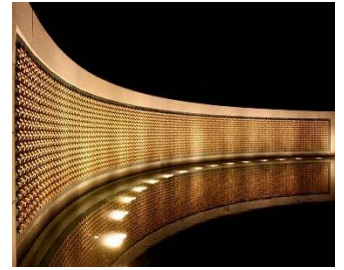


A BRIEF HISTORY OF HONOR FLIGHT

There is an inscription on the flagpoles at the entrance to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC that reads “AMERICANS CAME TO LIBERATE, NOT TO CONQUER, TO RESTORE FREEDOM, AND TO END TYRANNY.” Honor Flight is committed to showing our Nation’s gratitude for the sacrifices of our senior veterans...veterans of World War II and the Korean War...the men and women who paid the terrible cost of our freedom.



The Honor Flight program began in Springfield, OH in May, 2005 as the idea of one person...Earl Morse, a retired Air Force officer working in a VA clinic in Springfield, OH. When the World War II Memorial was completed in 2004, Earl soon realized that the majority of his aging veteran patients were not going to be able to visit the World War II Memorial built to honor them and their service...their Memorial...without assistance.

Earl, a private pilot and a member of the flying club at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, decided to do something about it in December 2004. Earl invited one of his World War II veteran patients to fly with him to Washington, DC to visit the Memorial. His patient gratefully accepted the offer.

A week later, Earl asked another World War II veteran the same question and the veteran also accepted Earl’s offer. Realizing many veterans would have the same reaction, in January 2005, Earl outlined a program to his flying club to fly World War II veterans to their Memorial with two stipulations: the first was that the veterans pay nothing...the cost of the aircraft would be paid by the pilots; the second was that the pilots must personally escort the veterans for the day. Eleven pilots volunteered, and Honor Flight was born.



Early Honor with Earl Morse to right STEPHEN S. BROWN/STUDIO

The first Honor Flight consisted of six small planes flying out of Springfield, OH in May 2005 with twelve World War II veterans. Vans were rented to transport the pilots and veterans from the airport in Manassas, VA to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. The response from both veterans and pilots was overwhelming...it was an experience they would remember for the rest of their lives. The small airplane depicted in the Honor Flight logo commemorates the six small airplanes used for the first Honor Flight for the first twelve veterans.

By August 2005, there was a waiting list of WW II veterans, so Honor Flight began using commercial airlines. By the end of 2005, Honor Flight had transported 137 World War II veterans to the Memorial. Another 300 veterans completed the journey in 2006.

Shortly after Honor Flight began operating in Ohio, a similar program began in Hendersonville, NC. Jeff Miller, the originator of HonorAir, organized and raised funds to charter a commercial flight and in September 2006 the first HonorAir flight took place. In November, Jeff chartered another commercial flight and by the end of 2006, HonorAir had taken almost 900 World War II veterans to visit the World War II Memorial.



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In February 2007 Earl and Jeff combined operations and co-founded the Honor Flight Network. In the Spring of 2008, Senator Bob Dole nominated Earl and Jeff for the prestigious Presidential Citizens Medal. The medal was awarded to them by President George W. Bush in the White House Oval Office in December 2008. Since its origin, the program has expanded to other cities and states across the nation. As of 2019, the Honor Flight Network consists of 130 regional hubs operating in 46 states. Earl and Jeff continue to be active in the Honor Flight Network.

There are five Regional Honor Flight hubs serving Ohio:

- Flag City Honor Flight (Findlay, OH) flying from Toledo Express Airport
- Honor Flight Cleveland (Madison, OH) flying from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport
- Honor Flight Dayton (Enon, OH) flying from Dayton International Airport
- Honor Flight Tri-State (Cincinnati, Ohio) flying from Cincinnati / Northern Kentucky International Airport
- Honor Flight Columbus (Columbus, OH) flying from John Glenn Columbus International Airport

Honor Flight Columbus is the oldest and one of the most active hubs in the Network. On 9 November 2019, Veterans Day and the 101st Anniversary of the end of World War I, Honor Flight Columbus completed its 102nd mission and has taken more than 6,000 veterans to visit their Memorials.

An Honor Flight Columbus trip costs approximately \$70,000. This cost purchases a chartered aircraft, several chartered buses in the Washington, DC area, and breakfast, lunch and dinner for 90 to 120 veterans and 50 to 60 volunteer 'Guardians' who each pay for the cost of their own travel...currently \$400 per person. In addition, 20 to 30 military servicemen and servicewomen volunteer to join us in the Washington, DC area to help make certain the veterans have a safe and enjoyable experience.

A typical Honor Flight Columbus trip leaves Columbus on a Saturday morning at approximately 8:00 AM and returns to Columbus about 9:30 PM on Saturday evening. Honor Flight Columbus visits the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Changing of the Guard at and the Marine Corps may also visit the Women in Memorial, the Air Force and the American Veterans



Korean War Memorial, the Arlington National Cemetery for the Tomb of the Unknowns, Memorial. Time permitting, we Military Service for America Memorial, the Navy Memorial, Disabled for Life Memorial.

Funded by the donations of a grateful nation and generous corporate sponsors, by the end of 2019, the Honor Flight Network will have transported more than 220,000 World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans to receive our Nation's thanks and be honored with a visit to the Memorials built to honor their service and sacrifice.

With the aging of our senior veterans, some Honor Flight Hubs have begun offering a non-traditional Honor Flight, e.g., Honor Flight at Home, to accommodate the veterans whose health does not permit them to travel to Washington, DC. An Honor Flight at Home is a locally-held program that includes most of the experiences of a traditional Honor Flight and only requires a veteran to travel to wherever the program is held...typically in an auditorium or faith community worship center. In addition, the

technology of virtual reality is also being used to provide a veteran an experience in the comfort of the veteran's residence. A headset is used to allow a veteran to experience an honor flight which includes a visit to each of the memorials in Washington, DC. While not a substitute for a traditional Honor Flight, these non-traditional Honor Flights are a means to accomplish the Honor Flight mission if a veteran is unable to travel.

For additional information, please visit the Honor Flight Network website at <http://www.honorflight.org/> and the Honor Flight Columbus website at <http://www.honorflightcolumbus.org/>.

8 November 2019