



LAND OF LINCOLN HONOR FLIGHT, INC.

57 Country Place; Springfield, Illinois 62703

www.landoflincolnhonorflight.org

MISSION AND OPERATIONS

The mission of Land of Lincoln Honor Flight is to celebrate America's World War II, Korean Era and Vietnam Era veterans by inviting them to share a day of honor at our nation's memorials in Washington DC. This day of honor is provided absolutely free of charge to our veterans.

We offer one-day flights departing from Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport (Springfield) to Reagan National Airport in Washington DC. Venues visited include the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Wall, the Lincoln Memorial, the US Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima), the US Air Force Memorial, the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Virginia and Arlington National Cemetery for the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight serves a territory of approximately 25,000 square miles. Included in this area are the key central and southern Illinois cities of Bloomington-Normal, Urbana-Champaign, Decatur, Alton, Carlinville, Clinton, Danville, Effingham, Havana, Jerseyville, Lincoln, Litchfield, Mattoon, Rantoul and Springfield as well as the surrounding areas.

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight was established in 2009 as part of the National Honor Flight Network. As of the end of the 2022 flying season, Land of Lincoln Honor Flight has served 5,100+ veterans on 64 flights. Due to COVID-19 concerns, all 2020 and 2021 Honor Flights were grounded. We resumed flights in a safe and healthy manner in 2022 with five (5) flights and are planning five (5) flights in 2023.

This day of honor and gratitude is completely free for our veterans. They have paid enough with their service; it is our turn to pay them back. Funding for these flights comes from the generous donations of individuals, merchandise sales and proceeds from fundraisers held by local organizations and citizens in the community who want to demonstrate their gratitude for the sacrifices made by these veterans who secured our freedom.

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and receives no federal, state or local government funds. The organization is run by an all-volunteer team that is committed to serving veterans. An eight-member volunteer Board of Directors provides direction. There is no paid staff, office/utilities costs, etc., which keeps our administrative costs to approximately 1% so virtually every dollar raised supports veteran flight costs.

Veterans are offered flights by priority based upon their service era and date of application. World War II veterans are given top priority followed by Korean Era veterans, then Vietnam Era veterans. At present, there is virtually no waiting list for World War II or Korean Era veterans; new applicants will be offered the next available

flight. At the present time, the wait time for new Vietnam Era veteran applications is approximately six (6) months.

Priority is given to a veteran who has a terminal illness or medical condition that would impede his/her ability to participate in and enjoy the experience and cannot wait his/her turn on the wait list.

In 2020, LLHF introduced the **Flightless Honor Flight** program designed for a veteran whose medical condition, even with reasonable accommodation, makes it impossible for him/her to participate on an actual Honor Flight. This program gives the veteran a simulated flight experience he/she would otherwise not be able to enjoy.

Volunteers to serve as guardians on a future flight are always needed. Guardians pay their own expenses to participate and ensure our veterans are comfortable and safely enjoy the day. In addition, guardians have the honor of spending the day with true American heroes.

Finally, the public is invited to our Welcome Home events at the Abraham Lincoln Capitol Airport (Springfield) to give these veterans the welcome home they never got but so richly deserve.

Help us carry out our mission of giving our veterans "One More Tour with Honor" by recruiting World War II, Korean Era and Vietnam Era veterans who have not yet participated on an Honor Flight. Applications can be downloaded from www.landoflincolnhonorflight.org.

OPERATING COSTS

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight charters a 737 airplane for flight day. This aircraft holds 183 passengers: approximately 95 veterans; 83 guardians and 5 honor flight board bus captains. Once on the ground in Washington DC, we board 4 luxury lift-equipped sight-seeing buses to travel throughout the area. Breakfast, lunch and dinner plus snacks and water are provided throughout the day. Each veteran and guardian are furnished a LLHF t-shirt and cap to wear on flight day. Veterans are also given a souvenir photo book of their memorial.

The anticipated 2023 flight cost is approximately \$98,600. The Guardian fee helps defray a portion of this cost.

Sun Country Airline Charter	\$80,800
Ground transportation bus rental	\$ 5,400
3 meals and water	\$ 5,200
Flight t-shirts and caps	\$ 3,500
Souvenir books for Veterans	\$ 1,500
Miscellaneous (lanyards, name tags, oxygen, police escort, tips)	\$ 3,000
TOTAL FLIGHT COST	\$98,600

Total operating cost for 5 flights in 2023: \$493,500

FUNDRAISING

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight has no paid staff, no office and no utilities costs. Our on-going administrative cost is approximately 1% - virtually every dollar raised supports flight costs. There are no government funds or grants available for Honor Flight hubs; all of the money to serve our veterans is from individual donations by grateful citizens.

The 2023 cost to sponsor one veteran is \$575.00.

Help us raise funds for future flights and honor our veterans by sponsoring a fund-raiser or through a direct donation.

Fund-raising events could include trivia nights, casual/denim days, quarter auctions, road rallies, motorcycle runs, car shows, tractor pulls, silent auctions, golf tournaments, charity softball games, raffles, specialty meals (fried chicken, biscuits and gravy), rummage sales, concerts, dances, etc. Existing fraternal, veteran and social clubs with an established specialty event (i.e., fish fry, bake sale, poppy sale, mostaccioli dinner) could consider adding a second event to benefit Land of Lincoln Honor Flight. Restaurants and stores might consider displaying a donation jar at the checkout counter for loose change.

Representatives from Land of Lincoln Honor Flight are available to share our mission, passion, and history with your social group, civic organization, business, school, etc.

CONTACT US

Land of Lincoln Honor Flight
57 Country Place
Springfield, IL 62703

Joan Bortolon - jmb4604@aol.com; 217 652 4719

Steve Wheeler - smwelr_llhf@aol.com; 217 473 2540

Website: www.landoflincolnhonorflight.org

Facebook: Land of Lincoln Honor Flight

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