



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS OPERATION HERSTORY?

Operation HerStory is an organization founded to address issues related to women veterans, who are an underserved population. The Operation HerStory specialty flight in partnership with Honor Flight Chicago is the launch event for this organization.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE OPERATION HERSTORY FLIGHT WITH HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO?

Honor Flight Chicago's mission is to recognize our senior war veterans with an all-expense-paid day of honor in Washington D.C. The special Operation HerStory flight will comprise female veterans who served during WWII (12/7/1941-12/31/1946), the Korean War (6/25/1951-1/31/1955) and the Vietnam War Era (11/1/1955-5/15/1975). That service does not have to have been "in country" but does have to be active duty. Honor Flight Chicago does not currently provide a day of honor for service as a reservist or in the National Guard.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Specific Applications for the special Operation HerStory flight can be found on our website at honor-flightchicago.org under "How to apply." Or, you may call Honor Flight Chicago at 773-227-8387 or send an email to operationherstory@gmail.com to request an application be mailed to you. Once filled out, the application can be mailed, emailed or faxed. The information on where to do that is on the application.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU RECEIVE AN APPLICATION?

Applications are processed in the Honor Flight Chicago office, and the applicant will be notified of receipt. The application will be reviewed by a medical team in anticipation of an invitation being extended to join Operation HerStory. The medical team may call the veteran or family members to verify information provided or to answer any follow-up medical questions. Once a veteran has been cleared to fly, they will receive an official invitation approximately one month prior to the flight date.

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WHEN IS THE FLIGHT?

The Operation HerStory flight will take place on October 7, 2020, in the middle of Honor Flight Chicago's typical flight season. Honor Flight Chicago flies veterans from its wait list seven times per year between April and October, and this flight will be a special eighth mission to Washington, D.C., in addition to the regular seven flights. All of the details associated with the logistics of flight day will be communicated to the honored veterans after the official invitation to fly has been extended.

DO I HAVE TO LIVE IN CHICAGO? HOW DO I GET TO THE AIRPORT?

No, we accept applications from veterans in other areas that may not have Honor Flight hubs, or those that prefer to fly from Chicago. We ask the family of our veterans to assist in the transportation to and from Midway. Honor Flight Chicago may act as a resource for alternate transportation if there is no family member in the area. Veterans and guardians traveling from outside the Chicagoland area are responsible for any travel expenses to get to Midway.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? WHO PAYS FOR THE TRIP?

Our veterans have already given so much through their service to our country. All costs associated with the veteran's trip, including airfare to and from Washington, D.C., are covered by Honor Flight Chicago and Operation HerStory. Guardians each pay **\$624** for the honor of escorting a senior war veteran to Washington, D.C. There is a reduced rate of **\$298** for our medical team to fly. These rates represent approximately one-half and one-fourth of the full cost for the one day trip to Washington D.C.

Flights are funded by donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, schools, military organizations, and other fraternal organizations that wish to be an important part of honoring these heroes and who recognize the urgent need to fly our WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam era veterans to see their memorials. No funding is received from the government.

WILL HEALTH ISSUES PREVENT ME FROM FLYING?

All applications are screened by a trained medical team to be sure we are aware of any medical challenges. If there are concerns, the team will reach out to the veteran, their family and their doctor to discuss any concerns. If a medical issue arises that affects an invitation, we will put the veteran on medical hold and check on their medical condition in hopes of inviting them at a later date.

Wheelchair: Every veteran who flies with us will have a wheelchair available and most of our veterans will use this chair for some or all of the day. Even veterans who have never sat in a wheelchair before welcome the chance to take a rest during a portion of the day. We recognize that this day of honor is a very long day.

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WILL HEALTH ISSUES PREVENT ME FROM FLYING? (CONT.)

Oxygen: If a veteran requires oxygen, their health care provider must supply a prescription that identifies the delivery method (mask or nasal cannula), frequency (as needed or continuously), and the rate of delivery (liters per minute). Honor Flight Chicago will provide the veteran with the oxygen concentrator for the flight as well as the bottled oxygen for the day.

Honor Flight Chicago travels with a team of doctors and nurses who are familiar with each veteran's medical needs as noted on their applications. Currently every veteran is accompanied by a guardian for the day. The guardian can be a family member if the medical team deems it a necessity for the veteran.

DOES EVERY VETERAN HAVE A GUARDIAN? CAN IT BE A FAMILY MEMBER?

Currently, every veteran is assigned a guardian for the day. For every guardian we put on the flight from Chicago, there is one less seat for a deserving veteran so the majority of our guardians are trained volunteers based in the D.C. area that meet the veterans when they land. There are a limited number of seats for guardians from Chicago. Based on the medical needs of the veteran, a family guardian may be approved. To be considered, the family member must submit a guardian application, meet the guidelines on the application, attend a training session and pay the guardian fee of \$624. *Spouses are NOT permitted to serve as family guardians.*

We fly an average of 100 veterans on each flight. Each flight also includes the doctors and nurses who dedicate their time and expertise to help make our trips safe, the HFC Flight Team that coordinates the day, photographers that chronicle the day, and a limited number of family guardians.

I HAVE HEARD IT IS A LONG DAY. HOW LONG?

It is a long day! However, over veterans find it to be exhilarating and paced well to ensure their safety and comfort. Veterans are asked to report to Midway airport no later than 4 a.m. on flight day for pre-flight processing and security clearance. Once in Washington, D.C., travel is on comfortable coach buses as we tour the various stops on the itinerary. The return trip is scheduled to land between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.

During the day, we serve coffee and donuts at the gate in the morning, breakfast on the plane, lunch in Washington, D.C., and supper at the gate prior to the return flight home. Snacks, water, Gatorade and soda are available throughout the day on each bus.

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HOW DO I VOLUNTEER WITH HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO?

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do at Honor Flight Chicago and we would be honored to have you join us. Because we work with a senior population, each volunteer must have an application on file. The application is available on our website at honorflightchicago.org and lists some of the volunteering opportunities available. With the information you provide, including your skills and interests, we can work to find a focus for your volunteer work with us.

Because the Operation HerStory flight will make use of Honor Flight Chicago's existing infrastructure, very few if any one-off volunteers will be permitted to participate in Flight Day logistics.