



# RESPECT AND HONOR

Meet Mr. Donald E. Pierce. He proudly served in the U.S. Air Force as an Airman First Class during Vietnam. Mr. Pierce recently accompanied Honor Flight Bluegrass on the October 20, 2021 flight to Washington, D.C. Here he is showing respect at Arlington National Cemetery, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Of his time in the service, Mr. Pierce says, *"I attended Officer Training School for six weeks at Medina Base in San Antonio, TX. Then I was reclassified and went to the Grad Barracks until I was assigned to Draftsman Specialist (AFSC 22350), Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, NM as an OJT Training Instructor in drafting and design."*

Thank you, Mr. Pierce, for your service to our country!

## 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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Our volunteers come from every walk of life, with the most special of those being Veterans themselves. Meet Iraq War Marine Veteran Matt Ralph (pictured below, he served from 1998-2003), who has been a volunteer with Honor Flight Bluegrass for over five years. Matt started out serving as a Guardian for Veterans and now serves as Vice Chairman of the HFB Board. Even though his responsibilities have increased being on the Board, his favorite is *"just being with the Veterans and serving them."* Matt states, *"Veterans have a common bond, they stepped up and signed the dotted line, and I feel very fortunate that I am in that group. As a young Veteran, I have had the opportunity to learn so much from those that have served before me, so I feel that the least I could do is give back to them."*



With that being said, we are extremely excited to begin this flying season with two confirmed Honor Flights on April 20th and June 2nd, with a third to be announced soon! Our ultimate goal is to honor the sacrifice and service of our WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans by escorting them to Washington, D.C. to visit their Memorials. Upon the Veterans return, we often receive letters from them stating their Honor Flight was second only to their marriage or birth of a child. Our goal is to continue this kind of success.

We want to recognize one of the favorite parts of the day, the Welcome Home Celebration, which is due in part to the efforts of Greg Bunten and the entire staff at the Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport. Their dedication to our cause and passion for our Veterans makes each Veteran feel so appreciated when they arrive back in Louisville to a throng of well-wishers!

Finally, for those who contributed either financially or with their time to Honor Flight Bluegrass...THANK YOU! We are blessed with the greatest core group of volunteers who work tirelessly for our organization so that Veterans have one of the greatest experiences of their life.

As always, we look forward to the continued community support at the Welcome Home Celebration on April 20th and June 2nd. It is because of you, your friends, family members, and all the dedicated volunteers who help make this day one of the very best and most memorable for our Veterans.

With gratitude,

Jeff Thoke

Chairman, Honor Flight Bluegrass

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@HonorFlightBG

*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 makes Honor Flight Bluegrass legendary.

# WALL OF HONOR

Honor Flight Bluegrass is reliant on the public to fund our mission of serving Veterans, so we have started a program to recognize veterans that our donors wish to memorialize and/or honor. Your gift of \$100 or more will help us not only fulfill our mission, but also give you an opportunity to recognize a special veteran in your life. You can visit our website <http://www.honorflightbluegrass.org> and submit your information, a picture of your Veteran, and a donation of \$100 or more. Your loved one will stay on our Wall of Honor for a lifetime and your generous gift will go toward serving our Veterans. We truly appreciate all who support our mission.



# OCTOBER 20, 2021 FLIGHT

We finally returned to flying again October 20, 2021! We flew 15 WWII Veterans, 40 Korean War Veterans, and 25 Vietnam Veterans. We visited the WWII Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Wall, Arlington Cemetery, and the FDR Memorial. It was weather perfect...and, a day of honor they will never forget.





# VETERANS DAY PARADE

At Southeast Christian Church this past November, Wayne Hettinger celebrated his 12th year of producing the Louisville Veterans Day Parade! *"It's a great time when Patriots gather to honor all of our Veterans and their service to our great nation,"* states Wayne. Gold Star Families were represented as the Grand Marshals. This was the second year the parade was held at Southeast Christian Church.



# PEARL HARBOR 80TH

Honor Flight Bluegrass teamed up with the Frazier History Museum to honor the service of 26 WWII Veterans and to recognize the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. We also honored the service of Kentucky's only living survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack, 100-year-old David Payne of Hardin, KY. Rachel Platt, Emmy award-winning former journalist and Director of Community Engagement, and Curator of Guest Experience Mick Sullivan discussed how Kentucky became an important storyline for storing documents at Fort Knox after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.



## Our Look at Pearl Harbor Day

By: Dale Faughn  
A Kentucky Poet Laureate

On December's month turned seven,  
On the year of forty-one,  
What tragedy thus happened then;  
Oh what dev-lish work was done.

I by radio was lis-ning  
Gospel music coming through,  
And I struggled beyond measure  
By the words that did ensue.

In this sneaky thus conniving,  
Japan had thus laid us low;  
And it tore apart our spirits  
For this tragedy to know.

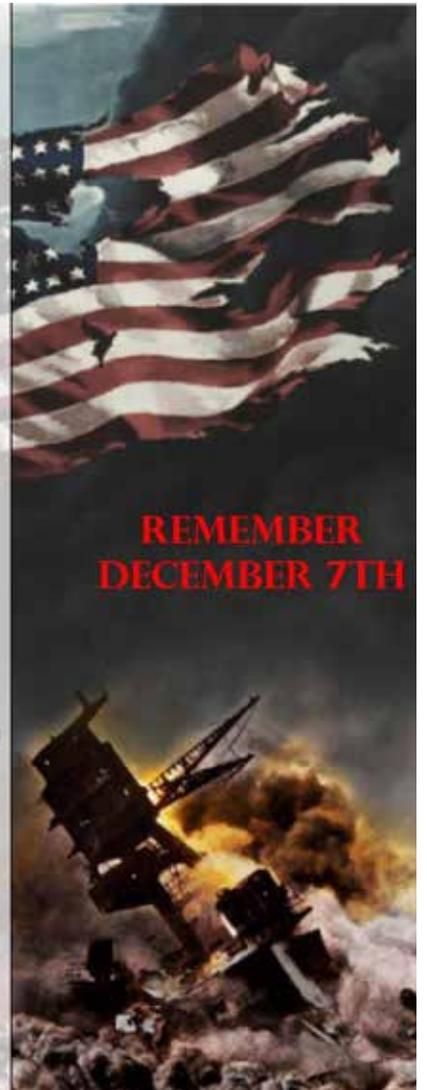
On the next day in our high school,  
All of us went to the gym;  
FDR our spirits lifted,  
As we listened there to him.

Many changes came upon us,  
To our nation as a whole;  
Rationing of many products  
So soon was our practiced goal.

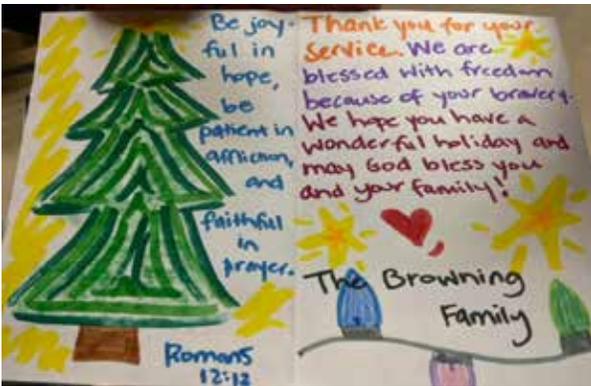
Defense plants sprang up among us;  
Workers working with great speed,  
Passing on to fighting warriors  
Equipment to fill their need.

Uncle Sam was much among us,  
Pointing, pointing thus to do,  
Saying in his urgent manner,  
That he really wanted you.

A great factor that brought vic-tory  
Surely thus came in to play  
Was the way we were together  
Was our great United Way.



# CHRISTMAS CHEER CAMPAIGN



Because of all of YOU, we delivered **27,300** Christmas cards to **1,770** Veterans...and it only took us **460** hours to make it happen...working through Christmas Eve! Your love and appreciation brought "Cheerful" SMILES to so many Veterans this season ... and, **HFB THANKS YOU!**

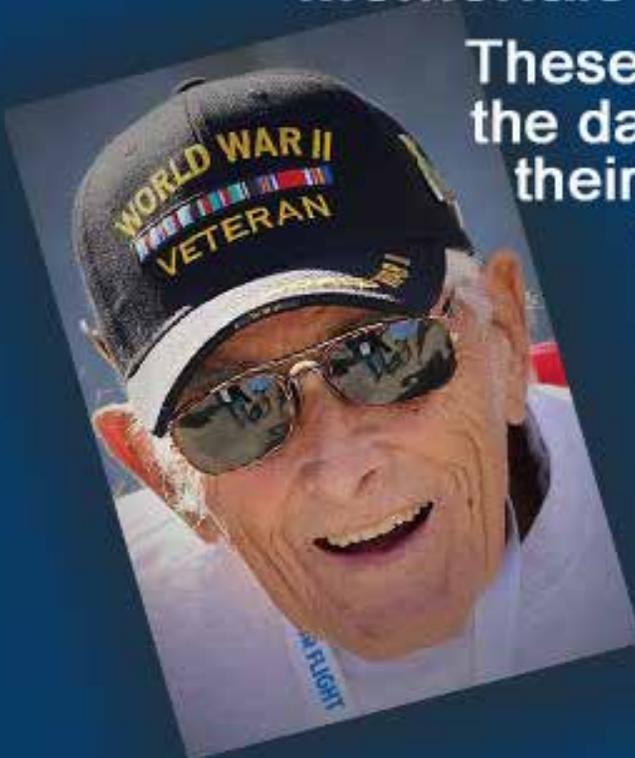




**APRIL 20, & JUNE 2, 2022**

Proud to announce that we are returning to our mission of escorting WWII, Korea and Vietnam War Veterans to visit their Memorials in Washington, DC.

These Honored Veterans will spend the day with their comrades visiting their memorials and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery.

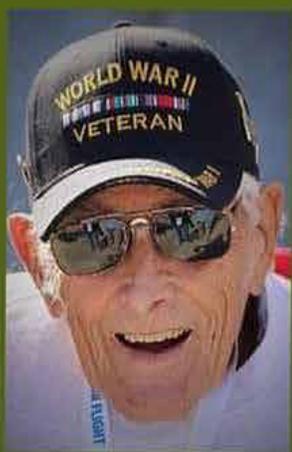


HONOR FLIGHT BLUEGRASS  
[www.honorflightbluegrass.org](http://www.honorflightbluegrass.org)



Honor Flight Bluegrass is flying WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans to Washington DC to see their Memorials April 20th. Just like back in the day when they were serving, Mail Call was a highlight, so we want them to experience it again.

Please take a moment to share your gratitude with a letter or a simple thank you card to these honored veterans.



Ask your friends to help...  
**THE MORE THE BETTER**

Address them to:  
Greg Dillon  
c/o Honor Flight Bluegrass Mail Call  
806 Cannons Lane Louisville, KY 40207  
**NO LATER THAN Friday, April 15.**



WWII, Korea and Vietnam Veterans  
are coming home again

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20TH**  
**10:00 PM**

**WELCOME HOME**  
**PARTY!**



Please join us and 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.

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



**MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN THE AIRPORT**

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

Flags and Welcome Home signs  
are highly encouraged.

We hope to see you there!



# CLASSIC CAR SHOW TAKES FLIGHT!



Honor Flight Bluegrass Chapter • Second Annual Classic Car Show  
Saturday, July 9, 2022 • 11am to 3pm

Mike Linnig's Restaurant (9308 Cane Run Road, Louisville, KY 40258)

**ANY ENTRY VEHICLE THAT IS VETERAN-OWNED WILL GET IN FOR ½ PRICE!**

## Owner Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Car Club (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Veteran? \_\_\_ Y \_\_\_ N If Yes, Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

## Car Information:

Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Early Registration \$20 (Deadline June 25<sup>th</sup>): Receives one car entry, t-shirt, dash plaque, and goodie bag. Email registration form to [honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com](mailto:honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com) and make payment online at [www.honorflightbluegrass.org](http://www.honorflightbluegrass.org) by clicking the donate button and put "car show" in the memo section. Or, mail registration and payment to Honor Flight Bluegrass P.O. Box 991364, Louisville, KY 40269.

Late Registration \$25 (Bring registration form to event): Receives one car entry and goodie bag (while supplies last). Rain date: Sunday, July 10th

For Questions: Email [honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com](mailto:honorflightbluegrass1944@gmail.com) or Call Stephanie at 502-888-5726.

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR MORE DETAILS!**