

# **PLEASE READ AND KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS**

## **HERE ARE SOME OF THE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS VETERANS HAVE BEFORE FLIGHT – SEPTEMBER 5, 2020**

### **WHY IS THE FLIGHT CALLED “THE CLIFFORD & LAVONNE GRAESE FOUNDATION MISSION 8”?**

Their foundation donated \$50,000 towards to seats of our Veterans traveling on this flight. They will potentially have a few board members on this flight serving as Guardians for our Veterans.

### **WHY DO YOU NEED AN UPDATED MEDICAL FORM AND WAIVER?**

In the event of a medical event this gives our medics a quick glance at what could be going on. If for some reason you would need further medical attention we would be able to get this information to the appropriate medical personal for timely care. Disclosing this medical information does not disqualify you from our trip but helps our medics be able to serve you and ensure you have a safe and enjoyable trip.

### **HOW LONG OF A FLIGHT IS IT TO DCA?**

From Sioux Falls Regional Airport to Reagan National Airport, it's a direct flight of about 2 hours and 30 minutes gate to gate. Your family can watch our flights by visiting [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com) and searching for Flight “9472” or search for “FSD to DCA”. This will show them our departure and return flight segments.

### **WHAT DO I NEED TO TAKE ALONG FOR OUR FLIGHT?**

You will need to bring your picture ID issued by a government agency (i.e. State Driver's License). This ID MUST have the following: a picture of your, your full name as it matches our manifest, and your date of birth. A VA Medical Card will NOT work for this as it does not have your Date of Birth on it. A light jacket may be something you'd like for our time on flight - you'll need to take it off the plane and keep it with you but may be left on your bus for the day. You may certainly take snacks along as well if you'd like. Drinks are not allowed through security, but an empty water bottle can be filled inside the terminal. We will also have water and drink packets provided at each stop in DC. **We also ask that you bring an additional two sets of medication along for flight day in case we should be delayed anywhere during our trip.** This includes your inhalers and nebulizer treatments – these MUST come with you on flight. If you need our permission to get these medications along, please have your provider contact our Medical Coordinator Chris Van Beek at (712) 463-2060.

### **WHAT IS THE COST?**

The only costs that are associated with this trip for you are all optional. It costs \$97 per night at the Sheraton when booked through Midwest Honor Flight, \$20 for a preordered hat that you can pick up at the banquet and is \$25 for a guest (other than your Guardian) to join you at the banquet the night before. The only expense on flight would be if you wish to purchase souvenirs while out in DC. Otherwise, we've got your flight, travel, and meals covered as well as your flight day shirt. Again, the hotel, hat, and banquet guests are all option. You are never responsible for the donation required of the Guardian traveling with you. This is the American people's small token of appreciation for your service – your Honor Flight.

### **WHAT I AM SUPPOSED TO WEAR?**

If you join us for the banquet, it's up to you - some dress up and other come more casual. We don't have a dress code for this, we're just happy to have you and a guest join us if you'd like. For flight day however, you will be required to wear the blue (Veteran) Midwest Honor Flight shirt that we'll provide for you at the banquet the night before or the morning of flight. You will get a lanyard also when you check in at the airport - this is your boarding pass for the day. As far as what to wear with it, that's what ever you'll be comfortable traveling in for the day. Our recommendation would be to go for comfort. Guardians will wear White and our Flight Crew will wear Red.

### **WHY DO I NEED A GUARDIAN? AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR REQUIRED DONATION?**

It's our policy and recommended by the National Honor Flight Network to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable time in Washington, D.C. They make a donation to Midwest Honor Flight to help us with the cost of our flight charter. By doing this, they help us ensure that the majority of the donations we receive for Missions are used to fly our American Heroes like you out to our Nation's Capital. You are never responsible for this donation - that lies solely on the Guardian that's assigned to your group.

### **WHY IS MY SPOUSE OR FAMILY MEMBER NOT ALLOWED TO BE A GUARDIAN ON THIS FLIGHT?**

This flight was specifically selected with Veterans that would be willing to travel without their own Guardian. To keep things fair, we are making the selection of Guardians and no Guardian will be related to any Veteran on this special Vietnam only flight. Your spouse/significant other or family member is invited to join us for the banquet the night before for \$25 but is not allowed to join the morning shuttle or the flight.

### **HOW MANY MEALS ARE PROVIDED FOR THIS TRIP?**

Including the banquet the night before, four meals will be provided. The banquet is optional, but most do attend for each flight we take. Breakfast will be served at the Sioux Falls Regional prior to our departure. Lunch will be served in Washington, D.C. Dinner will be served at the Reagan National prior to our return flight home. If there are special dietary needs or allergies that we need to be made aware of, be sure to include that on your medical form.

### **HOW MANY PEOPLE COME ALONG?**

We charter an Airbus 321 through American Airlines with a direct flight from Sioux Falls to Reagan National. We will have 186 people associated with Midwest Honor Flight on board. This included 120 Vietnam era Veterans, 40 Guardians, and 26 of the Midwest Honor Flight Volunteer Crew to assist you on your day.

### **WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO GO ON THE MORNING OF FLIGHT?**

If you are going to book your stay through us for the Sioux Falls Sheraton, we ask that you are in the lobby by 3:15 AM to ensure that we can board the shuttles for an on-time departure at 5:45 AM. If you are not staying at the Sioux Falls Sheraton, we ask that you still come to the Sioux Falls Convention Center parking lot and come to the lobby of the Sheraton no later than 4:30 AM to join us for a shuttle to the airport. This will ensure that your vehicle is not sitting in airport parking all day. We will also shuttle you back that evening per the request of the Sioux Falls Airport. Please do NOT go to the airport as we are only allowed to send a certain number of Veterans/Guardians through security at a time per the request of the Airport and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

### **WHAT TIME ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET BACK? WHERE CAN MY FAMILY MEET ME?**

For this flight, we are scheduled to come back into Sioux Falls at 8:15 PM. This gives us a total of 8 hours in DC to see all the major sights and memorials that have been dedicated to you and your fellow Veterans. Due to incoming flights at the same time as our return, the Sioux Falls Airport has asked us to shuttle you back to the Sioux Falls Convention Center/Sioux Falls Sheraton area. Your family should plan to meet us there at 8:00 PM to ensure they don't miss you if we arrive a little early. We will take care of the shuttle and ask that they respect the wishes of the Sioux Falls Airport to ensure future Honor Flights have the same experience you do. They should NOT come to the airport for our return into Sioux Falls.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FOR BEFORE AND AFTER MY FLIGHT?**

You may have filled out the reservation sheet and send back to Midwest Honor Flight with your prepayment for a rate of \$97 (taxes and fees included) at the Sioux Falls Sheraton. We recommend staying here if you need accommodations as the banquet is just down the hall, the shuttle leaves from the hotel lobby area, and your family will be meeting us back here as well rather than the airport. This is certainly not required but rather an option that has been heavily discounted by the Sioux Falls Sheraton.

### **WHAT TIME DOES THE BANQUET START? IS IT REQUIRED THAT I/WE ATTEND?**

**\*YOUR BANQUET WILL AT THE MILITARY ALLIANCE NORTH OF THE SHERATON\***

Midwest Honor Flight will host a banquet in your honor the night before. Registration and Social Hour start at 5:00 PM with a cash bar - doors will not be open prior to 5:00 PM. Our meal and program will begin at 6:00 PM. Each Veteran and each Guardian can take ONE GUEST that is not going on flight the next day - meaning you can take your spouse, another child, or a grandchild. Your Guardian is also allowed one guest. Optional for you and/or the guest to attend. Veterans and Guardians do not need to pay for this meal as it is all part of the Midwest Honor Flight experience, but each guest is \$25 and needs to be included on your Reservation Sheet for your flight.

**PLEASE KEEP THIS SHEET BEFORE FLIGHT TO ENSURE**

**YOU HAVE ALL THE REMINDERS THAT YOU NEED**

**DO HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS NOT LISTED HERE?**

**CALL OUR HOTLINE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 605-215-1319, EXT. 0**