

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MIDWEST
HONOR FLIGHT**



**SOUTH DAKOTA AMERICAN LEGION TO SPONSOR VETERANS ON FUTURE
MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT**

\$126,150 raised by Legions across South Dakota to fully fund the trip for 84 Veterans on Mission 11

SIOUX FALLS, SD (November 11, 2021): The South Dakota American Legion announced today that \$126,150 was donated from their grant process and donated to the Midwest Honor Flight organization to sponsor 84 World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans for an all-expenses-paid flight to visit the nation's capital. The sponsored flight will allow Veterans and guardians to fly to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifice.

"We are grateful to have the South Dakota American Legion sponsor a flight for our veterans who are so deserving of this once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Aaron Van Beek, Volunteer President and Director of Midwest Honor Flight. "This is a way to show our appreciation and say thank you to those who served, and we are grateful to each of the American Legion Posts throughout the state of South Dakota that participated in this 'Send One' campaign for showing their support and gratitude for military Veterans in such a generous way."

This will sponsor the eleventh-ever flight for the Midwest Honor Flight organization, named "South Dakota American Legion Mission 11," for Veterans located throughout northwest Iowa, South Dakota, and southwest Minnesota. Veterans on the flight will together experience the power and solidarity of Arlington National Cemetery, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The donation was part of a campaign that the South Dakota American Legion announced this summer. Each American Legion Post throughout the state of South Dakota was challenged to "Send One" by raising enough funds for at least one Veteran to travel on this flight.

"Veterans helping Veterans is what the American Legion is all about," said South Dakota American Legion Commander Gary Wolkow. "This year, we asked each American Legion Post across the state to "Send One" Veteran on a Midwest Honor Flight: each post would raise at least \$753 to allow one Veteran to tour the memorials in Washington DC. It has been amazing to witness the achievements of our Posts, the community engagement, and the incredible support of our Veterans. We are proud to be sponsoring Veterans for this flight, and look forward to future involvement with Midwest Honor Flight."

The Midwest Honor Flight is part of the Honor Flight Network, a non-profit organization created to transport America's Veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices.

About Midwest Honor Flight

The Midwest Honor Flight is a non-profit organization created to honor America's Veterans for their sacrifices. The organization offers paid transport and tours to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of visiting veterans and those who have perished. The Midwest Honor Flight organization's service area includes veterans throughout Northwest Iowa, South Dakota, and Southwest Minnesota.

About South Dakota American Legion

The American Legion is the nation's largest and most powerful organization of U.S. wartime veterans and their families. Today, it counts 1.9 million members who operate through more than 12,000 posts across the United States and beyond. The Legion works every day on behalf of U.S. servicemen and women. It is recognized as a leader in transition assistance from military to civilian life, providing resources for careers, education, child care and more.

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