



# HEROES DON'T ALWAYS WEAR CAPES

WWII Veteran Ernie Micka, pictured above, celebrated his 102nd birthday on April 5th. Mr. Micka was 1st Sergeant of Company 'B', 15th Engineer Combat Battalion of the 9th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. His first overseas stint began in North Africa under General Patton against General Rommel, helping to capture over 200,000 prisoners. His next mission was to help drive the Germans out of Sicily. He was then sent to England to reoutfit for the landing of the 9th Division on Utah Beach on D-Day plus 2. Ernie is proud to say he served from the first day of WWII to the last, being gone from home almost 5 years serving his country. Honor Flight Bluegrass and Ladies For Liberty celebrated with a party in his front yard!

## 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

On behalf of the Honor Flight Bluegrass Board, we hope you and your family are doing well during these challenging times. We are diligently working behind the scenes so we can continue to serve our Veterans through missions and other events.

Our mission is to fly WWII, Korean War, and then Vietnam War Veterans in this order to Washington DC to see their Memorials, at no cost to them. Our most senior veterans have been patiently waiting for their turn to fly and we want to make this happen.

Due to the unforeseen circumstances our country is going through, and our desire to keep our Veterans safe, we cancelled our April 21st and June 2nd Honor Flights. Our remaining flight is scheduled on September 29th, and as for now, it is filled mainly with WWII and Korean War Veterans. We want to thank the Kentucky Veterans Trust Fund and Cynthia Shaw (deceased), as a part of her estate plan for sponsoring this flight.

We are heavily recruiting WWII and Korean War Veterans from across Kentucky and Southern Indiana who have not been on an Honor Flight. Time is of the essence and this is the least we can do to honor them. If you know of a WWII or Korean War Veteran, please contact us at [honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com](mailto:honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com) or go to our website, [www.honorflightbluegrass.org](http://www.honorflightbluegrass.org), and complete the application for that Veteran. You can also call 1-888-998-1941 and leave a message.

Furthermore, in honoring and paying tribute to the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II, it is our duty to find ways to honor and serve our WWII Veterans. On May 8th, VE Day, it will be 75 years since German forces surrendered to the Allies. Over 400,000 members of the Greatest Generation paid the ultimate sacrifice to help win World War II.

With that said, we have added a WWII Veteran Wish Campaign this year. You will find details on pages 6-7 of this newsletter and on our website. As we all know, our WWII Veterans are from a humble generation, so please help us promote this Wish Campaign so we all get an opportunity to give back to them. Of the 16,000,000 men and women who served during WWII, approximately 300,000 remain.

As always, we appreciate your support and are truly grateful to all of our Veterans who have protected our freedom. We look forward to seeing everyone in the very near future.

Jeff Thoke, Chairman

*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.

Contact Us: (888) 998-1941

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

**WWW.HONORFLIGHTBLUEGRASS.ORG**



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[@HonorFlightBG](https://twitter.com/HonorFlightBG)



# ONE FLIGHT ONE MISSION ONE GOAL

WWII AND KOREA  
VETERANS

# I WANT YOU!

to visit your  
memorials in  
Washington, D.C.  
September 29th  
**SIGN UP NOW!**



**HONOR FLIGHT BLUEGRASS CHAPTER**  
**KELLI OAKLEY 859-433-6495**

**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) \_\_\_\_\_

**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](mailto:info@honorflightbluegrass.org) • [www.honorflightbluegrass.org](http://www.honorflightbluegrass.org)



# PAST HONOR FLIGHTS

We have flown over 2000 Veterans to Washington DC to see their Memorials since 2008.  
And, we are looking forward to continuing our mission!





# WELCOME HOME HEROES

Honor Flight Bluegrass wants to thank all those that have donated their time and money throughout the last 12 years. As you can see, your grateful heart has created lots of smiles and long-lasting memories.





**"I WOULD LIKE TO FLY ON A  
B-25 ONE MORE TIME..."**



**WWII  
VETERAN**  
*Wishes*

Honor Flight Bluegrass continues our mission to honor the Greatest Generation by partnering with the community to grant their wishes.

If you know of a WWII veteran who has a wish please visit [honorflightbluegrass.org](http://honorflightbluegrass.org)

HONOR FLIGHT BLUEGRASS



# WWII VETS:

*What's your wish?*

Here are some ideas!

**Ride in a WWII Jeep?**



**Ride on a Motorcycle?**



**Fly  
in a  
Hot Air  
Balloon?**



**Go Fishing?**



**Fly in a B-25?**



**Try Scuba Diving?**



First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER: ☐ Male ☐ Female

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: Day: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH OF SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_ WISH DESIRED: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out & mail to: 2020 Wish Campaign • Honor Flight Bluegrass  
PO Box 991364, Louisville, KY 40269-1364 • 888-998-1941



# TAKE A RIDE IN A B-25

This summer, we will once again host the B-25 "Show Me" from the Missouri Wing of the Commemorative Air Force near St. Louis, MO. The B-25 has been to Kentucky numerous times, and we are excited to offer rides for WWII Veterans who are able to fly. Any WWII Veterans who are wishing to take a ride in the B-25 must sign up in advance, as seats are limited.





# VETERANS ON THE MOVE

In January, several of our WWII Veterans were honored at the University of Louisville Women's Basketball and Men's Basketball games, with courtside seats and a special recognition during the game. U of L alumnae (Class of 1943) and former cheerleader Edith Pitzer was overwhelmed with the applause and attention she received, and it even made the University's Twitter page! (Twitter Photo courtesy of Louisville Athletics)



The Veterans proved to be good luck for the Cardinals, as both teams won their respective games, with the U of L Women's team beating Duke 60-55 and the U of L Men's team beating Notre Dame 67-64. Veterans met the team and coaches before the game, and afterwards posed with the Ladybirds, the cheerleaders, and Louie, the Cards mascot.





# WWII VETERANS BOOK TO COMMEMORATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WWII



To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, we are asking our WWII Veterans to complete the form on the next page and return to us for inclusion in a booklet we are creating to honor these heroes. **Please mail it to Honor Flight Bluegrass, P.O. Box 991364 • Louisville, KY 40269-1364.**

If you would like to speak to someone in person to give us a more thorough interview, please call Kelli Oakley at (859) 433-6495.





# Remembering the End of World War II Questionnaire

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age Today: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit you were connected to: \_\_\_\_\_

How many years of service: \_\_\_\_\_ From what year(s) did you serve: \_\_\_\_\_

1. When & where did you serve during WWII?

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2. How soon after the war ended did you return home? Do you have any special memories of the trip home? Were you able to notify your family that you were heading home before you got there? Who was the first person you saw or wanted to see when you returned home? What was the first thing you ended up doing?

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3. What are some life lessons you learned from your time in the military?

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4. What message and life advice would you like to leave for future generations?

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5. Please feel free to add a short biography of your service.

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**WWII, KOREA AND VIETNAM VETERANS  
ARE COMING HOME ..again**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 ETA 8:50 PM**

These Honored Veterans will have spent the day visiting the World War II, Korea and Vietnam Memorials and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery.

Please join us, and a few hundred other Patriotic friends as we welcome them home. If you've never attended one of these events, it's a moving tribute to our veterans and an evening you will not soon forget.

**Louisville International Airport  
Upper level - top of escalators**



Made possible by

**KENTUCKY  
VETERANS**

Programs Trust Fund



**HONOR FLIGHT BLUEGRASS CHAPTER**