



**Badger Honor Flight Volunteer Meeting
Wednesday, July 1, 2026 7:00PM
VFW Post #7591 301 Cottage Grove Rd.
Madison, WI 53716**

Chairperson Report – Ziegler

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. No new volunteers
4. No Board or Flight Team Introductions

Chairperson Report – Brian Ziegler

1. Press Release

- The press release with the fall flight dates and new Veteran eligibility dates went out today.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, July 1, 2026

For more information contact:

Brian Ziegler, Badger Honor Flight Board Chairperson;
chairperson@badgerhonorflight.org or (608) 616-0243

BADGER HONOR FLIGHT EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY TO POST-VIETNAM AND DESERT STORM ERAS; ANNOUNCES FALL 2026 SCHEDULE

MADISON, WI — Change is on the horizon for south-central Wisconsin Veterans. Badger Honor Flight (BHF) is currently accepting applications from all heroes who served from December 7, 1941 to July 31, 1991. Veterans who served anywhere at any time, in any branch, and in any component (Active, Reserves, or National Guard) during this window are considered eligible to fly.

As a regional hub of the national Honor Flight Network, BHF has opened its application process effective immediately. This expansion follows a historic shift in national eligibility guidelines. By broadening its criteria, Badger Honor Flight will directly honor a new generation of heroes. Veterans who served from May 8, 1975 through July 31, 1991—an era previously ineligible for the program—are now welcome to apply.



This change arrives at a momentous time. On October 24th, Washington, D.C. will officially dedicate the new Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial, permanently cementing this era of service to our nation. Badger Honor Flight proudly plans to incorporate this brand-new monument as an official stop for our heroes, beginning with the November 7th flight this autumn.

PRIORITY TIERS AND FLYING TIMELINE

While applications for these newly eligible eras are being accepted right now, actual travel for these flights is scheduled to begin in 2027. Badger Honor Flight will maintain its long-standing commitment to honoring our most senior Veterans first. Many hubs across the country continue to maintain waitlists for these individuals. Ensuring these heroes can visit the memorials built in their honor remains the network's highest focus, which is why BHF will utilize a structured tier system:

*Priority Tier 1: Veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and any individuals facing terminal illness remain the top focus for available flight seats.

*Priority Tier 2: Applications from the post-Vietnam and Desert Shield/Storm eras will be treated as a single group and processed collectively in the strict order they are received, rather than by specific service branch or date.

FALL 2026 FLIGHT SCHEDULE RELEASED

In addition to expanding future eligibility, Badger Honor Flight is officially announcing its upcoming Fall 2026 flying season. BHF will operate three dedicated missions this autumn:

- *Saturday, September 12, 2026
- *Saturday, October 3, 2026
- *Saturday, November 7, 2026

These upcoming dates provide an immediate opportunity for eligible World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans to fly, while the organization simultaneously builds its roster for the 2027 flying season.



“Our core mission remains unchanged: ensuring our service eras can visit their memorials while they are still able to travel,” said Brian Ziegler, Badger Honor Flight Board Chairperson. “As we prepare for our upcoming Fall flying season, we encourage all eligible World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans to apply. Simultaneously, we are thrilled to open our doors to the post-Vietnam and Desert Storm generations, ensuring their service is honored and recognized.”

ABOUT BADGER HONOR FLIGHT

Badger Honor Flight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, regional affiliate of the national Honor Flight Network. Based out of Madison, Wisconsin, BHF has flown more than 5,700 Veterans to Washington, D.C. since its inaugural flight on April 17, 2010.

The hub coordinates all amenities for our heroes—including chartered air travel from Dane County Regional Airport (MSN), ground transportation, meals, and other amenities—ensuring a safe, deeply meaningful day of honor and reflection.

Operating entirely as a 100% volunteer-run organization, each comprehensive VIP mission costs approximately \$140,000. Flights are provided entirely free of charge to Veterans, funded completely through community donations, corporate support, and local partnerships. Veterans from all eligible eras, as well as community members interested in volunteering or donating, can find application forms and more information at www.badgerhonorflight.org

2. Partner Recognition

- VFW Post 7591
 - Badger Honor Flight would like to express our sincere gratitude to VFW Day Post 7591 for their generous support and partnership. Their welcoming facility has provided a home for our meetings, caller training sessions, and celebrations, helping us carry out our mission of honoring our Veterans. In addition to sharing their space, VFW Post 7591 has hosted brat fries and fundraising events that have raised vital funds to support Badger Honor Flight flights and programs. Their commitment to our Veterans extends far beyond their doors, and their efforts have made a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.



As a small token of our appreciation, we are honored to present VFW Day Post 7591 with a plaque recognizing their dedication, generosity, and unwavering support of Badger Honor Flight to Post Commander DJ Klauser. We are incredibly grateful for everything the members of VFW Post 7591 do for our organization and for the Veterans of our community. Thank you for being such an important part of the Badger Honor Flight family!

3. Speaking Engagements

- Upcoming
 - August 18th, Fitchburg Rotary Club, Brian Ziegler
 - September 17th, American Legion Post 146 Beaver Dam, Brian Ziegler
- Past Month
 - none
- Contact chairperson@badgerhonorflight.org for speaking engagements

4. Check Presentations

- Arlington Lions Club \$3,000
- Madison Capitols Hockey team and AFGE Local 1732 \$5,000
- Paul and Bonnie Phaneuf \$1,255
- Les Mack \$1,500
- A & W Lancaster Cruise for a Cause \$3,349
- Oscar Mayer Employee Reunion \$165
- Rude's Lanes \$13,384
- Alliant Power \$500
- Lancaster William Pollock VFW Post 2344 \$250
- American Legion Richard Burn's Post 109 Lancaster \$250
- Disabled American Veterans c/o Richard Foley \$250
- Lancaster Lions Club \$500

Treasurer Report – Ed Brown

1. Large Donations June

- Kalscheur Family Trust \$10,000
- Wollersheim Winery \$8,500
- Cardnial Heating Employee golf outing \$2,180
- Jessica Hawkey and Kyle Smith \$1,000
- Marvin Theis \$1,000
- Stan Theis \$1,000
- Thomas Miller \$1,000



2. June Memorials

- Thomas Williamson \$1,150
- Merlin Maiers \$1,395
- Joseph Joyce \$2,470

3. Other

- Badger Honor Flight golf outing with net \$40,000, the largest in three years.
- Monroe moose Lodge Pancake breakfast donation will be \$9300

Secretary Report – Becky Clark

1. Thank you

- Thank you very much for attending the services of our fallen heroes. Your presence means so much to our Veteran's families.

2. We Remember the Fallen – June 2026

- Fred Wenger - Army Vietnam - Mission 38
- Bob Zeman - Army Vietnam - Mission 30
- Dean Sabatini - Army Vietnam - Waitlist
- Verlin Klingaman - Army Korea - Mission 18
- Jack Hughes - Navy Korea - Mission 48
- Ross Bach - Air Force Vietnam - Mission 55
- Richard Zimmer - Army Korea - Mission 18
- Ronald Kittleson - Army Vietnam - Mission 36
- Dean Thunstrom - Air Force Vietnam - Mission 49
- Vincent D'Orazio - Army Korea - Mission 37
- John Anderegg - Army Korea - Mission 18
- Lawrence Wedig - Army Vietnam - Mission 36
- Rinold Nowack - Navy Korea - Mission 19
- James Hanson - Army Vietnam - Waitlist
- Judy Dutka - Air Force Vietnam - Mission 41
- Norman Bradford - Army Vietnam - Mission 26
- Donald Miller - World War II, Korea - Mission 56

3. Reflection

- I had the honor of meeting the family of a past Badger Honor Flight Veteran. His name was Robert Pelletier, a Navy Veteran who passed away in May and was survived by his four adult sons of whom I was able to meet with briefly. Two of the sons retired from the Air Force and one of those had been the gentleman's Guardian on the flight. I offered condolences from all who are involved with BHF. I presented them with a commemorative coin that is given to



the families of the fallen Badger Honor Flight Alumni. The sons were taken back and had a unified reaction in receiving the coin as it was given initially to the Guardian and then passed amongst them. There were several photos of Mr. Pelletier documenting his trip on Badger Honor Flight up on a poster board at the funeral home. This was my first experience doing this gesture for a Veteran's family and I promise it will not be my last. I'm proud to be part of this team.

– Jim Myers

Volunteer Events and Fundraising Report – Tobias

1. Look Ahead

- July 13th: Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation @ the Oaks
- July 16th: Dane County Fair 11-3
- July 18th: Brat Fry VFW 7591
- July 25th: Baraboo Car Show/Gun Raffle
- July 31st: Mallards 50/50 - non-profit spotlight
- August 8th: Fall Guardian Training – AmFam
- August 9th: Volunteer Celebration
- October 12th: Larry Satterlee Memorial Clay Shoot
- If you have any opportunities not on our radar, please email volunteerevents@badgerhonorflight.org

2. Hy-Vee Steak Dinner Nights

- Thank you for your help at Hy-Vee with the steak dinners!

3. SUMMER VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION!

- VFW 8483
5737 County Hwy CV, Madison, WI 53704
August 9th
1:00pm-4:00pm



4. Mallards Game – July 18th



5. Mallards Game – July 31st

- Military Appreciation Night! 6:35 Game Time (Arrival 5:50pm). Come volunteer and watch the game. A grandstand seat will be provided. There are 13 tickets available. Please let me know if you are interested.

6. Volunteer Opportunities

- Medical Team Members
- Admin Support
- IT Management
- Newsletter Article Writer

Inventory Report – Williams

1. Clothing & Merchandise

- We will be sorting and packing clothing on July 31st and August 1st for the August Guardian Training. Thanks to those who volunteered to help with that.
- In addition to having the clothing at the August training we will have some of our merchandise to sell, including new coffee cups.
- Don't forget to check out the online store for our summer tank tops.



Administration Report – Ziegler for Barman

1. Waitlist June 2026

- World War II – 1
- Korea – 2
- Vietnam – 453
- Desert Storm/Desert Shield – 184
- Post Desert Storm/Desert Shield – 33

2. Other

- Help is needed for welcome emails, Roster Manager and data entry

Medical – Greenwood

1. none

Flight Operations Report – McClain

1. Fall Flight Dates

- Mission 67
 - September 12, 2026
 - American Airlines
 - 7am/9:15pm
 - Flight Sponsor: Opportunity Available!!
- Mission 68
 - October 3, 2026
 - American Airlines
 - 7am/9:15pm
 - Flight Sponsor: Opportunity Available!!
- Mission 69
 - November 7, 2026
 - American Airlines
 - 7am/8:15pm
 - Flight Sponsor: Hy-Vee



2. Sponsorship Opportunities

- Alpha/Flight - \$100,000 (Sept 12, Oct 3)
- Bravo/Day in DC - \$15,000 (all 3)
- Charlie/Welcome Home - \$10,000 (season) (all 3)
- Buses - \$6000 (all 3)
- USPP - \$1500 (all 3)
- Breakfast - \$750 (Oct,Nov)
- Lunch - \$2500 (all 3)
- Dinner - \$2500 (all 3)
- Snacks - \$250 (all 3)

3. Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

- Do you or someone you know own a small business, sell insurance, work for a generous company that likes free advertising? We are always looking for tchotchkes for the Swag Bags handed to the Veterans at the Welcome Home. Suggested items: umbrella, travel mug, pens, notepads, tape measure, luggage tag, phone charger, 2027 calendar

4. Opportunity to Assist Flight Operations

- Beverage Coordinator
 - Pick-up beverages at Pepsi in Windsor
 - Deliver to airport
 - Load coolers in advance of the flight.
 - Must have access to a truck as our beverage order is large!
 - See Jody if interested, or want more info
 - Thank you Phil Ingwell for offering to take this on!

Misc.

1. Spring Flights – Mail Call / Publicity Recap

- Mail Call Team is ready for the Fall
 - Mail Call is to be postmarked by 3 weeks prior to the flight
 - If you know of a group interested in writing letters to our Veterans, email us at mailcall@badgerhonorflight.org
 - If you are interested in assisting with assembly of Mail Call packets, contact mailcall@badgerhonorflight.org or see me.

2. Fall Flights – VIPs / Guardians

- Sep 12th / Oct 3rd
 - TBD
 - 4 Spots



- Nov 7th
 - Hy-Vee Local Stores' Representatives
 - 4 Spots

3. Publicity Update

- Nov 7th
 - Working with Hy-Vee Corporate on:
 - In-Store Events
 - In-Store Promotion
 - Joint Flight Promotion Activities
- Publicity Advisory Team
 - Team is working on updating all BHF materials with:
 - New Veteran eligibility requirements
 - Fall 2026 Flight Dates
 - Veteran recruitment
 - Volunteer recruitment
 - Sponsorships
 - Donations
 - Social Media
 - New flyer, brochure and business cards shown
- Local Publicity Efforts
 - Cardinal Heating & Air Conditioning
 - Electronic Billboard campaign is still ongoing
 - Dane County Regional Airport
 - New Static Sign across from Gate 8
 - New Electronic Signs
 - Will update for Fall 2026 Flights
 - Working on other opportunities

Upcoming BHF Volunteer Meetings

1. BHF Meetings are held on the first Wednesday evening of each month.
 - **August 5, 2026** – VFW 7591 - 301 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison at 7:00PM
 - **September 2, 2026** – VFW 7591 - 301 Cottage Grove Rd, Madison at 7:00PM
 - **October 7, 2026** – VFW 7591– 301 Cottage Grove Rd Madison 7:00pm



Contact the Board -

- **Chairperson of the Board:** Brian Ziegler chairperson@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Secretary/Historian:** Becki Clark secretary@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Treasurer:** Ed Brown treasurer@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Administration:** Miel Barman administration@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Flight Operations:** Jody McClain flightoperations@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Inventory:** Pam Williams inventory@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Medical Support:** Tyler Greenwood medical@badgerhonorflight.org
- **Volunteer Events:** Tiffany Tobias volunteerevents@badgerhonorflight.org

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Clark
Board Secretary
Badger Honor Flight