

2015 Annual Report



Mission Statement

Honor Flight DFW is dedicated to honoring our veterans for the sacrifices they have made to keep our nation safe by providing them with an all expense paid trip to visit the memorials in Washington D. C., those memorials which symbolize the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of these American heroes.

Highlights of 2015

- ★ To date HFDFW has traveled nearly 1,200 veterans to DC.
- ★ In 2015, Honor Flight DFW safely traveled a total of 176 veterans: 123 WWII, and 53 Korean veterans, 176 guardians and 65 medical/trip leaders to Washington DC.
- ★ HFDFW had the special honor of participating in Pearl Harbor Remembrance events at WWII Memorial and at the Redskins/Cowboys game on Monday Night Football. Twelve veterans from 12 different flights participated in representing all of the veterans who have travelled on Honor Flight DFW.
- ★ The veterans safety is the single overriding priority for HFDFW, nothing takes greater precedence than their safe transport to Washington D.C. As each year passes the safe travel of the veterans becomes more challenging. Flying the old warriors is no easy feat given their the myriad of physical, functional, and cognitive issues. HFDFW was prepared for each individual challenge and safely returned all of the veterans to DFW.

★ To enhance the safety of the veterans HFDFW:

- Each veteran received a call/s from medical team prior to travel to assess needs and ability to of travel overnight.
- Held 5 Guardian Training programs, plus 4 make-up sessions
- Held 5 Pre-Flight Briefings for veterans, guardians, medical, and leadership.
- Due to the age of the veterans, additional support staff is added to the flight to assist veterans and guardians to ensure all the veterans needs were met.
- Prior to each trip, an assessment is made of the weather (heat/rain/cold) and appropriate measures/equipment are brought with the group.
- Team Leader meetings are held prior to each trip
- Each member of the Leadership/Medical teams carries an assignment duties document to assure all safety aspects of the flight are covered.

★ Four HFDFW reunions were held at the Frontiers of Flight Museum (donated space).

★ HFFW BOD voted to dissolve in February 2015. HFDFW picked up the 42 veterans on their waiting list. We have flown all their WWII veterans and will pick up the remaining Korean Veterans in accordance with their application date. No funds were forward to HFDFW from HFFW

★ HFDFW was recognized by the Texas Legislature

By: Villalba
H.R. No. 724

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, For more than five years, Honor Flight DFW has given North Texas veterans of World War II the opportunity to visit the war memorials in our nation's capital; and

WHEREAS, Established in September 2008, this notable endeavor offers veterans an all-expense paid overnight trip to Washington, D.C.; the two-day visit includes stops at the memorials for World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam, as well as the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force Memorials and Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Veterans on honor flight trips have also had the opportunity to meet the wounded warriors and military staff at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; they return to a hero's welcome at DFW International Airport, and a few months later, they receive a book of photographs, a CD, and a souvenir video recording their experience; making two flights a year, in May and October, the program has taken more than 600 veterans to Washington to date; and

WHEREAS, By enabling these patriotic Americans to come together one more time in mutual fellowship and in tribute to their fallen comrades, the men and women of Honor Flight DFW are performing a deeply meaningful service in recognition of the sacrifice of those who have so ably served this nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas Legislature hereby celebrate Honor Flight DFW and extend to the organization's staff, volunteers, and honored veterans sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Honor Flight DFW as an expression of high regard by the

Texas House of Representatives.

★ Financial Stability

- HFDFW remains financially sound.
- The HFDFW Charity Golf Classic was a huge hit with golfers and sponsors. The golf committee significantly increased corporate sponsorship and awareness. Plans are underway to host the Fifth Annual HFDFW Charity Golf Classic on April 18, 2016 .

★ Honor Flight DFW Volunteers clocked in 15,000 hours for 2014

The mission of HFDFW could not be accomplished without the efforts of volunteers. Honor Flight DFW saw an unprecedented number of dedicated volunteers offering their time to the veterans. HFDFW's continued support from volunteers provides stability and consistency to the program.

It is difficult to put a dollar amount on volunteer hours yet according to 2014 figures from the https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time we can assume that the monetary value of the volunteer hours is estimated at **\$346,050** (Texas: \$23.07 per hour). ‘

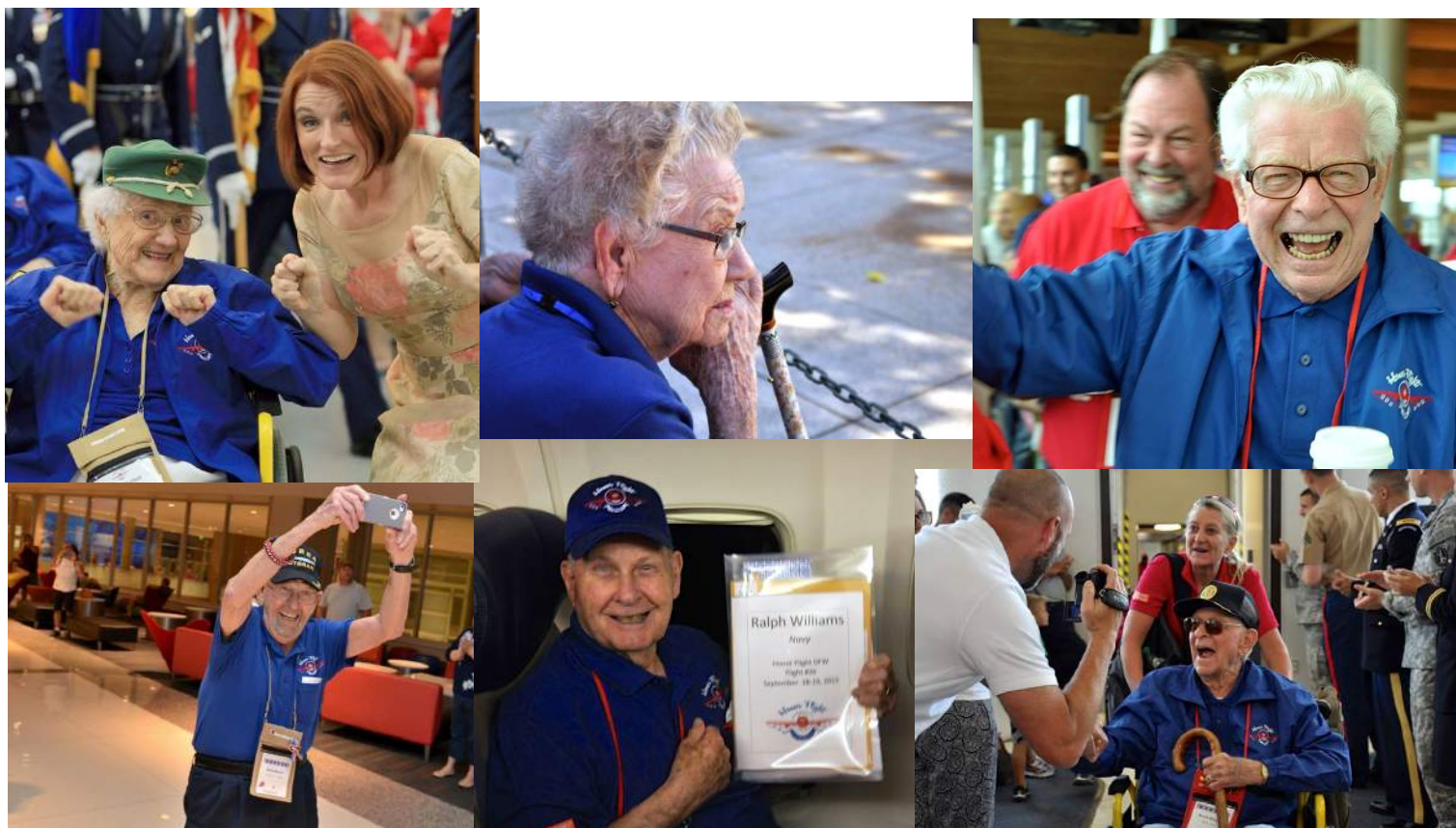
★ Trip Logistics

- **Airline:** Southwest direct to DCA is a substantial cost savings and our association with Love Field/City of Dallas is strong and responsive. HFDFW will continue to use SW Airlines in 2016.
- **Hotel:** Neither rain, heat, and/or cold, could alter the mood of the Honor Flights. Each bump in the road was taken stride and adjustments were made to make sure the veterans needs and desires were always first and foremost in mind.

The association with Gateway Crystal City Marriott remains strong and we will continue to use them for our lodging needs in 2016.

★ Pictures of Appreciation

Each year HFDFW receives many letters of appreciation from the veterans who have traveled on a recent flight, volunteer/family guardians, and HFDFW Alumni. The pictures below is a representative of the sentiment that is expressed in the letters that are received from the HFDFW family.



Looking Forward in 2016

- ★ Two flights have been scheduled and booked (hotel, buses, airline tickets): May 6-7 and June 3-4.
- ★ The HFDFW Golf Classic will be held on April 18.
- ★ The Airmen of Note will perform in Dallas at the Morton Meyerson on April 20.

In conclusion

It has been my honor to serve alongside the HFDFW BOD in 2015. I am very proud of the dedication that each of you bring to the mission of HFDFW. I thank you on behalf of all of the veterans life's that you have touched with your work for HFDFW. YOU make a difference.

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

Respectfully,

Melaine 'Tudy' Giordano MS, RN

President Honor Flight DFW

12-12-15