



A NOTE FROM JEFF BALLENGER
Central & Western Iowa Honor Flight coordinator

As we celebrate this Christmas season I want to share some thoughts on one of the most powerful events I have ever witnessed or been a part of -- the Central and Western Iowa Honor Flights.

A project like this is bigger than one person, one committee or one company. It required people of vision to come forward with funding and people of talent to come forward to organize. We were blessed with both.

Iowans should be proud of the respect and gratitude shown to our World War II veterans in one of the most difficult economic times in recent history.

While the logistics of organizing a trip like this are difficult to grasp, the Central and Western Iowa Honor Flights touched nearly 1,500 veterans from 66 of Iowans 99 counties. That's amazing!

To begin to say "thank you" to everyone who was involved is impossible so let me just say, "Thank you for your prayers, your well wishes, your heart felt support and your tremendous spirit and passion for this project."

Together, in our own small way, we were able to say "thank you" to the Greatest Generation. Thank you for helping!

Jeff Ballenger



A Five-Star THANK YOU

to all who helped
make the Western
and Central Iowa
Honor Flights
possible!

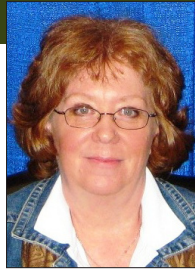
The Western & Central Iowa Honor Flight committee...



Jeff Ballenger



Bill Ballenger



Vicky Vermaat



Rev. Duane Gibson



Arvid Huisman



John Forbes

Thanks also to Shar Pardubsky (not pictured)

Honor Flight Bus Captains...

These men and women not only devoted their time to serve our World War II veterans, they paid their own way on each of the flights.

Glenn Hankenson	Tony Doremus	Darlene McMartin
Amy Hoffman	Debbie Petersen	Chris Sorenson
Dave Hoffman	Pete Petersen	Scott Pigsley
Joe Hotz	Melissa Jacobson	Gail Foxhoven

Honor Flight sponsors...



The Charles Lakin III Family

Special thanks to...

Adventureland Inn & Resort
Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines
Allegra Printing & Imaging
Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce
American Legion Post # 2
Ameristar Casino
Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce
Ankeny Community School District
Bank Iowa, Altoona
Bill & Evonne Williams
Carter Printing
Carlisle Chamber of Commerce
Casey's General Stores employees
Chocolaterie Stam
Competitive Edge, Inc.
Comrades in Arms
Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce
Council Bluffs Senior Center
Country Inn & Suites
Cruise Plus Travel Agency, Ankeny
Cutler-O'Neill Funeral Home
Dallas Center/Grimes Community School District
Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART)
Des Moines International Airport
Des Moines Police Department
Des Moines Theatrical Shop
Doll Distributing
Fareway Food Stores
First Baptist Church, Johnston, Choir & Ensemble
Glenwood State Bank/Frontier Bank
Godz Guyz
Greater Des Moines Area Firefighters
Greater Des Moines Convention & Visitors Bureau
Grimes Area Chamber of Commerce
Hammer Medical Supply

Hy-Vee employees
Indianola Area Chamber of Commerce
Iowa Department Veterans of Foreign Wars
Johnston Chamber of Commerce
Jerry Dietz
Johnston Community School District
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Luke Anderson Web Design
MacKenzie Highlanders
Medicap Pharmacy, Urbandale
Nebraska Veterans of Foreign Wars
North High (Des Moines) JROTC
Norwalk Area Chamber of Commerce
Patriot Guard Motorcycle Riders
Plaza Florists & Gifts
Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce
Pottawattamie County Community Foundation
Pottawattamie County VFW
Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino and employees
Radisson Hotel
Scott Doll Family
Sidney Chamber of Commerce
Sidney Community School District
South Des Moines Chamber of Commerce
Southeast Polk School Community District
St. Albert High School (Council Bluffs) JROTC
Staples, Ankeny
The Salvation Army in Des Moines
The Salvation Army in Washington, DC
Todd Archer Family
TSA (Transportation Security Administration)
Urbandale Chamber of Commerce
Urbandale Community School District
West Des Moines Community School District
Woodland Creek Senior Living Community

We gratefully acknowledge everyone who contributed to the Honor Flights financially, with in-kind gifts and with their own time and effort. Space limitations prevent us from listing everyone. Go to www.centraliowahonorflight.org for future listings of donors and volunteers.

Honor Flight MEMORIES



Pre-flight Send Off Breakfast



With Brad Kasal, a Navy Cross Recipient



Pre-dawn boarding



At the World War II Memorial



At the Tomb of the Unknown