



Honor Flight DFW

2017 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 2017

- ★ To date HFDFW has traveled 1,608 veterans to DC.
- ★ In 2017, Honor Flight DFW safely traveled a total of 161 veterans: 43 WWII, 105 Korean, 13 Vietnam veterans, and 159 guardians and 70 support (medical/photographer/ trip leaders, young veterans) to Washington, D.C.
- ★ The average age of the WWII veterans traveling with HFDFW in 2017 was 94 years old with the oldest veteran traveling 98 years old (walked the entire trip). 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.
- ★ **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 an 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.
- Eight Guardian Training sessions (2 per flight) are held for all guardians traveling with HFDFW.
- A month before the flight the guardians receive weekly HFDFW communication.
- Four 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.
- The community and businesses continue to generously donate funds to the mission. Each donation is appreciated. Thank you Thank you Thank you.
- The Annual HFDFW Charity Golf Classic is HFDFW's largest fund raising event. The continued success of the golf classic is the result of a team of volunteers who spend months planning and organizing the event. The HFDFW Charity Golf Classic was a huge hit with golfers and sponsors.

Plans are underway to host the Sixth Annual Charity Golf Classic on October 8, 2018.

★ Honor Flight DFW Volunteers clocked-in 22,000 hours for 2017

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

~Elizabeth Andrew

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 **\$552,400** (Texas: \$25.11 per hour). Source: <https://www.independentsector.org/>

★ HFDFW in the News

- Television station KWTX travelled with HFDFW Flight #35. A series of 5 stories aired the week of Veterans Day, and a documentary about the flight aired on Thanksgiving and will air again on Christmas and New Years.

Documentary: <https://vimeo.com/244106331>

Part 1 – Honor Flight DFW <https://vimeo.com/241898611>

Part 2 – Honor Flight DFW <https://vimeo.com/241902857>

Part 3 – Honor Flight DFW <https://vimeo.com/241979395>

Part 4 – Honor Flight DFW <https://vimeo.com/242163492>

Part 5- Honor Flight DFW <https://vimeo.com/242323717>

- Heart Radio and Anna de Haro interviewed Tudy and Terry; the 30 minute interview aired on Veterans Day.
- KRLD interviewed Bill Croom before Flight #37
- Honor Flight special send-off was planned for 7 Hopkins County vets. <https://tinyurl.com/y8utkwgx>
- Honor flight send-off event salutes 7 area veterans <https://tinyurl.com/yacjg4bv>
- Honor Flight DFW: A Hopkins County veteran visits Washington, D.C., thanks in part to daughter's commitment. <https://tinyurl.com/y73exrwk>
- Nothing Petty About This Local Veteran <https://www.tribnow.com/news/nothing-petty-about-local-veteran>
- 'Heroes Flight Takes Local Veteran to Washington, D.C. <https://tinyurl.com/y9w6qrkf>
- US Navy 'Rushing' To Award 91-Year-Old WWII Vet Purple Heart Mr. Dawson HFDFW Flight #33 <http://dfw.cbslocal.com/2017/11/30/us-navy-vet-purple-heart/>
- Continuing a tradition of honoring veterans <https://tinyurl.com/y89dmzgh>
- Veterans Honor Flight: Local vets receive ground mission. <https://tinyurl.com/y84p4jdu>
- WFFA story about Mr. Hollingsworth Flight #10 <https://tinyurl.com/y8te7fr3>

- Dallas Morning News If it's Tuesday, it's a workday in Dallas for this 100-year-old Colleyville <https://tinyurl.com/y7fd8g75>
- Dallas Morning News and Fox News Mr. Rogers HFDFW #3. : WWII veteran celebrates 100th birthday by running 100 miles with his family <https://tinyurl.com/ycsdq8wg>

★ Letters of Appreciation

- The Honor Flight journey is truly a 'trip of a lifetime' providing a lifetime of memories for the veterans. Many of the veterans who have traveled with HFDFW remain friends of HFDFW long after their trip. The first letter, from Mr. T, is representative of the many letters we receive from HFDFW alumni.

Greetings Tudy, It has been my honor to be associated with Honor Flight and to be part of one of the trips.

The Honor really goes to those who have arranged the Flights and saw to the myriad of daily details it took to make each trip special to each of us who were honored to be included in one of the trips.

God bless you Tudy, and all your helpers. You have done more than many of us who were in one of the military services. The glow of your halos shines very brightly to all of us you chose to honor.

We are indebted to you, your helpers and all who played a part in making us smile, and remind us that we are stronger when we work together. God bless you and ALL your helpers. Joe T.

- This heartwarming note is sample of the letters that we receive from family or friends. They are so proud of the veteran's service, and when they heard/saw/read about HFDFW mission, they wanted to find out more so they could have their loved one experience an Honor Flight. This particular letter also

communicated a message about the HFDFW Mission “Your team does an amazing thing for our veterans. Please Don't Stop.

Hello Honor Flight DFW,

I am writing to you today as I sit with my father in the hospital here in Kaufman, TX. He is 92 and diagnosed with CHF.

My father is a WWII veteran from both the European Theater and Pacific Theater during his enrollment in the Army. He was a proud member of the 97th Infantry, 389th Field Artillery Battalion. He travelled with a field service team and towed a 155mm Howitzer behind a truck. He remembers one time a Howitzer exploded while their team was engaged in a fight.

I would love to accompany him on the trip for assistance. He is the most caring person and has been the best father a son could ask.

Your team does an amazing thing for our veterans. Please Don't Stop.

Thank you for being there for our forgotten saviors.

Thomas

★ 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.

- Four 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 2017, HFDFW received 25 Green Passes 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 2018

★ Four trips are planned for 2018, 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 on May 10, 2018.

★ Veterans continue to apply to travel; approximately 10-15 applications are received a month. Raising funds for HFDFW will be a focus in 2018 to ensure that the mission continues to serve the veterans.

In conclusion

It has been my honor to serve alongside the HFDFW BOARD in 2017. 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

12-16-17