



HONORING AMERICA'S VETERANS

With flights to Washington, DC to visit and reflect together at memorials built in their honor.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Honor Flight Rochester Expands Mission to Include Korean War Veterans

ROCHESTER, NY -- Honor Flight Rochester (HFR) is seeking men and women who served in the armed forces during the Korean War (1950-1953) to sign up for a free Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the Korean War Memorial. The trip is free to veterans. The program remains open to World War II veterans. There are 5,384 Korean War Veterans in the Monroe County area. This is the 60th year of the armistice that ended the fighting, but not the hostilities.

"Many of the servicemen and women who helped fight the spread of communism on the Korean peninsula during the 1950s have always felt as though they fought in a forgotten conflict. We want them to know that they are remembered for standing up to an attack on freedom. They were on the front line of the cold war that turned hot," said HFR President Woody Mench.

The Korean War started on June 25, 1950 when North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) attacked South Korea (Republic of Korea). The war stemmed from the attempts of both countries to reunify Korea. The United States along with other NATO countries supported South Korea while Russia and China aligned themselves with North Korea. During the 37-month conflict, 36,526 Americans were killed in action with another 103,000 wounded, 7,140 captured and 8,177 reported as missing in action. The war lasted until an armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, and as a result a Korean Demilitarized Zone was established.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated on July 27, 1995, the 42nd anniversary of the armistice that ended the war. It is located in Washington, D.C.'s West Potomac Park, southeast of the Lincoln Memorial and just south of the Reflecting Pool on the National Mall. Its theme is: "Freedom is not Free. Our nation honors her sons and daughters, who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."

Korean War veterans are encouraged to register for an Honor Flight Rochester mission by going online at www.honorflightrochester.org. Paper applications are available at most town halls in Monroe County and at City Hall in Rochester.

Honor Flight Rochester (www.honorflightrochester.org) – one of 100 established hubs in the national Honor Flight Network – is a not-for-profit, fully-volunteer organization with a goal of taking every World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam veteran who otherwise would or could not go, to visit and reflect together at Washington D.C. Memorials built in their honor. The two-day trip is **free** to all World War II, Korean or Vietnam veterans and to veterans of any era who suffer from terminal illness. Rochester's flying season is April to October. More than a 1,225 veterans have now flown from Rochester since the local organization began full scale flights in early 2009.

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