

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

## **WHY IS THE FLIGHT CALLED “LYON COUNTY RIVERBOAT FOUNDATION MISSION 14”?**

The Lyon County Riverboat Foundation seeks to be the catalyst to help qualified organizations meet needs within Lyon County and beyond in the areas of development, beautification, education, and human and social issues. Through a grant that our organization applied for, they donated \$87,500 towards to seats of our Veterans traveling on this flight. They will have 9 board members serving as Guardians as well on this flight. They also require a waiver for photos to be signed for this special flight. Please return this with the other forms.

## **DO I NEED TO TAKE MY MEDICATIONS IN THE ORIGINAL BOTTLE?**

If you are more comfortable in keeping your medications in their bottle, feel free. But since this is a chartered flight and you will be supplying our medical team with a medication list, you do not need to bring the bottles. Please ensure that you have your medications labeled for when you need to take them (write on the Ziplock bag when you take them).

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

From Sioux Falls Regional Airport to Reagan National Airport, it's a non-stop 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 “9571” 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, Passport). This ID MUST have the following: a picture of you, your full name as it matches our manifest, an expiration date, 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 snacks along with water and drink packets 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 \$120 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/snacks covered as well as your flight day shirt and pull over. Again, the hotel, hat, and banquet guests are all optional and need to be submitted to us by **April 15th**. 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.

## **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 189 people associated with Midwest Honor Flight on board. This included 84 Veterans, 84 Guardians, and 21 of the Midwest Honor Flight Volunteer Crew to assist you on your day.

## **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 (or pull over) that we'll provide for you at the banquet the night before or in the mail if you do not attend. You will also get a Midwest Honor Flight face mask to wear during the required parts of our trip. 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, whatever 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. Medical will wear Yellow.

## **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 Airport prior to our departure. Lunch will be served in Washington, D.C. Dinner will be served at Reagan National Airport 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.

## **WHY IS MY SPOUSE OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER NOT ALLOWED TO JOIN ME AS A GUARDIAN?**

This is a National Honor Flight Network policy that we are required to follow. We also want this day to focus on the Veterans on flight and building a comradery among those on flight. Your spouse or significant other 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.

### **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 attend a training for your safety and 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 you choose or that's assigned to you.

### **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 3:30 AM to ensure that we can board the shuttles for an on-time departure at 5:30 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 4:15 AM to join us for a shuttle to the airport. 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 9:00 PM. This gives us a total of 10 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 8:30 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 \$120 (taxes and fees are all included in this price already) 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. Payment must accompany your reservation form.

### **CAN I SHARE THE HOTEL ROOM WITH MY GUARDIAN/FELLOW VETERAN ON FLIGHT?**

Each room is allowed to have up to four (4) individuals. This could be your spouse/significant other, your guardian, or a fellow Veteran on flight. We do not need the names of all the individuals staying in the room, just know who is reserving the room. If you are sharing it with a fellow Veteran and they are putting it under their name, you do not need to mark anything on the reservation form.

### **WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY CONFIRMATION NUMBER FOR MY HOTEL RESERVATION?**

Rest assured that if we have received the form and your check has been cashed, we will make your reservation on your behalf. To get the rate we do, we have to send in all the reservations at one time. We usually receive the final confirmation numbers about 1-2 weeks before flight. Calling the Sheraton before this time will not show your room.

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

Midwest Honor Flight will host a banquet in your honor the night before. Registration and Social Hour start at 5:00 PM with a cashless bar (card only) - **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.

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

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