

For Immediate Release
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VETERANS HONORED WITH TRIP TO SEE WWII MEMORIAL

BISMARCK, ND – More than 95 World War II (WWII) veterans will gather at the Bismarck Airport in the early morning hours of Friday, Sept. 18, in preparation for the flight of a lifetime.

“The Honor Flight program recognizes the courage and sacrifices of American veterans by flying them, at no charge, to Washington, DC, to see the monument built to recognize their service, the WWII memorial,” said Kevin Cramer, co-chair of the Roughrider Honor Flight committee. “This is our way of saying thank you to them for their service to our nation.”

In addition to the WWII memorial, the veterans 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.

The Roughrider committee serves veterans hailing from central and western North Dakota. Top priority is given to WWII veterans and terminally ill veterans from all wars. The local committee’s inaugural flight took place in May 2009.

“We have 200 additional veterans that are waiting to travel with us to Washington, DC, in 2010”, said Cramer. “The cost of each trip is approximately \$175,000, all funded by the private sector. To make future trips possible, donations of any size are needed and will be accepted from anyone except the veterans we serve.”

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 that campaign. Through the Honor Flight Network (HFN) veterans are flown to see the monument on a “first-come, first-served basis.”

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 approximately 8:30 a.m.

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.

For more information on the RRHF program, www.rrhonorflight.com, to request interviews with veterans participating in flights organized by the Roughrider Honor Flight committee, or to obtain images: Sarah Mudder at (701) 391-7630 or rep_woman@yahoo.com