



Appleton Airport announces Old Glory Honor Flight events

Pulling for Honor fundraiser scheduled

It's never too late to say thank you. That's why the Appleton International Airport and Old Glory Honor Flight partner to give veterans a free-of-charge flight to Washington D.C. to visit war memorials erected in their honor.

Both groups are announcing flights for 2025 which depart from the Appleton airport as follows:

- Mission 73 takes off April 16, 2025
- Mission 74 takes off May 27, 2025
- Mission 75 is the Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight and takes off from the EAA grounds during AirVenture July 25, 2025. This mission is exclusive to Vietnam War veterans.
- Mission 76 takes off September 2, 2025
- Mission 77 takes off October 28, 2025

The Old Glory Honor Flight was founded in 2009 by Appleton-based volunteers. The event travels with trained volunteers who plan the day-long trip to give veterans a red-carpet treatment. The organization provides escorts, a medical team, professional photographers and plans the itinerary in Washington D.C. The day ends with family members and the community participating in a welcome home celebration at the Appleton airport.

Since its inception, the organization has hosted more than 6400 veterans.

"We could not celebrate these heroes without the commitment of our sponsors and partners and the overwhelming support of the community," said Diane MacDonald, executive director of Old Glory Honor Flight. "The missions continue to honor our veterans for their service and sacrifice made in support of each one of us as Americans."

The Appleton airport has been hosting the flights since 2009.

"It is our honor to be a partner of the Old Glory Honor Flights," said Airport Director Abe Weber. "Our staff is dedicated to honoring our veterans and looks forward to each of these events as a way to celebrate the veterans and their families."

Veterans on active duty in any branch of the service between Dec. 7, 1941, and May 7, 1975 qualify for the flights. MacDonald does advise that any veteran traveling on these missions will need a REAL ID starting in May 2025. Registration for the flights is now open at oldgloryhonorflight.org. Currently, Old Glory Honor Flight has a waitlist of approx. 12 months for our senior veterans.

Pulling for Honor date set for August 16, 2025

Pulling for Honor is a major fundraiser for the Old Glory Honor Flight and will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, August 16, 2025. The event will take place at the Appleton Flight Center located off Prospect Avenue west of the airport.

Pulling for Honor is a plane pull competition fundraiser where a team of 20 people competes to see who can pull a 180,000-pound plane 12 feet in the fastest time. Teams are required to raise a minimum of \$1,500 in order to take part in the competition (\$75 per person). Last year, participants and sponsors raised \$150,000.

The annual event features family and children's events plus veteran's exhibits that provide vital information regarding services available for veterans in our community. Although the competition is in good fun, it is critical to keep the honor flights in the air as each Old Glory Honor Flight costs approximately \$100,000 and the goal is to honor 100 veterans per mission.

"We are proud that every year hundreds of individuals and families join this event to donate in support of local veterans and Old Glory Honor Flight," said Outagamie County Executive Thomas Nelson. "Hosting this event shows the airport's commitment to the community beyond just commercial and private aviation."

Team registration for the event will be open later this year on the Old Glory Honor Flight website.

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About Appleton International Airport

[Appleton International Airport](#) connects our community to the world through American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, and Allegiant Air. In addition to offering nonstop service to 19 destinations, Appleton Airport connects to 12 major international airport hubs from which travelers can fly to almost anywhere in the world. Using Appleton Airport, travelers can safely and more conveniently get to their destination and home again, leaving them more time for what really matters. Appleton International Airport is the third busiest airport in Wisconsin. Visit atwairport.com to learn more.

About Old Glory Honor Flight

Old Glory Honor Flight's mission is Honoring Local Veterans *One Mission at a Time*. The organization is based in Appleton, Wisconsin and serves veterans from these Northeast Wisconsin counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Fond du Lac, Forest, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago.