

Badger Honor Flight

<https://www.badgerhonorflight.org/>
(608) 616-0243
Secretary@badgerhonorflight.org



Greetings Badger Honor Flight Family of volunteers, many thanks for your time and talents. The Board of Directors wants you to know how much you are appreciated. We are a tight knit group with a common mission – Serving Those Who Served For US.

One of the things Badger Honor Flight prides itself in is the Badger Honor Flight Memorial team and we need your help.

Once a Veteran is put on the waitlist or Fly's with Badger Honor Flight on the trip of a lifetime, they are considered part of the BHF Family. As a final gesture of respect, a volunteer from Badger Honor Flight attends the funeral visitation of the fallen Veteran and presents the family with a fallen hero coin.

People need to be aware that the coin presentation is available so that Veterans can get the final recognition they deserve. We ask that you send an email to secretary@badgerhonorflight.org if you become aware of a BHF Veteran funeral or memorial service with as many details as you can give us.

The BHF funeral memorial team attended more than (29) ceremonies last year, including sending coins to families when we were not able to attend in person due to covid.

The BHF Funeral memorial team currently is always looking for new members to volunteer their time. Volunteers commit to attending services in their community and offer to attend visitations and memorials as requested as their schedule permits. We are always looking to expand the BHF Memorial team – send me an email if you would like to be added to the team list.

Ultimately, the presentation of a coin is a service of respect and professionalism to the community that Badger Honor Flight believes is essential in honoring all BHF Veterans and their sacrifices.

Upcoming Meetings

Volunteer Meeting Dates

BHF Meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday evening of each month.

May 4 – VFW 7591–301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison at 7:00pm

June 1 – VFW 7591–301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison at 7:00pm

July 6 – VFW 7591–301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison at 7:00pm

August 3 – VFW 7591–301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison at 7:00pm

September 7 – TBD

October 5 – VFW 7591–301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison at 7:00pm

November 2 – VFW 7591–301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison at 7:00pm

December 7 – VFW 7591–301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison at 7:00pm

Please share our newsletter with your friends that are interested in volunteering and have them email us their email address so that we can add them to our Badger Honor Flight family newsletter.

You are helping wonderful things happen for our Veterans –
THANK YOU.

If you wish to be added to our newsletter list, please follow this link <http://eepurl.com/hZAU6b>



Important News

Badger Honor Flight Information and Photo Gallery

<https://www.badgerhonorflight.org/flight-info-pics-new/>

We Remember the Fallen

Frederick J. Sage Korea Army 2014 May 3 (Mission 14)

Richard Willis Hart Korea Air Force 2015 Oct 10 (Mission 21)

Eugene Schmidt Korea Army 2017 Sept 16 (Mission 28)



Upcoming Events

Heroes for Honor Hanging Baskets

Thursday, Friday & Saturday
May 5th, 6th & 7th at
Wytttenbach Greenhouse on
River Road in Sauk Prairie
Contact: Stan Theis
theisstanleytheis@gmail.com

Miller & Sons Brat Stand

May 21, 2022, 8am to noon
210 S Main St Verona WI
Contact: Dewy Gillette
fundraising@badgerhonorflight.org

Monroe Moose Lodge Breakfast and raffle

June 5, 2022, 8am to noon
639 3rd Ave Monroe WI
Contact: Bea Patterson
lbcountry@tds.net

BHF ATV Run at Rustic Saloon

June 25th, 2022, 9am
330 County Rd B Montello WI
Contact Tammi Alexander
tammibhf@outlook.com

Rock the Ramp

July 22, 2022
Capital Flight 8264 Airport Rd
Middleton WI

<https://visitmiddleton.com/events/rock->

Volunteer Meeting April 6, 2022

1. **Chairperson:** Welcome - We will now be having open board meetings starting at 5:30pm. We will go into a closed session at the start of the meeting. The next meeting will be at the VWF 7591 301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison. We will be posting the inventory position shortly. We were glad to see lots and lots of new volunteers.
2. **Fundraising:** Check presentation \$2000 Audrey Schmelling (Veteran and spouse Tom flew October 2019). List of events – we are looking for people on sign up genius for the Bar Stool Open. See Dewy if you want to volunteer. Ben Wanta from the 12th Golf Outing June 13 at Bergamont and Terry Phillips from 8th Clay Shoot October 10 with a goal of 200 shooters.
3. **Treasurer:** March 2022 Checkbook balance \$71,7611.43 (American Airlines \$137,500 and Max Creek Outdoors \$8000 for Clay Shoot ammo) New donate button on the website and you can donate to a specific event.
4. **Medical Support:** Guardian Training was successful due to the help of many volunteers. Madison Emergency Physicians will be providing a licensed paramedic on all flights under the supervision of a physician.
5. **Secretary:** We will be sending out a volunteer newsletter. We ask our volunteers to let us know if one of our Veterans has passed so that we can give them a final honor.
6. **Administration:** Waitlist 1605, 1 WW2, 39 Korea, 1499 Vietnam & 66 other conflicts. Women on list 1 WW2 2 Korean, Vietnam 94 other 28. 3453 Vets flown. Thank you to all the volunteers that made calls, entered data, and entered forms into our computer system.
7. **Inventory:** We will need volunteers to help fold, sort, and stuff into bags in the summer. We will let you know. If you are using the registered logo you need to go through Eileen. Any orders require a purchase order again through Eileen.
8. **Flight Operations:** It is 901 days since our last flight on Nov 2, 2019. April 21 is sponsored by the Golf Outing, May 14 Alice Ladwig – All Women's Flight



Contact the Board

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Treasurer: [Vern Wendt](mailto:treasurer@badgerhonorflight.org)
treasurer@badgerhonorflight.org

Flight Operations: [Jody McClain](mailto:flightoperations@badgerhonorflight.org)
flightoperations@badgerhonorflight.org

with 81 females and 9 males with 4 couples, June 4th flight sponsored by Larry Satterlee Clay Shoot. We are looking to secure 3 flights in the fall. We are still looking for someone to do swag bag coordinator.

9. Events & Communications: We will continue to be using Walgreens for our photos. This will be our 40th flight in April 2022 and we will be flying our 3,500 Veteran.
10. Signup genius: Sendoff and Welcome Home will send email for sign up.
11. Darcy will be streaming live on Facebook the Welcome Home.
12. Please look at the website and thank our sponsors who have graciously given money to support Badger Honor Flight. 96% of all money we collect goes to flying our Veterans to DC.
13. Please wear your new volunteer shirts if you are volunteering for Badger Honor Flight. There will be shirts for sale for \$10 at the airport.
14. Send Off: Darcy Julseth & Rachel Maske is 4am to 7am
15. Welcome Home: Sasha Fedorko Benz & Jim Bublitz is 6:45pm - 10:30pm.
16. We will be trying to rotate volunteers so that more new volunteers have an opportunity to volunteer on flight days.
17. Mail Call: Marnette and Hazel who are turning it over to Brian Ziegler.
18. Wheelchair crew: Tom Cantwell and John Hilliard and crew
19. 250,000 Veteran flown celebration will be live streamed on National Honor Flight on May 3rd. There is an event on Facebook and video will be available to view.
20. Date/place of next meeting: May 4, 2022, 5:30pm VFW 7591 Cottage Grove Rd Madison WI.

Exciting National Honor Flight News

Honor Flight Network 250K Commemoration

The Honor Flight Network will bring its 250,000th veteran to Washington, D.C. for one more tour with honor! To commemorate this milestone, the Honor Flight Network is hosting a special event at the World War II Memorial to honor our nations veterans.

The event will livestream Tuesday May 3, 2022 at 1:00 PM CT and the video will be available to view any time after as well by going to the following link.

<https://fb.me/e/5hH7Gn2kE>



Area Vietnam veterans honored at two ceremonies JOHN GITTINGS Mar 25, 2022

Guy Svehlek did not receive a warm welcome when coming home from a tour of the Vietnam War in 1972. "I was the first soldier released from the plane," Svehlek said. "I said, 'I'm going down to kiss the ground.' There was a huge party of people hollering and screaming and I was honored to be there." The group turned out to be antiwar protesters. "I went down to the bottom of the stairs and was going to kiss the ground," Svehlek said. "I started getting little pelts on my sleeves and my shirt and my head. I looked up and I was being spit on, and I found out I was in the middle of a riot. It wasn't real pretty for me."



Fay-Robinson Chapter member Karole Carroll pins the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin onto Vietnam War veteran LaVern Davis on March 16.

Fifty years later, Svehlek was honored at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 9387 — the Wisconsin Dells post of the organization — in one of two ceremonies put on by the local chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for Vietnam War veterans. Svehlek said it was "comforting and rewarding" to be honored at the

VFW 9387 ceremony. He added that he appreciates the efforts from the Reedsburg-based Fay-Robinson Chapter of NSDAR.

The chapter held events to honor area Vietnam War veterans on March 16 and March 23 at the Harold B. Larkin American Legion Post 187 in Wisconsin Dells. The first event was for VFW 9387. A week later, members of American Legion Post 187 were honored. A few of the veterans were members of both organizations. "We signed up when the declaration was made by President Barack Obama at the time that there would be a 50th anniversary of Vietnam War commemoration," said Sandy Snow, regent of the Fay-Robinson Chapter. "We joined as a partner to the commemoration and therefore, it is our privilege as a partner to award pins of significance to Vietnam veterans. A pin showing the recognition for their service, but also a certificate indicating that they are now being bestowed this award based on the commemoration."

Larry Randall, a former U.S. Navy Second Class Petty Officer, spent one year in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966 after being assigned to a Navy Seabee battalion, which is a construction unit responsible for building temporary or permanent infrastructure. Randall, who was recognized at the American Legion ceremony, said battalion members are not involved in combat unless necessary, which is they are still provided ammunition. "Seabees carry tools, and they carry an ammo belt and a rifle," Randall said. "We fight, we work, and we build." His battalion was sent to the country to build barracks for soldiers, among other necessities. Randall also said he was sent to Okinawa, Japan, a year earlier to build barracks for U.S. Marine Corp. trainees for Vietnam.

Randall received a quiet reception upon coming home. He said there was not a lot of open arms. He said a Badger Honor Flight in 2020 gave him more reception than his initial homecoming.

Randall added that he did not receive any ridicule or scorn for his war efforts but was quick to put his war memories behind him and begin work. LaVern Davis is a U.S. Navy veteran who served on

the board of the USS Coral Sea, a Vietnam War aircraft carrier. He said that he and his fellow servicemen were part of the May 1972 mining of Haiphong harbor.



"Nothing, we just came home," Davis said of his homecoming reception. "Didn't even wear our uniforms. Family met us, but nobody else did. Took 50 years to recognize us." Despite the frigid reception immediately after the war, Davis said the experience of coming home is something close friends didn't get to have. Davis said two high school friends of his were killed in Vietnam by land mines. Another friend of Davis, Thomas E. Dunlap, a commander, went missing in action during a flight. Davis' wife researched information that eventually showed evidence of his death.

Jerry Boyer, another VFW member, was given his pin by his great-granddaughter, who came with Boyer's son, Jeffery. Jeffery Boyer expressed his frustration for why his father was being recognized for his service by his great-granddaughter instead of immediately following his tour in Vietnam.

"We feel it's a real privilege when they do come out and ask for the acknowledgement that we give them the pin and the recognition to welcome them home," Snow, with the Fay-Robinson Chapter, said. Betsy Grant, the vice regent of the chapter, was married to a Vietnam veteran. She said the chapter finds Vietnam veterans through American Legion, VFW and Marine Corps groups. "It's a nice thing to have us acknowledge them and someone outside of their fellow veterans,"

Grant said. "They're being acknowledged by the other veterans in their groups, including some veterans who did not fight in Vietnam. It's a special night for them and sometimes they say to us, 'Nobody ever thanked me'. It's a great opportunity for us to make them feel appreciated.



Front row: Fay-Robinson Chapter of NSDAR members Karole Carroll, Kathy Breunig, Betsy Grant, Sandy Snow.

Back Row: VFW Local 9387 members and Vietnam Veterans Richard Sobojinski, Melvin Nickel, Jerry Boyer, Guy Svehlek, Dennis Thaler, Lavern Davis and Pat Walsh gather at the American Legion Post 187 In Wisconsin Dells on March 16.

https://www.wiscnews.com/community/baraboonewsrepublic/area-vietnam-veterans-honored-at-two-ceremonies/article_f42d83cc-3b26-5583-8343-94c1243eb6c8.html