

Gregg Gardiner "filling in for Gregg Foster" Air date 1/23/12
Topic Veterans Flight

Good Day, my name is Gregg Gardiner and I want to thank you for having me on your program today and for the opportunity to tell your listeners about a wonderful program called Honor Flight and our next flight will be on April 20th and we will take our World War II veterans back to Washington DC to give them the opportunity to see the World War II Memorial that was created and dedicated in their honor at no cost to them.

Tom Brokaw the well-known NBC anchor wrote a book called, "The Greatest Generation". He certainly had that right. Over 16 million Americans served in World War II with over 400,000 paying the ultimate sacrifice. Well over 1 million more were wounded in action. Never has so much been asked of any generation in the history of our great nation.

Sadly, when we were building memorials we built them backwards, starting with the Vietnam Memorial, then the Korean War Memorial and finally in 2004, the World War II Memorial was dedicated. Most of our World War II veterans have never had the opportunity to see what was erected in their honor.

Here's how the program works, the veteran submits a simple application to us and we take it from there.

Today, the youngest World War II veteran is 85 years of age and sadly, approximately 1000 leave us each day. Time is not on our side. It's important that we do this as quickly as possible.

Many of our veterans have some infirmities because of their age. Consequently, we have guardians that go with them on the trip back to Washington DC. The guardians pay their own way and accompany the veterans throughout the trip. For every three able-bodied veterans we pair them up with one guardian. However, if some of the special veterans need more assistance, we pair them up with a single guardian.

This will be our third flight and we need your help... So if you are like me and you would like to be a part of this wonderful program you can do it in a number of ways. You can contribute financially as it takes approximately \$1200 to transport each veteran, or you could offer to serve as a guardian.

Finally we need to reach out and make sure we have found these heroes, If you know a World War II veteran please take the time and contact our office at 443-4880 or visit our website at www.northcoasthonorflight.com for an application.

Together as a community we can honor our World War II veterans by taking them back to Washington DC.

Our national chairman has a saying that he puts on the bottom of all of his e-mails, "If you can read this thank a teacher, if you can read this in English thank a WWII veteran."

Please help us honor them.