



Badger Honor Flight

Serving Those Who Served for US

www.badgerhonorflight.org

A LIFELONG JOURNEY: BROTHERHOOD, REUNION, AND HONOR

In May 1966, three strangers – young men from Wisconsin – converged at Fort Knox, Kentucky, answering the call to serve their country. Joe, Ken, and Duane met for the first time in basic training, and embarked on a journey that would shape their lives and bond them in an unbreakable brotherhood.

After basic training, they were separated by the demands of military life and then lost touch for 45 years until fate intervened in 2013. A reunion brought them back together, revealing a remarkable twist of fate: these three friends had lived within a mere 25 miles of each other all along. Even more astonishing was the revelation that Ken and Duane, serving in Vietnam, had shared joint missions, their paths crossing without their knowledge.

Fast forward to November 2018, the trio embarked on a mission with Badger Honor Flight—but there was one condition: they would only go if they could stick together. And they did, with Joe's son, Duane's son, and Ken's grandson right by their sides—they set off for Washington, D.C.

The experience was a bridge across generations, an opportunity to share the stories of sacrifice and valor with younger family members. The warmth of welcome they received, both in the nation's capital and upon their return home, was a stark contrast to the reception they faced after Vietnam. Ken summed it up best, saying it "took over 40 years to feel welcomed home". Joe agreed, noting the Vietnam Memorial is a must-see and the Tomb of the Unknown was a moving and emotional experience. Badger Honor Flight restored their faith, reminding them that their sacrifices were not forgotten.

Since their return, Joe, Ken, and Duane have made it their mission to extend that same welcome to every batch of returning Veterans. They attend welcome home events as Alumni, eager to be the first to greet the next mission. For them, it's about paying it forward, ensuring that every Veteran feels the warmth of gratitude and appreciation. Plus, they admit, the cookies are pretty tasty!

Their message to fellow Veterans is simple yet profound: seize the opportunity offered by Badger Honor Flight. Visit the memorials, embrace the welcome, and let it change your perspective. As Duane reflected, he said the experience "will change your opinion of the public".

And to the volunteers who make it all possible, from the flight crew to helpers, their gratitude knows no bounds.



(Duane, Joe, and Ken. Top - BHF in Nov. 2018; Bottom - basic training in Jun. 1966)

VETERANS WANTED!

We are now accepting applications from Vets who served during the following conflicts:

WW II: Dec. 7, 1941 - Dec. 31, 1946
Korean War: Jun. 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955
Vietnam War: Nov. 1, 1955 – May 7, 1975

If you served anywhere at any time in any branch and any component (Active, Reserves, or National Guard) during the above dates, you are considered a Veteran of that war/conflict.

[Click Here For An Application](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Flight Dates!

Mission 55: September 7, 2024

Mission 56: October 12, 2024

Mission 57: November 2, 2024



Stay tuned, more information to come!

UPCOMING EVENTS

19 JUL • FRI - Rock the Ramp (Middleton)

26 JUL • FRI - Mallard's Non-Profit Spotlight Night (Duck Pond)

27 JUL • SAT - 4th Annual "Honor Our Veterans" Car Show, at Baraboo Candy Co.

MONTH IN REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

18 MAY - Main Street Music Fundraiser

20 MAY - Bergamont Golf Outing

20 MAY - Dannelle Gay Book Signing

24-26 MAY - Brat Fest

01 JUN - Mission 54 Honor Flight

02 JUN - Monroe Moose Lodge Breakfast



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently in need of volunteers in the following roles:

- Medical Team Members
- Admin Support
- IT Management
- Newsletter Team
- Photo Storage and Photo Sharing Site Maintenance Team

BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

- Chairperson of the Board: Brian Ziegler chairperson@badgerhonorflight.org
- Administration: Eileen Stevens administration@badgerhonorflight.org
- Flight Operations: Jody McClain flightoperations@badgerhonorflight.org
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- Secretary / Historian: Becki Clark secretary@badgerhonorflight.org
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