



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mary Pettinato
773.227.8387

Welcome Home Celebration for Honor Flight Chicago at Midway Airport
Expecting a crowd of 700+ to cheer on our returning veterans!

Chicago, IL 09-30-08 On October 22nd, Honor Flight Chicago escorts 64 World War II veterans to Washington, DC in our last flight of the year and the fifth of a series of “honor flights” dedicated to honoring veterans living in the Chicagoland area.

An early morning departure from Midway Airport begins a day of remembrance and reminiscing for these veterans who have waited for many years to see their memorial. Following their flight to Washington’s Dulles Airport, tour buses will drive them to the World War II memorial. Participating veterans are accompanied by “Guardians” who are charged with responsibility for the veterans’ safety, well-being, and enjoyment.

In addition to seeing the long awaited World War II Memorial, the veterans also visit the Iwo Jima Memorial and the Korean, Vietnam, and Lincoln Memorial.

The day’s adventure concludes with a **Welcome Home Celebration** where family, friends, associates, and strangers assemble near at Midway Airport’s baggage claim. Awaiting the plane’s 9:20 p.m. arrival (Southwest Airlines Flight 1472), they are joined by a JROTC Color Guard which presents the colors. Met with balloons, signs, and songs, the veterans at last get the kind of “welcome home” they missed in 1945.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE “WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION” EVEN BETTER! Please join us at Midway Airport to welcome our returning heroes from an exhausting but exhilarating day of honor. Volunteer patriots should meet at Baggage Claim 1 (Midway Airport) no later than 9:15 p.m. Wednesday, October 22nd. Hourly parking is available directly across the street from the Baggage Claim.

On a previous flight, one of our veterans wrote that “it was a sensational ending to an amazing Vets Recognition.” Another veteran wrote that this “experience will live in our memories for the rest of our lives. Thank you!”

We have many more WWII veterans waiting for their turn to be honored than we have funds to honor them. These honor flights are made possible solely by donations. For further information or to contribute/volunteer, please visit Honor Flight Chicago’s website at **HonorFlightChicago.org** or call 773.227.VETS (773.227.8387).