



You can help make the Honor Flight journey even more memorable for our Veterans!

There were no sweeter words to our homesick Veterans protecting the United States and its allies during World War II than “MAIL CALL” and we need your help to say, “thank you” to our Veterans in this very unique way!

The World War II Memorial in Washington DC was completed in May 2004, almost 60 years after the end of the war and honors 16 million Americans who served in the United States armed forces, the 400,000 who died in that effort, and all those who supported the war from home.

Retired Air Force Captain Earl Morse founded Honor Flight in 2005 when he realized that most of the WWII Veterans would never see the memorial on their own due to financial, logistical, or health limitations.

Earl launched his initial Honor Flight in May 2005, taking 12 Veterans to D.C. with the help of six volunteer pilots and planes. Jeff Miller expanded the Honor Flight program and the non-profit now has 138 active hubs across the nation, including Honor Flight San Diego (HFSD) founded in 2010 to serve our regional Veterans.

While every Honor Flight is filled with cherished moments, one of the highlights is “MAIL CALL”. Veteran memories of Mail Call are vivid, two words that were most welcome during extended absences from loved ones and home. Veterans tucked precious letters into uniform pockets, close to their heart, so they could read and reread them at every opportunity.

This is where you can help us! HFSD volunteers coordinate a surprise “Mail Call” during the Honor Flight to D.C., an unexpected distribution of cards and letters secretly collected from friends, family and you! Letters and cards written by scouts and students mean so much to our Veterans who see firsthand that our younger generation knows and appreciates their stories and sacrifices.

Your letters can be collected by HFSD Volunteers between now and one week prior to the next flight departure date scheduled for Friday, May 4, 2018. Letters can also be sent directly to Donna Hester at the address below. This flight may include some Korean veterans so please address letters to "Dear Veteran".

Please include the name of your troop, class, or school on the back of the letter as many of our Veterans wish to thank you!

Donna Hester

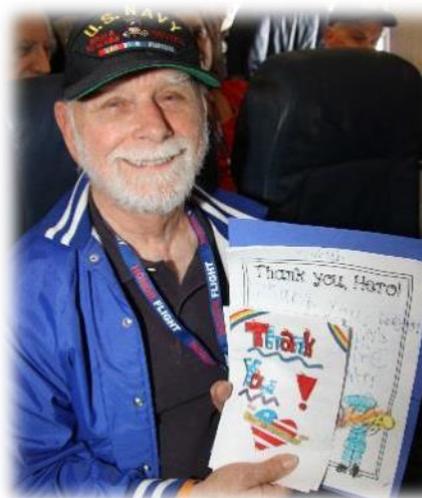
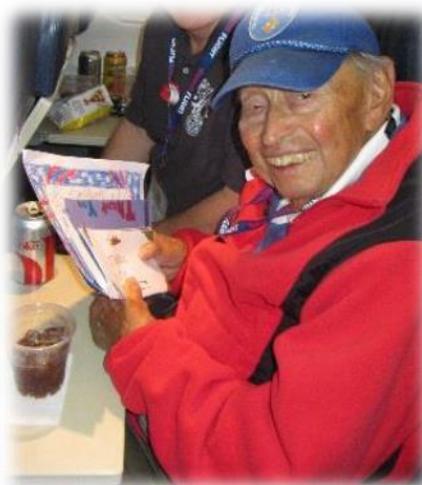
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Thank you for helping Honor Flight San Diego recognize and serve our Veterans!

www.honorflightsandiego.org



Honor Flight San Diego appreciates your support! Mail call is one of the most favorite parts of the weekend for the veterans during their Tour of Honor to DC. The veterans just cherish all the letters and continue to read them over and over again.

We need the letters by Monday, April 30th. They can either be sent to Donna Hester at 645 Front Street, #614, San Diego, CA 92101 or she can arrange to meet you the week prior to pick up the letters from you.

There will be 80 veterans on the Honor flight – mostly WWII vets but they also will have some Korean veterans. It is always best to address the letters “Dear Veteran”. Letters writers should include their name and return address because many of the veterans love to respond to the letters!

Also, please join Honor Flight San Diego’s homecoming celebration at the San Diego Airport to greet the veterans at their return flight on **Sunday, May 6th**. The American Airlines chartered flight is scheduled to return at 2:45 pm, but it is best to be at the airport at least an hour earlier (due to construction at the airport parking lot & sometimes they arrive a little earlier due to the tail wind). They usually have a huge crowd to meet the veterans – uniformed service members are lined up to salute the veterans, families hold welcome home signs to welcome their veteran and most folks are dressed in patriotic gear to welcome & thank the veterans. It is a fun & a very moving event where they usually have over 1,000 people in attendance.

If you plan on contributing some letters – it would be helpful if you could contact Donna at: donna@thehesters.com. This is such a wonderful opportunity for our youth & community to connect with the WWII & Korean veterans. Contact Donna anytime if you have any questions.