



# HONOR FLIGHT SOUTHERN IN

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

[www.honorflightsi.org](http://www.honorflightsi.org)

## THE FLIGHT ALL VETERANS DESERVE

**MISSION:** Honor Flight of Southern Indiana is the 133rd Honor Flight National Network hub and serves the Indiana counties of Crawford, Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Lawrence, Martin, Orange, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick. We transport local heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. This is made possible with the help of generous donors and volunteers. We are a 501c3 corporation. We select our oldest Veterans first, along with those Veterans who may be medical priority. Any Veteran who has served this great country is eligible for their Honor Flight. A Veteran DOES NOT have to serve during conflict or overseas to qualify for his or her Honor Flight.

### News from HFSI President, Jerry Blake

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Hello everyone,

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone for the GREAT work put forth to making EVV16 a very successful and memorable Honor Flight! We are 95 days until EVV17 flight day. This flight will mark 10 years of service for our HFSI hub. Since EVV1 we have flown 1221 Veterans to Washington DC on their FREE Honor Flight. We all should be proud of that milestone and keep up the great work for the Veterans still waiting for their Honor Flight in our database. As always, if you have any questions reach out to me and I will gladly talk to you.

Yours in the faith,  
Jerry Blake

### Wheels UP for EVV17 on October 5, 2024

EVV17 is a special flight for our hub... We will celebrate 10 years of service! Our 1st flight was October 25, 2014, and since then we have provided 1221 Veterans their Free Honor Flight, because of great community support! Honor Flight Southern Indiana is the 133rd Natl. Honor Flight Network hub. Natl. Honor Flight Network was established in 2005 and has 129 active hubs in 45 states. EVV17 will have (86) very deserving Veterans and their guardians. The selection process will begin August 1st. Veterans if you have NOT signed up for your Honor Flight, especially those 75+ the time is NOW or before July 30th for EVV17. If you know a Veteran who hasn't taken his or her Honor Flight, please encourage them to sign up NOW! You can sign up through our website application at [www.honorflightsi.org](http://www.honorflightsi.org) then click APPLY NOW. If you prefer to speak with someone about signing up, call our answering phone service at 812-297-4136 and leave your name & phone number. Someone will call you back in a timely manner. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED YOUR APPLICATION, PLEASE DO NOT SIGN UP AGAIN. We will have special 10 years of service merchandise available at EVV17 pre-flight events.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- AUG. 3: Phone Blitz
- AUG 13: EVV17 1st Planning Mtg.
- AUG. 17: EVV17 Interview Day
- AUG. 27: EVV17 Planning Mtg/Board
- SEPT. 5-20: EVV17 MAIL CALL DROP
- SEPT. 9-13: EVV17 WISH LIST ITEMS
- SEPT. 10: EVV17 Planning Mtg/Board
- SEPT. 12: EVV17 Guardians Session
- SEPT. 14: EVV17 Guardians Session
- SEPT. 14: Vol. Wheelchair Training
- SEPT. 24: EVV17 Planning Mtg/Board
- OCT. 1: MAIL CALL SORTING
- OCT. 3: MEET & GREET DINNER
- OCT. 5: EVV17 FLIGHT DAY



ADDITIONAL DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE CALENDAR.

[www.honorflightsi.org](http://www.honorflightsi.org)





## EVV16 Recap ~ Welcome to the family Veterans & Guardians

A beautiful spring day greeted EVV16 in Washington DC. It was a windy spring day, but thankfully NO rain dampened our great adventure! A total of (86) Veterans & (86) guardians along with HFSI staff made the trip with no major medical accidents. From what we've heard so far, everybody seemed to have a fabulous Honor Flight experience. In fact, many have said it was better than they anticipated! The day started bright and early with our 1st Veteran/Guardian arriving around 3:45AM at EVV Regional Airport. They obviously were too excited to sleep. The flight crew who brought the plane to EVV did a spectacular job in giving the Veterans a very patriotic decorated plane. Once we made the 1hr. 20 min. flight to DCA the Veterans received an unexpected welcoming! Then we loaded the buses and were off to our first stop, WWII Memorial & the group photo. We had (1) WWII Veteran on this flight, Mr. Walter Putnam age 97. The day continued next to the Korea/Lincoln/Vietnam memorials for our longest stop. We then headed to Arlington Cemetary for the changing of the guard at The Tomb of the Unknown. At this stop, our only female Veteran on EVV16, Ms. Alice Wiesling received a recognition certificate of service from the Womens Military Unit. After Arlington we headed to the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, also known as Iwo Jima Memorial. From here we headed to the Air Force Memorial where we saw the Pentagon. While at the Air Force Memorial, a high school band from the Atlanta area performed patriotic music for our group. Indy Honor Flight joined us at this memorial. After the Air Force memorial stop, we headed back to DCA Airport to start our flight back home to EVV Regional Airport. During the flight home some tried to catch a nap, but the HFSI staff passed out Operation Mail Call! We want to express sincere gratitude to everybody who participated in Operation Mail Call. Once landing safely it was time to shower the Veterans & Guardians with gratitude & THANKS during the HEROES WELCOME HOME PARADE! An experience that the majority of the EVV16 Veterans had never received. It was a long day, but we hope that each Veteran left that night knowing their service to this great country is recognized and appreciated!! It is truly an Honor & Privilege to provide them with their FREE Honor Flight. This is made possible by OVERWHELMING community support, DEDICATED volunteers and the FAITHFUL individuals who oversee the Honor Flight Southern IN hub. Recently we gathered once more with the EVV16 Veterans, guardians and guests for their breakfast reunion. This event is a time to reflect on their experience. Veterans received their full color photo memory keepsake book, enjoyed new friendships created, and swap more stories. Thank you to Atlas for sponsoring the keepsake photo books! A very unexpected/shocking highlight was the phenomenal generosity given by Veterans & guardians... a 1st for HFSI breakfast reunions... A donation frenzy for Donut Bank donuts, Homemade Cinnamon Rolls, a silk floral arrangement, and maybe a person was started! The energy level was high and at the end, \$2300 from this frenzy was donated!! Totally unbelievable and very unexpected!! FYI, the silk floral arrangement was bid on again after the event and has a new owner! 😊 WE ARE SO GRATEFUL for everyone who was involved with EVV16. Whether you volunteer, made monetary contributions, give In Kind items, send in wish list items, write mail call, a food/drink sponsor, a parade escort, and everyone in between... Your actions have given another 86 very deserving veterans a LIFETIME memory! A couple statements from those on EVV16.

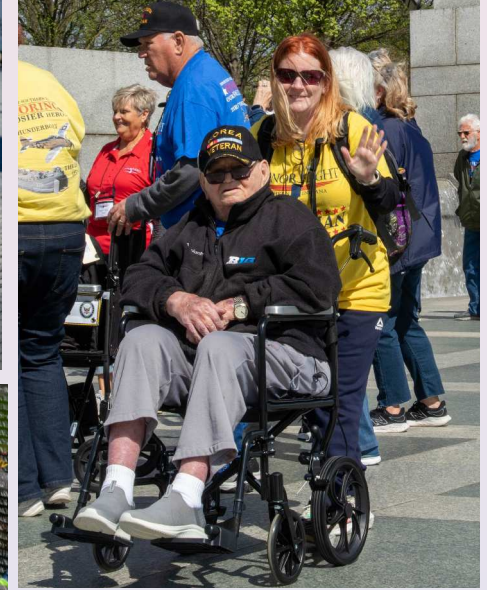
*"The Honor Flight program is a wonderful thing, but it's the volunteers that make it super extra special! The whole experience is a once in a lifetime opportunity to relive memories, pay homage to past comrades and meet new friends. I am so glad I went."* **Veteran Eugene Tenbarge, Evansville IN**

*"The Honor Flight helped to give my dad closure to his service time, and I am forever grateful for everything that everyone does for our Veterans."* **Guardian Kelli Schmitt, Jasper IN**

*"Honored to be a part of the Honor Flight. It was an event I'll never forget. I received closure for the reason I served my country. Thank you Honor Flight, for everything. God Bless You!"* **Veteran Freddie Brown, Evansville IN**

*"This is something all Veterans should do. It is a well-run event by great volunteers. They give their all because Veterans gave their all. God bless every one of HFSI, the volunteers, donors, and supporters."* **Veteran Mark Mason, Princeton IN**

# EVV16 ☆ Flight Memories



Are you following our Facebook Page?  
Honor Flight Southern IN



for the Veteran

**THANK YOU**  
for bravely doing  
**WHAT YOU'RE CALLED TO DO**  
so we can safely do  
**WHAT WE'RE FREE TO DO**



EVV17 Mail Call, Wish List and Welcome Home Flyers will be posted in late July on our Facebook, Instagram and Website. A NEW twist coming for our Wish List... Amazon!



**WE**  **OUR**  
**volunteers**



**EVV17 Food & Drink Sponsors**

- Donut Bank
- Southern Business Machines, Inc.
- Trilogy
- PC Quest & Quest 4 Electronics
- Chas. Denby VFW Post 2953
- Amer. Legion Kapperman Post 44 Aux.
- Golden Corral - Evansville
- Schnucks
- The Barrel House
- Jasper Engines
- Alice Sloat Family
- Bassemiers Fireplace & Patio
- Park Terrace
- Candy Moser
- Fred & Rita Smith
- Bauer's Tents & The Bauhaus
- Elite Roll Off Services
- Green Thumb Landscaping & Garden Center
- Navy Veteran William Hurley
- Hartweck Construction & Design, Inc.

**We are grateful for these supporters of the HFSI mission & Veterans! Please share a THANK YOU to these EVV17 sponsors!!**



WWII & Korean War Veterans, please sign up before July 30th for the EVV17 October 5th Honor Flight.  
<https://honorflightsi.org/veteran-application/>  
If you have already signed up, please don't sign up again.

**Join the team, become a Volunteer!** 

The backbone of our great organization is our volunteers, and we are blessed with lots of them. We are always accepting NEW volunteer applications. Individuals who want to have fun and serve our Veterans should sign up. As a volunteer you determine how much or how little you want to be involved. When we need volunteers a sign-up genius email is sent out. To join the team, go to <https://honorflightsi.org/volunteer-application/> and complete the application. It's best to use a personal email and not your employment email. If you have any questions contact our Volunteer Director, Kris Lainhart at [volunteershfsi@gmail.com](mailto:volunteershfsi@gmail.com). Each month the Volunteer of the month is selected from the HFSI board. Congratulations to these selected volunteers!



MAY; all HFSI volunteers, we are Blessed with many GREAT volunteers



MARCH; EVV6 Veteran Jim Geiser



APRIL; Donation Queen Diana O'Keefe



JUNE; Mr. Go To! Scott Zoll

