



# Honor Flight DFW

## 2018 Annual Report

### **Mission Statement**

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

### **Highlights of 2018**

- ★ To date HFDFW has traveled 1,730 veterans to DC.
- ★ In 2018, Honor Flight DFW safely traveled a total of 122 veterans: 27 WWII, 58 Korean, 37 Vietnam veterans, and 122 guardians and 55 support (medical/ photographer/ trip leaders, young veterans) to Washington, D.C.
- ★ The average age of the WWII veterans traveling with HFDFW in 2018 was 95 years old with the oldest veterans (4) traveling 99 years old. The average age of the Korean veterans was 86 years old while the Vietnam veterans' ages were more varied ranging from the mid 60s to 80s.

### ★ **Impact on Veterans and Families**

Honor Flight DFW trips impact not only the veteran, but also their family and the community. Veterans finally have an opportunity to join their brothers and sisters to remember and honor those that passed during their time of service. Each moment is one of reflection and closure.

- I went on Honor Flight as a favor to a friend, I had no idea what a great program you have.

When I came home from Vietnam I had to get out of my uniform when I arrived in LA in 1968, I was shocked and angry.

Thanks to HFDW I now have closure Keep up the good work it is very worthwhile.

Thanks for all your hard work.

***Mr. H. Vietnam War Veteran Flight #38***

- Thank you for the wonderful time I had with you and all the HFDFW staff. It was so much more than I expected. I will cherish these memories forever.

***Mr. S. Vietnam War Veteran Flight #39***

- What a wonderful, memorable weekend I experienced with some of the finest people in Texas. In. My 88 years I don't remember any weekend to compare with my just completed HFDFW trip to Washington DC.

Never have I been looked after, waited on, or shown such respect as I received from the wonderful volunteers of HFDFW

My 41 year old grandson was my guardian; we had the finest two days that we have ever spent together. Seeing all the memorials with your people and the other veterans was something I will treasure for a lifetime.

I had heard, from others, that it was a trip to remember, but it far exceeded anything I could have imagined.

All your people should be congratulated for the excellent job they did and your organization should be recognized for its service to veterans.

I know you operate on fundraising events and donations, I am pleased to be able to help in a small way. I have enclosed a check to travel two more veterans to DC.

Again, my heartfelt thanks for YOUR SERVICE.

***Mr. L. Korean War Veteran Flight #39***

- Thanks to all for such an incredible experience. It would be impossible to express all the appreciation to the total volunteer crew who organized, planned and implemented Flight #39. Such a wonderful group.

Whether personally involved or having just lived during the time that the war memorials symbolize, the brief stop at each brought forth deep memories and strong feelings that were experienced in life. What a humbling experience. I know, thought maybe for different reasons, we all teared up more than one during the two days.

***Mr. G. Korean War Veterans Flight #39***

- I just received your Thanksgiving message which included the video, "Honor Flight DFW." As I watched the video, all of the wonderful memories of "Honor Flight DFW #37" were relived by me! The inspirational experiences and memories of my Honor Flight will be remembered for the remainder of my life. I am indebted to you for your assistance in making it possible for me to experience the magnificent experiences of Honor Flight DFW #37. Thank you for that gift of a lifetime.

***Mr. K. WWII War Veteran Flight #37***

- The Honor Flight Team are very special people to volunteer Their time to do this for veterans. Veterans, who in many cases might not be able to get to DC to experience the memorials. My father and I had a great time. Those are memories he and I will cherish always.

***A.P. Guardian for father who is a Vietnam Veteran Flight #39***

- This weekend was one I will never forget. You have accomplished something that takes massive organizational skills, energy and a love and dedication to a cause that cherishes and honors someone I love.

You have given my father memories that will touch his heart forever. You gave me and his family a unique opportunity to become closer, to show him how much he is loved through both words and actions.

My dad loves his country so much, and in today's moral climate with values turned upside down and such a lack of disrespect for what made America strong, the strong show of exuberant support from hundreds of strangers all through the weekend has been a very powerful force that will help mend the hurts from lack of respect for I appreciate so much all of the work and sacrifices from the volunteers, the folks who showed up to shake hands, the coordinators at each event and location, the airline's care of our loved ones and whoever I am leaving out.

I am truly grateful for everything. On behalf of me and all those that love Dad, thank you so much and God bless you. I feel inadequate to fully express how much this weekend meant to me, so as new thoughts come to mind, which they will, I'll send them your way. Dad will talk about this for the rest of his life, and what a blessing I could be a part of it.

## ***SBW Guardian for father who is a Korean War Veteran***

### **★ Financial Stability**

- HFDFW remains financially sound.
- HFDFW is very grateful to a generous donor who continues to provide funding for an entire flight.
- The Annual HFDFW Charity Golf Classic is HFDFW's largest fund raising event. The HFDFW Charity Golf Classic was a huge hit with golfers and sponsors.

This year's event raised funds to travel 64 veterans to DC. The continued success of the golf classic is the result of a team of volunteers who spend months planning and organizing the event.

Plans are underway to host the Seventh Annual Charity Golf Classic in October 2019 (TBD).

- The community and businesses continue to generously donate funds to the mission. Each donation is appreciated. Thank you.

### **★ Honor Flight DFW Volunteers clocked-in 18,000 hours for 2018**

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." — Winston Churchill*

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. Most of the volunteers have

been with HFDFW for more than 5 years; they are the foundation and heart of HFDFW.

It is difficult to put a dollar amount on volunteer hours yet according to 2015 figures we can assume that the monetary value of the HFDFW volunteer hours is estimated at **\$469,980** (Texas: \$25.11 per hour). Source: <https://independentsector.org/news-post/value-of-volunteer-time-release/>

★ **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 myriad of physical, functional, and cognitive issues.

The experienced HFDFW team was prepared for each of the veteran's individual challenges and safely returned all of the veterans to DFW. We are thankful for the continued support of the medical professionals and support team members who readily volunteer to offer their expertise to the veterans.

HFDFW efforts to enhance the safety of the veterans are:

- Prior to the veteran's trip assignment, the veteran receives a call from medical team to discuss with the veteran--and when available a family member--the physical demands of the journey and potential challenges of overnight travel. During this call the medical needs of the veteran are identified i.e. oxygen, CPAP, injectable insulin, colostomy, medical nutrition.
- The medical team identifies veterans who are taking medication for the treatment of Alzheimer's and dementia as well as those whose application indicate cognitive issues. A call is made to assess HFDFW's ability to safely

travel the veteran and to identify a family member who will travel with the veteran.

- Two weeks prior to the trip the medical team makes follow-up calls to each of the veteran to update any medical/physical/cognitive changes.
- Due to the age of the veterans, additional support staff was added to assist veterans and to ensure all the veterans' needs were met.
- Members of the Leadership/Medical/Support team carry a detailed individualized duties and assignments document on the trip to assure all safety aspects of the trip are covered by the team.
- Each veteran and guardian receives a travel name pouch that contains emergency contact information and medical information that is essential in the case of an emergency.
- Six Guardian Training sessions (2 per flight) were held for all guardians traveling with HFDFW.
- A month before the flight the guardians receive weekly HFDFW communication.
- Three Pre-Flight Briefings—one before each trip--were held for veterans, guardians, medical, and support team a week before the flight. One hundred percent of veterans attended the Pre-Flight Briefing.
- Team Leader meetings are held prior to each trip.

## ★ Financial Stability

- HFDFW remains financially sound.
- HFDFW is very grateful to a very generous donor who continues to provide funding for an entire flight. We are so appreciative of his love the HFDFW mission.
- The Annual HFDFW Charity Golf Classic is HFDFW's largest fund raising event and this year the funds raised will travel 64 veterans to DC.

The HFDFW Charity Golf Classic was a huge hit with golfers and sponsors.

The continued success of the golf classic is the result of a team of volunteers who spend months planning and organizing the event.

Plans are underway to host the Seventh Annual Charity Golf Classic in October 2019 (TBD).

- The community and businesses continue to generously donate funds to the mission. Each donation is appreciated. Thank you.

## ★ Honor Flight DFW Volunteers clocked-in 18,000 hours for 2018

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." — Winston Churchill*

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. Most of the volunteers have been with HFDFW for more than 5 years; they are the foundation and heart of HFDFW.

It is difficult to put a dollar amount on volunteer hours yet according to 2015 figures we can assume that the monetary value of the HFDFW volunteer hours is estimated at **\$469,980** (Texas: \$25.11 per hour). Source: <https://independentsector.org/news-post/value-volunteer-time/>

## ★ Friends of HFDFW

- The community and businesses continue to generously donate funds to the mission. One of the most common things we hear from the veterans after their memorable patriotic trip is “I thought no one remembered”. Each donation lets the veterans large or small lets them know they are remembered and appreciated.
- The United Air Force Bands have performed for HFDFW since 2013 and continues to support the mission of HFDFW. The music brings back sweet memories, and the performance is remembered long after the trip has concluded.
- Three HFDFW reunions were held at the Frontiers of Flight Museum who donate the space to HFDFW. We are grateful for the generosity of Frontiers of Flight Museum and for the efforts of volunteers who provide the hospitality for the veterans and their families.

The reunions are important component of the Honor Flight Mission (80-90% of the veterans attend the reunions) as they provide the veterans one more opportunity to reconnect with veterans they met on their trip and to celebrate their journey to DC with their families, guardians, and volunteers. A gift bag containing picture book and video of their trip is provided to each veteran.

- Southwest Airlines provides a substantial cost savings and are very accommodating to the needs of the veterans. In 2018, HFDFW received 25 Southwest E-Pass tickets for the veterans.

The relationships we have made with Love Field (City of Dallas, TSA, Southwest, parking and the food vendors) are solid and HFDFW will continue to use SW Airlines in 2018.

- The association with Gateway Crystal City Marriott remains strong, and we will continue to use them for our lodging needs in 2018.

### **Looking Forward to 2019**

★ Four trips are planned for 2019, two in the spring and two in the fall. The spring flights are scheduled for May 4-5 and June 15-16.

★ The HFDFW Golf Classic will be held in October (TBD)

★ Veterans continue to apply to travel; approximately 10-15 applications are received a month.

★ Raising funds for HFDFW will be a focus in 2019 to ensure that the mission continues to serve the veterans.

In conclusion

It has been my honor to serve alongside the HFDFW BOARD in 2018. I am very proud of the dedication that each of you brings to the mission of HFDFW. I thank you on behalf of all of the veterans' lives 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

11-30-18