

Dear Mike,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I cant say that enough or my experience on the August 29th Honor Flight to Washington D.C. The entire day was very rewarding. Please extend my thanks to everyone in the organization who had anything to do with the day, and that includes all those behind the scenes who made the day happen and companies who provided food, snacks, water, supplies, etc.

The day was extra special for me because my son, John, served as my guardian. My daughter, Barbara, served as one of the four physicians on the trip.

I do not understand why I was seated in the first class section as there had to be many other deserving veterans. However, I truly appreciated the seat.

One memory that I will always have was at the Korean Memorial (I served in Korea). A boy about 7 or 8 years of age came up to me and saluted. Then he reached out to shake my hand and said thank you for your service. That brought tears to my eyes.

The Honor Guard was appreciated as well as what the airport workers did. The police escort was impressive as it made the veterans feel very important. It was thoughtful of Senator Roy Blunt to take time from his busy schedule to greet us. All the memorials and stops were outstanding.

Another big surprise was in the Washington, D.C airport while waiting to board for the return flight. Someone said mail call and then I heard my name. I received very touching letters from my family, pastor, friends, and from adults/children I've never met. Again, the tears were in my eyes.

Our return to the Springfield airport was unbelievable! It seemed like as many as 2,000 people were there to welcome us home. They had signs, waved flags, shook our hand and said thanks for our service. The Shriners' band was excellent and school children from Forsyth and Rogersville were there. We were also welcome by the DAV, American Legion, VFW and of course our family. This really brought on the tears (and I am typically a person who shows little emotion).

Thank you so much for a day that will forever be in my heart and memory.

Sincerely,
Bob Bumberry