

For Immediate Release
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WWII VETERANS HONORED, TRAVEL TO SEE MEMORIAL

BISMARCK, ND – The inaugural Roughrider Honor Flight will depart the Bismarck airport on May 8 en route to Washington, DC. More than 95 veterans, predominately of the World War II (WWII) era and hailing from central and western North Dakota, will be on board.

“Honor Flight recognizes the courage and sacrifices of our veterans by providing them with a complimentary trip to see their memorial, the WWII memorial in Washington, DC,” said Kevin Cramer, co-chair of the Roughrider Honor Flight committee.

In addition to the WWII memorial, the group will visit the Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean and Iwo Jima memorials. They will also tour the Arlington National Cemetery where they will see the Kennedy family graves, the Tomb of the Unknowns, and observe the changing of the guard.

Retired Gen. Richard B. Myers, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; retired Lt. Gen. Jerry Sinn, a Minot native; Radio Personality Scott Hennen and other dignitaries are expected to visit with the veterans during the course of the trip.

“We currently have a waiting list of about 200 veterans that we hope to take to Washington, DC, this fall. Donations of any size are needed to fund these future trips and will be accepted from anyone except the veterans we are serving,” said Cramer. “This is our way of saying thank you to them for their service to our nation.”

Donations are tax deductible and can be sent to PO Box 220, Bismarck, ND 58502. Applications for future flights are available online at www.rrhonorflight.com or by calling (701) 373-5416.

The WWII memorial opened in April 2004 to honor the 16.5 million Americans who served during the campaign. Through the Honor Flight Network (HFN) veterans are flown to see the monument on a “first-come, first-served basis.” Previous North Dakota-based flights, originating in Fargo and Grand Forks, have transported more than 750 veterans.

Honor Flight initially was conceived in 2004 by Earl Morse, a physician assistant and retired Air Force captain, as a way to honor the veterans he provided care to for 27 years. In May 2005, six small planes transported 12 veterans to the Washington, DC, area to see their memorial. The HFN has a goal of transporting 25,000 veterans in 2009 at no cost to them.

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Local media please note: the veterans will begin arriving at the Bismarck airport at 6:30 a.m. on Friday, May 8. The flight is scheduled to leave Bismarck at 8:30 a.m.

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