



Stars and Stripes Honor Flight Teams Up with Packers, Brewers and Bucks to Honor Veterans with 2024 Flight of Champions

Community members are encouraged to turn out to welcome back these veteran heroes!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(MILWAUKEE, WI / GREEN BAY, WI) - The [Green Bay Packers](#), [Milwaukee Brewers](#) and [Milwaukee Bucks](#) are once again teaming up to sponsor three planeloads of local veterans on [Stars and Stripes Honor Flight's](#) 77th mission, the "Flight of Champions" scheduled for **Saturday, October 5, 2024**.

The three flights will honor a total of 180 Korean War and Vietnam/Era veterans from northeast, southeastern and east central Wisconsin with a one day, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built in their honor and to experience a full day of gratitude and thanks for their service to our nation.

"We are honored to continue to be a part of this historic mission with the other pro sports teams from Wisconsin," stated Green Bay Packers President and CEO Mark Murphy. "While we play different sports, we all have great respect for those who have served, and are serving, in our military. We couldn't be more excited to be asked to play a small role in ensuring these veterans, who are American heroes, have a great day in D.C."

Early in the morning of October 5, at approximately 7:15 a.m., veterans and guardians will depart from [Green Bay's Austin-Straubel International Airport](#). Simultaneously, two planeloads of veterans and guardians will depart from [Milwaukee's Mitchell International Airport](#).

When the three planes arrive at Washington Dulles International Airport on flight day, the veterans will spend the day touring Washington D.C. The tour will include the WWII Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Marine Corps/Iwo Jima Memorial and the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

The flights will return home later that day, with the Green Bay Flight of Champions landing at Austin Straubel International Airport at approximately 9:15 p.m.

"We are thankful the Packers, Brewers and Bucks are once again backing this incredible day," said Karyn Roelke, President of Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. "And we're also thrilled to welcome our veterans and guardians to this once-in-a-lifetime journey. It is an honor and a privilege to finally thank this large group of local veterans who sacrificed so much.

"So many of our Korean War and Vietnam-era veterans came home to disinterest, or to a hostile reception," Roelke said. "What an honor it will be to finally welcome them home properly and hopefully replace some of those difficult memories with positive ones."

Brown County Veterans Service Office Director Joe Aulik agreed. “This honor and validation from the community, Packers, Brewers and Bucks will encourage even more veterans to sign up for these flights and encourage them to seek out their VA benefits from their local [County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices.](#)”

When the Flight of Champions is complete, Stars and Stripes Honor Flight will have flown a total of 10,422 veterans on a one-day, free trip of honor to Washington D.C. (since 2008). As an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff and no offices, the organization is proud to share that more than \$.97 of every donated dollar goes directly to flying and honoring veterans.

Major sponsors of this year’s GRB flight include:

- Green Bay Packers Give Back
- The Schneider Foundation
- WPS Foundation

Additional sponsors and in-kind donors include:

- Brown County / Brown County Veterans Service Office Denmark School Band
- Buckley Enterprises/Subway
- Denmark VFW Post 6705
- Discover Green Bay
- Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport
- Green Bay Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 47-02
- Green Bay Naval and Marine Reserve Center
- Green Bay VFW Post 9677
- Jessmyn Kyra – National Anthem Vocalist
- JetAir
- Knights of Columbus Honor Guard
- Lamar Out of Home Advertising
- Leonard & Finco / Kane Communications Group
- Marine Corps League
- Oneida Casino Hotel
- Oneida Nation VFW Post 7784
- Oneida Nation Veterans Service Office
- Patriot Guard Riders
- Tailwind Hospitality, Inc.

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[Honor Flight](#) is a national program with more than 130 hubs from coast to coast. The WWII Memorial did not open until 2004 and many veterans are unable to visit Washington without assistance. Nationally, hubs in the Honor Flight network have honored over 250,000 veterans with free trips to see their memorials.

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