



Annual Report 2009

**Honor Flight South Dakota
PO Box 947
Sioux Falls SD 57104
1-888-344-1945
www.honorflightsd.org**

Honor Flight South Dakota 2009

The National WWII Memorial was completed and dedicated in 2004, at a time when most surviving veterans from the era were over 80 years old and were not likely to have the means or support to travel to see the memorial on their own. Shortly after the dedication, the concept of Honor Flight was established by an individual in Columbus Ohio. The idea transformed into the Honor Flight Network (HFN), a group of volunteers dedicated to giving a free trip to every WWII veterans who wants to see the National WWII Memorial. Now, HFN advises and supports this mission through the work of local community groups know as Honor Flight “Hubs”.



“Honor Flight South Dakota is organized to provide qualified WWII veterans a free trip to Washington DC to visit the recently completed WWII memorial”

South Dakota became the 30th state to launch an Honor Flight hub with the non-profit incorporation of “Honor Flight South Dakota” (HFSD) in October, 2008. HFSD was recognized by the Honor Flight Network in November, 2008.

“Be advised that Honor Flight South Dakota is an official member of the Honor Flight Network. HFSD Board Members represent the local interests of the Honor Flight Network and are entitled to speak on behalf of our national efforts, collect donated funds and other materials, arrange travel for local area veterans to visit their memorials in Washington D.C. and all other activities associated with Honor Flight Network operations.”



Charter sponsors Sanford Health, First Premier Bank, and Kelo-Land Television, joined in to endorse and help launch the project. Honor Flight South Dakota set a goal of 4 flights during 2009 and veteran applications began to pour in...more than 1,000 veterans have applied to date. And with the generous financial support of South Dakotans, 120 WWII Veterans were aboard for the first Honor Flight South Dakota May 1st and 2nd, 2009.



“The Honor Flight was truly an honor – the trip of a lifetime! Heartfelt thanks to all who made it possible. It was an incredible experience. God bless you and our country.”

Jim – US Navy

Under the guidance of Mark Mills of Wild Turkey Enterprises in Custer, Estes Law Firm and DeSmet-Biggs CPA of Rapid City, Honor Flight South Dakota applied for and was granted IRS 501 c 3 Tax exemption status. And HFSD Flight #2 prepared for departure from Rapid City in late August.

“Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for being part of the second Honor Flight. Donors who gave so generously and volunteers who gave so graciously of their time and efforts will always be remembered. It was an HONOR to be appreciated by so many younger people for something we considered only as our duty. We did not think in any way we were heroes. But, we were given a heroes’ welcome.” Harry and Margaret – Rapid City SD



The support of individuals, organizations, and other donations increased through late summer making Flight #3 from Aberdeen and Flight #4 from Sioux Falls possible in October and November, 2009 respectively.

“In my 86 years, I can’t remember an event that touched me more emotionally. All I can say is thank you, thank you.” Joe - Columbia, SD



By the end of 2009, more than 450 WWII veterans from South Dakota had made the two-day journey of a life time to Washington DC...including visits to the WWII memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Navy, Marine, and Air Force service memorials, and other sites honoring service men and women.

Thanks to generous financial support from all parts of South Dakota, Honor Flight is absolutely FREE to WWII Veterans. Guardians, who will provide medical and other support, travel along on the flight at their own expense.

“My heart swelled with pride as I viewed the monuments. I couldn’t help but think of some of my old shipmates and buddies and it brought some tears. They were good tears. I owe my gratitude. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!” Robert – Huron SD



Even meeting 2009 goals, more than 500 WWII Veterans are on the waiting list.

HFSD’s goal for 2010 is five flights to give the 500+ WWII veteran applicants who saved the world for democracy, the chance to see how the nation will remember their service and sacrifice.

The Financial Goal for 2010 is \$500,000. Honor Flight South Dakota will: continue to take donations through secure web transaction at www.honorflightsd.org; ask individuals to contribute with a personal gift; seek major gift donations from individuals, foundations, and leading corporations; ask for support from groups and organizations through local fundraising events; and will launch a point-of-purchase campaign in association with retailers across South Dakota.



Honor Flight South Dakota 2009

In 2009, HFSD received over 1,000 applications from WWII era Veterans asking to participate in the program. The Donations and Expenses below represent the 2009 Operational year. During 2009, 454 WWII era Veterans participated in 4 SD Honor Flights. This represents accommodating about 45% of the Veterans that have applied to the Honor Flight South Dakota as of the date of this report.

Donations		Expenses	
Business / Corporate	\$111,615	Meals	\$58,332
Individuals	\$106,632	Hotel	\$41,139
Veteran Organizations	\$143,890	Ground Transportation	\$27,936
State Employees	\$59,396	Air Transportation	\$282,923
Guardians	\$80,375	Other Flight Expenses	\$34,344
Schools	\$11,807	Total	\$444,674
Memorials	\$8,982		
Total	\$522,697		

Honor Flight South Dakota
Board of Directors

Larry Rohrer – Chairman
 Rick Tupper – Vice Chairman
 Terry Towns – Treasurer
 Sherry Woltjer – Secretary
 Linda Anderson
 Pat Asmussen
 Roger Bjork
 Richard Crawford
 Dennis Daugaard
 Darrel Erlandson

Cynthia Ferril
 Sandra Frentz
 Donna Harris
 Ted DeLoy
 Dave Jungemann
 Rorie Knock
 David Landry
 Ken Salisbury
 Erica Skjefte
 Garry Watts
 Emeritus – Morris Magnuson

The WWII Heroes of Honor Flight...

What do you say to a group of people, that when faced with a challenge worked selflessly and literally saved the world for democracy? And when they returned home from military service, quietly went about serving their communities and building the greatest nation on earth. And what do you say to a group of people who are humbled by any recognition of their sacrifice and service? You say THANK YOU...and you carry their torch forward.

Honor Flight South Dakota...

Honor Flight South Dakota is a non-profit corporation that has been granted IRS 501©3 Tax Exempt status. The mission of Honor Flight South Dakota is to ask the community to say THANK YOU by making it possible for as many area WWII veterans to visit the recently completed National WWII memorial. An all-volunteer Board of Directors manages the project...raising funds, coordinating veteran and guardian applications, and conducting the Honor Flight trip to Washington DC.

Honor Flight Logistics...

Each flight is aboard a charter 737 with 162 seats...accommodating about 110 veterans with the remaining passengers comprised of volunteer guardian and medical support staff. The trip leaves from South Dakota early Friday. Stops include visits to the WWII memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Navy, Marine, and Air Force service memorials, and other sites honoring service men and women before returning Saturday evening. All travel, meals, and accommodations are free to the Veteran while guardians travel at their own expense, \$750 per volunteer. The total cost of each Honor Flight is about \$120,000.

Honor Flight and You...

Honor Flight is ONLY made possible by the generosity of individuals, groups and organizations, foundations, and leading corporations across the region. Donations make it possible for Veterans to receive an Honor Flight completely cost FREE. To make a donation or to have your group, organization, foundation, or business on board...contact:

Honor Flight South Dakota
PO Box 947
Sioux Falls SD 57104
1-888-344-1945
www.honorflightsd.org