

6/19/2008 Moran Introduces Legislation to Commend Honor Flight for Service to World War II Veterans

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Recognizes Organization for Helping World War II Veterans Visit Memorial in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran this week introduced legislation to recognize Honor Flight for enabling World War II veterans to travel to Washington, D.C., to see the World War II Memorial built in their honor. The resolution also recognizes former Senator Bob Dole, a wounded veteran of World War II, for leading the fundraising campaign to build the Memorial and for his efforts to promote and support Honor Flight.

"Many World War II veterans are now in their 80s and 90s and unable physically or financially to visit our nation's capital to see the World War II Memorial for themselves," Moran said. "An estimated 2.5 million World War II veterans are alive today out of the 16 million that served. Each day we lose hundreds more from this generation of heroes. The Honor Flight Network is working against time to thank America's World War II veterans. I have had the honor of greeting veterans at the World War II Memorial. It is a very moving experience as veterans recount tales of their time in the service. You see the excitement in their eyes and many are moved to tears. It is a special day for a very special generation."

The Honor Flight Network is a grassroots, nonprofit organization that uses commercial and chartered flights to send veterans on an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. It is currently operating in communities in 31 states. Earl Morse of Ohio and Jeff Miller of North Carolina created the Honor Flight Network. Honor Flights are staffed by volunteers and funded by donations.

"The average travel cost per veteran is \$500," Senator Dole said. "I urge my fellow Kansans and Americans to honor the remaining World War II veterans by making a contribution at <http://www.honorflight.org/>. Thirty-one states are now participating, but all funding comes from private sources."

Moran's legislation expresses the House of Representatives' deepest appreciation to the Honor Flight Network, its volunteers and donors who honor America's World War II veterans with an opportunity to see the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Moran is a senior member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

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