of his WWII comrades as possible for the D-Day 75th anniversary Bravo Zulu Celebration!

Honor Flight Bluegrass is honored that Woody chose to be right here in Louisville, Kentucky over any place else at such an historic time.

In accepting this charge, Williams said, "I am deeply honored to join my Kentucky and Indiana Veterans and their families on the anniversary of D-Day." He continued, "this is everyone's opportunity to thank the 'Greatest Generation' and one that we must not overlook."

Herschel Woodrow "Woody" Williams, retired US Marine Corps Warrant Officer and US Department of Veterans Affairs veterans service representative received the United States military's highest decoration for valor—the Medal of Honor—as a corporal for heroism above and beyond the call of duty during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. He is the only surviving Marine to have received the Medal of Honor during the Second World War, one of only four (4) living WWII recipients, and the only surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the Pacific theater of WWII.

WITH THANKS AND GRATITUDE



Mark Seabrook, Chairman of Horseshoe Foundation (ret.), presents a check to Honor Flight Bluegrass with the help of Korean War Veteran Jim Isaac. Included is Jeff Thoke and John Walling of Honor Flight Bluegrass.

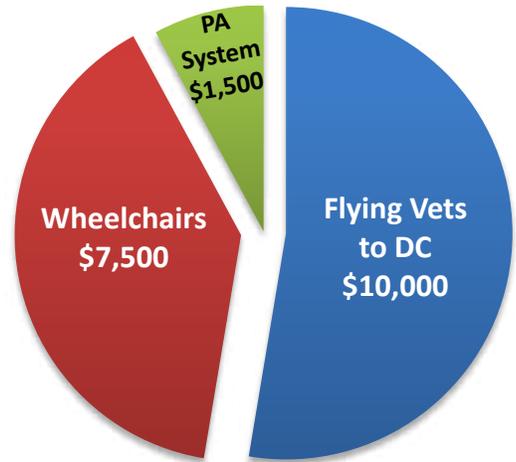


The Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County (HFFC) is a private foundation, created to benefit the Floyd County community. The Foundation's philanthropic focus traditionally falls into the categories of grant making to charitable non-profit organizations, educational scholarships, and program related investments which encourage economic development.

Horseshoe Southern Indiana is the sole contributor of funds to the Foundation. It is with much gratitude that we acknowledge their philanthropy to the Foundation.



Thanks to Angela Leet and the entire Louisville Metro Council for their generous support of our mission to honor our Veterans. A grant of \$19,000 was given through the Metro Council's Neighborhood Development Fund Grant Program in December.



Not only will these funds from the Metro Council support flying our heroes to Washington, their donation also allows us to purchase a much needed portable PA system and new wheelchairs to upgrade our fleet.



We are grateful to Mission BBQ for their generosity and hospitality in hosting Veterans at various events.

A HISTORY AT PLAY: WORLD WAR WOMEN

Held at Treyton Oaks Towers, this fundraiser raised over \$6,000.00 for Honor Flight Bluegrass.



Actress Judith Kalaora in character as real-life spy Virginia Hall, the first female spy sent to Nazi-occupied France to organize the Resistance.



WWII Veterans Art Raderer, Edith Pitzer, and Norma Lewis enjoyed the performance.

HONOR FLIGHT IS ON THE MOVE



Honor Flight Bluegrass representatives Doug Foster and Rob Robertson along with several other Veterans participated in Oldham County Schools Arts Center production of "White Christmas."



Volunteers gave over 21,000 hours of service to our Veterans in 2018!



23 World War II Veterans joined us at Mission BBQ on December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day.

75TH ANNIVERSARY

**D-DAY
JUNE 6
2019**



**OPERATION
BRAVO - ZULU
WWII VETERANS REUNION**



Join us as we honor the largest gathering of
WWII veterans in the history of Kentucky



Presented by Honor Flight Bluegrass

WWW.HONORFLIGHTBLUEGRASS.ORG

#WWIIOPERATIONGRATITUDE

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY JUNE 6, 1944

ATTENTION WWII VETERANS



**Requesting your reenlistment
for one evening
D-Day June 6, 2019**

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE AND PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LARGEST
GATHERING OF WWII VETERANS IN THE STATE OF KENTUCKY

#WWIIOPERATIONGRATITUDE

CONTACT KELLI OAKLEY 859-433-6495

**JUNE 3-7
2019**

WWII OPERATION GRATITUDE

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75th
ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY 1944**



**Presented by
Honor Flight
Bluegrass**

**HONORING ALL OUR WWII VETERANS
JUNE 3-7, 2019**

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[#WWIIOPERATIONGRATITUDE](https://twitter.com/WWIIOPERATIONGRATITUDE)