



Appleton Airport announces Old Glory Honor Flight events

Pulling for Honor fundraiser scheduled

(APPLETON, WIS.) April 7, 2025— It's never too late to say thank you. That's why the [Appleton International Airport](#) and [Missions of Honor](#) partner to give veterans a free-of-charge flight to Washington D.C. to visit war memorials erected in their honor.

The first honor flight of 2026 will depart from the Appleton airport on April 7 186 veterans on board. Future flights depart as follows:

- Old Glory Honor Flight Mission 79 takes off April 7, 2026
- Old Glory Honor Flight Mission 80 takes off May 19, 2026
- Old Glory Honor Flight Mission 81 is the Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight and takes off from the EAA grounds during AirVenture July 24, 2026. This mission is exclusive to Vietnam War veterans.
- Old Glory Honor Flight Mission 82 takes off Oct. 27, 2026

Flights that depart and arrive from Appleton International Airport are open to the public to welcome home our veterans in a celebration the evening they return. 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.

Since its inception in 2009, the organization has hosted more than 7000 veterans and the Appleton airport has been hosting the majority of the flights.

"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."

"We could not celebrate these heroes without the commitment of our sponsors and partners and the overwhelming support of the community," said Chris Berkers, board member 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."

Pulling for Honor date announced

The organizations also announced the date for a major fund-raiser for the flights, [Pulling for Honor](#). This year, the event is scheduled for August 15, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In the event, teams compete to see who can pull a giant Boeing 757 plane 12 feet in the fastest time. Monies raised from the competition give veterans a free-of-charge flight to Washington D.C. to visit war memorials erected in their honor. 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. [Team registration is open for this year's event at this link.](#)

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."

"Since 2009, thousands of veterans and their escorts have had the ability to visit their memorials and be celebrated for the service they gave our country," Berkers said. He adds the event is not just for fundraising, but connects the community with veterans, their needs, and understanding the impact of their service.

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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, Sun Country Airlines, and Allegiant Air. In addition to offering nonstop service to 23 destinations, Appleton Airport connects to 13 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 largest airport of Wisconsin according to arrivals and departures. Visit atwairport.com to learn more.

About Missions of Honor/Old Glory Honor Flight

Old Glory Honor Flight rebranded the organization to **Missions of Honor** effective 1.1.26 to allow the organization to continue serving veterans through a variety of special flights and events that have fallen outside the Honor Flight parameters. Missions of Honor will be the umbrella organization for the Old Glory Honor Flight and will encompass additional flights and events in the future allowing more veterans to partake in services.

Old Glory Honor Flight will continue to honor veterans who served anytime, anywhere in any branch of service prior to May 1975. 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.