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AMERICAN AIRPOWER MUSEUM HOSTS HONOR FLIGHT LONG ISLAND REUNION OF VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS

Farmingdale, NY, November 18, 2024 – American Airpower Museum is proud to host the Honor Flight Long Island Reunion on **December 14th**, reuniting 46 Veterans who took a free Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. on October 5, 2024. These Long Island heroes visited their military memorials, commiserated with fellow Veterans and exchanged stories. Honor Flight’s mission is to honor fellow Long Islanders who served in the Armed Forces of the United States, by providing all-expense paid one-day trips to D.C. for our Veterans.

Thanks to HFLI, these 46 Veterans took a free, early-morning Southwest flight from MacArthur Airport to Washington, D.C. Veterans, their Guardians and Honor Flight officials visited World War II, Korean War and Vietnam Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery for a “Changing of the Guard,” the Air Force Memorial and Iwo Jima Memorial. They returned to MacArthur later that evening for a rousing welcome home by the Saffron United Pipe Band, plus thunderous applause from hundreds of family, friends and supporters!

According to Bill Jones, HFLI President, West Point 1972 Graduate and U.S. Army Veteran, *“This special flight included 43 Vietnam War Veterans who received long overdue recognition and thanks for their service,”* Jones said. *“They were accompanied by elder comrades, three Korean War Veterans. What this flight really represented was a ‘Big Hug’ to all our Veterans from Honor Flight, their families and supporters, who make such flights possible,”* Jones added. **Editors:** See **Excel** file *“Oct 5 Vets for Rob”* for background on the Veterans and/or contact Bill Jones for additional comments at (631) 276-8825 or ddbeach5@gmail.com.

On December 14th the reunion runs from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at AAM’s Hangar 3, 1230 New Highway, Farmingdale, NY. Admission for the Veterans, their Guardians and families, is free. The public can attend **FREE OF CHARGE** if they arrive between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. For more details call (631) 293-6398, Wednesday through Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or go to www.americanairpowermuseum.org.

Come and cheer these Veterans during the “Ceremony of Honors,” as they receive personalized Tribute Journals full of photos taken during their D.C. trip. This great patriotic event includes speeches by HFLI President Bill Jones and AAM President and Founder Jeff Clyman. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla Band will play a popular patriotic medley known as the “Armed Forces Salute,” featuring the six official musical themes of the U.S. Armed Forces: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard. Free refreshments for all provided by HFLI.

HFLI is accepting applications from Veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Long Island Veterans are encouraged to sign up by going to the HFLI website, www.honorflightlongisland.org. It's important to submit an application, as that will guarantee placement on the list. Veterans fly for free, thanks to donations from across Long Island. They are accompanied by Guardians, able-bodied volunteers who donate \$400 (tax deductible) to offset their travel costs. If there is no family member or friend to act as Guardian, HFLI has volunteers ready to step up for the privilege of escorting our heroes to their memorials. Questions? Call Jamie Bowden at (631) 702-2423 or JBowden@southamptontownny.gov.

Caption- DC-Cohort: Korean, Vietnam War Veterans, Honor Flight Guardians and Officials, at Washington, D.C. WWII Memorial, October 5, 2024. (Photo by Mark Chamberlain for Honor Flight Long Island.)

About Honor Flight Network

The Honor Flight Network was formed in 2005 with a mission of honoring our nation's WWII Veterans by flying them to visit the Washington, D.C. WWII Memorial dedicated in 2004. The Honor Flight Network is currently comprised of over 130 hubs throughout the country dedicated to carrying out the Honor Flight mission. In addition to WWII Veterans, the organization now transports those who served in the Korean War, Vietnam War, later conflicts and in special cases of terminal illness or injury, Veterans from more recent service eras. Since 2005, the Honor Flight Network has taken more than 250,000 Veterans to Washington, D.C. Since 2007, Honor Flight Long Island has flown over 1,900 Veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit their military memorials. For more information, visit honorflight.org.

The American Airpower Museum is an aviation museum located on the landmarked former site of Republic Aviation at Republic Airport, Farmingdale, NY. The Museum maintains a collection of aviation artifacts and an array of operational aircraft spanning the many years of the aircraft factory's history. The Museum is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Educational Foundation Chartered by the New York State Board of Regents.

**American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport is Long Island's only flying military aviation museum,
"Where History Flies"**

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