

Calling All Scouts...

Honor Flight Chicago Welcome Home Celebration

★ expecting 2,000+ patriots greeting our returning war heroes ★



Midway Airport
Wednesday, September 30, 2015 – 8:10pm

Honor Flight Chicago will escort approximately 90 World War II Veterans on **Wednesday, September 30th**, to Washington, DC in one of a series of Honor Flights dedicated to honoring WWII Veterans living in the Chicagoland area. Our goal is to show these men and women that we have not forgotten the service and sacrifices they have made for the freedoms we enjoy today. ★**This is the last flight of the 2015 season.**★

An early morning departure from Midway Airport begins a day of remembrance and reminiscing for these Veterans who have waited over sixty five years to see their memorial. In addition to seeing the long awaited World War II Memorial, these Veterans will also visit the Air & Space Museum and other memorials, as time and weather permit.

The day's adventure concludes back in Chicago with a **Welcome Home Celebration** where family, friends, associates, and even strangers assemble at Midway Airport's Baggage Claim 1. Awaiting the plane's arrival from Dulles Airport, they are joined by color guards, bagpipers, Scouts, motorcycle clubs, a brass band, and countless volunteers and active duty military personnel. Met with balloons, signs and songs, these senior Veterans at last get the kind of "welcome home" they missed in 1945.



Your help is needed to make this Welcome Home Celebration even better!

Please join us at **Midway Airport** to welcome our returning heroes from an exhausting but exhilarating day of honor. Please wear your uniform and bring your Welcome Home and Thank You signs. **Meet at Midway Airport's Baggage Claim 1** at least one hour prior to the flight's arrival. A volunteer will direct you to where you will stand on the receiving line. Parking is available in the Hourly Parking Garage for a fee.



September 30th Southwest Airlines Charter Flight 8248 Scheduled arrival at Midway Airport at 8:10 PM

(Since this is a charter you **may not** be able to track it with Southwest or other flight tracking apps.)



If your **group of 25 or more** is planning on attending the Welcome Home Celebration or if you have any questions about Honor Flight Chicago, please contact HFC Scouting Coordinator Kathi Krankoski at hfcscouts@gmail.com or 1-708-202-2441 (days). Provide your pack/troop/group number and the number of Scouts and adults attending. **No reservations are required for smaller groups.**

We hope to see you there!!

Honor Flight Chicago

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www.honorflightchicago.org

Here's what some of the Veterans who flew on our September 2nd flight had to say about their day:



"That was really beyond imagination! A great celebration, surprises, luxurious care and concern enabling nonagenarians [definition: a person who is from 90-99 years old]--those who were disabled and those who were on their feet the chance to reminisce...oh what a treat. To see the festive zoot suits at Dulles Airport and to watch the young girls dancing, the way young girls seemed to dance when we were young enough to dance with them. It was 22 hours of great stimulation and fun. It was charming to see so many people who just came out to show their appreciation at both airports!" -- Jack B., 90



"I was overwhelmed by the Welcome Home. It was fantastic. My arm is still sore from shaking everyone's hand. I had a wonderful time." -- Don E., 93



"The whole experience was unbelievable and unexpected and just plain great! There wasn't any one part that was more exciting than the other. I was on the Green Bus and we laughed and joked and had a great time. My nephew came to the party at Midway Airport and my daughter who is a nurse traveled with me. Unbelievable!" -- Moe S., 91



"It was beautiful and coming home was really the biggest surprise—all those people waiting for us at the airport. I was the first one off the plane because of my inability to walk...so I led the parade...and the bagpipers and the band...I was speechless! To me it was really overwhelming! Thank you." -- Frank A., 96



"Beautiful. It was wonderful, wonderful, quite a bit of fun...and I met a lot of nice people. I even met Bob Dole, you know he was a WWII veteran too and he was injured during the war...I couldn't believe it. Bob Dole was greeting every one of us...At the airport there were thousands of people and I even had a reception of my family too! I am still shaky thinking about how great it was..." -- John G., 92

"It was a really enjoyable trip. What a special day. You won't believe it. I was assigned a DC chaperone and would you believe he grew up in Naperville and even attended the same church I have gone to for 50 years? And he was in the Coast Guard just like me! The Welcome Home was really great and I was so surprised to see my kids and daughter in laws there! What a day!" -- Donald O'R., 93



"I tell you, you people are wonderful. I can't believe the energy and planning and graciousness that has gone into the work you and your volunteers do! I can't express my gratitude in words! But what you have engendered in the population, the outpouring of national pride, well I haven't seen this for years! Thank you!" -- Derke B., 87



The September 2nd Honor Flight by the Numbers:

- We had 85 Vets who flew with us, 1 woman and 84 men. *(Don't worry, Frances was and is a Marine Corporal so she was able to keep the men in their place; once a Marine always a Marine!)*
- The average age of the veterans on this flight was 90 years old.
- The veterans covered all branches of service during WWII and broke down as follows:
35 Army, 13 Air Corps, 1 Coast Guard, 8 Marine Corps, 2 Merchant Marines, 25 Navy, 1 Navy veteran who also served in the Merchant Marines.

