



For Immediate Release
September 9, 2010

WWII VETERANS WILL PARTICIPATE IN HONOR FLIGHT

BISMARCK, ND – Approximately 88 World War II veterans will travel to Washington, DC, on Friday, Sept. 10. More than six decades after participating in the largest military campaign in history, the veterans will visit the monument built to commemorate their service – the National WWII Memorial.

“The Honor Flight program was conceived as a way to recognize the courage and sacrifices of WWII veterans. This is our way of thanking them for their service,” said Kevin Cramer, Roughrider Honor Flight committee chair. “It is hard to believe that this is our fourth trip. Each journey is so meaningful, so special to these humble men and women.”

RRHF is based in Bismarck, serving primarily central and western North Dakota veterans. Following the Sept. 2010 trip, RRHF estimates that at least one additional flight will be necessary to accommodate their remaining applicants. The Bismarck group escorted approximately 300 service men and women to Washington, DC, on previous flights. An additional 800 veterans traveled on flights originating in Fargo and Grand Forks. RRHF is currently the only active Honor Flight group in North Dakota.

“To make future trips possible, donations of any size are needed and will be gratefully accepted from anyone except the veterans we serve,” said Cramer.

The cost of each RRHF trip is approximately \$150,000, all funded by the private sector. The donations are tax deductible and can be sent to PO Box 220, Bismarck, ND 58502. Applications are available at www.rrhonorflight.com or by calling (701) 373-5416.

In addition to visiting the WWII memorial, the veterans will see the Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean and Iwo Jima memorials. They will also tour the Arlington National Cemetery where they observe the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The WWII memorial pays homage to the 16 million Americans who served during the campaign. The monument was not completed until 2004, and the majority of the men and women who served have never had the opportunity to visit the site. Of the 69,000 men and women from North Dakota who served, it is estimated that 6,000 are still living.

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Media Notes:

- Veteran interviews can be arranged by contacting RRHF Media Coordinator Sarah Mudder at (701) 391-7630 or sarahmudder@yahoo.com.
- High-resolution JPEG images taken by a professional photographer during the RRHF trips are available for publication. There is no charge for use of the images.
- RRHF Chair Kevin Cramer can be contacted for media comments at (701) 220-6368.