

For Immediate Release
June 11, 2009

2ND HONOR FLIGHT PLANNED, GRASSROOTS SUPPORT ENCOURAGED

BISMARCK, ND – The Roughrider Honor Flight planning committee, a volunteer group that transported almost 100 World War II veterans to Washington, DC, in early May 2009, plans to repeat the journey this fall.

“This morning, it is my privilege to announce that the second Roughrider Honor Flight is scheduled to depart from the Bismarck Airport on September 18,” said Joe Hauer, Roughrider Honor Flight planning committee co-chair. “Humble men and women that patiently waited almost 60 years to be recognized for their service will receive a complimentary trip to visit their monument.”

The Honor Flight program recognizes the courage and sacrifice of veterans by transporting them free of charge to Washington, DC, to visit the World War II memorial completed in 2004.

“Between the wonderful support we received, the sites we were able to visit and being able to travel with such outstanding individuals, it was an overwhelming experience,” said Emerson Murry, a veteran that participated in the inaugural Roughrider Honor Flight. “I hope all the North Dakota veterans that want to make the journey are able to have this same opportunity.”

More than 200 veterans from 83 central and western North Dakota communities are waiting to participate to travel on an upcoming Honor Flight. The cost of each trip is approximately \$175,000 including the charter airfare, hotel accommodations and meals.

“Our program relies on the contributions and creative fundraising ideas of individuals, community groups and service organizations. With so many deserving men and women hoping to have this same experience, grassroots support is needed,” said Kevin Cramer, co-chair of the Roughrider Honor Flight committee. “Donations of any size are appreciated and accepted from anyone except the veterans we serve.”

Donations to the Honor Flight program are tax deductible and can be sent to PO Box 220, Bismarck, ND 58502.

The WWII memorial honors 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.” In addition to visiting the WWII memorial, the veterans traveling with the Roughrider Honor Flight group see the Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean and Iwo Jima memorials, and tour Arlington National Cemetery where they will see the Kennedy family graves and observe the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Honor Flight initially was conceived in 2004 by Earl Morse, a physician assistant and retired Air Force captain, as a way to pay tribute to 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. The Roughrider Honor Flight committee serves veterans hailing from central and western North Dakota. Applications for future flights are available online at www.rrhonorflight.com or by calling (701) 373-5416.

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Media Notes: Interviews with veterans that participated in the previous flight or have applied to travel on an upcoming flight can be arranged by contacting: Sarah Mudder at (701) 391-7630 or rep_woman@yahoo.com
Stock images from the May 2009 flight are also available upon request. View images here,
www.lptimages.printroom.com