

***In Honor of Our Veterans:*** At 10:30 on the evening of September 25<sup>th</sup>, a very special event took place. Veterans and their guardians returned to the Cincinnati Airport from a day long Honor Flight to Washington DC. Honor Flight Tri-State has a simple mission– to Fly as many World War II and Korean Veterans to see their memorials in Washington DC as possible– as fast as possible! Guardians are volunteers who accompany the veterans and play an important and significant role on flights, ensuring that every veteran has a safe and memorable experience. This trip is of no cost to Veterans, but Guardians, who must apply for the opportunity, are responsible for paying their own airfare. On this particular flight half of the veterans were from WWII and half were Korean Veterans. Two veterans fought in both wars and the oldest veteran involved was 96 years old.

Our own Amy Barron was Guardian for her father, Ed Yorgen, during this wonderful daylong adventure. Sgt. Yorgan was stationed in Butzbach, Germany during the Korean War and was among the first troops sent there when Russian tension was at its height following the end of WWII.



Fred Riggs (friend of Maxine) and family and friends, Karen, Joey, Julie, Shane, and Jacob

When Honor Flight participants returned, approximately 300 people, including several S.A.R. and DAR chapters as well as friends and family greeted the returning veterans with signs, flags, applause and well wishes. It was, indeed, a very emotional experience for ALL involved. Amy reported that it was a wonderful opportunity for she and her father to share stories she had never heard before regarding his experiences in a very dangerous area of the world. Amy also remarked that, “It is humbling being surrounded by all of those veterans who have served their country”. It was, indeed, a humbling experience for the rest of us as well. Linda and Wayne Homer and Jon and Jan Mauch were all among the greeters as were Maxine Mace and Fred Riggs who brought his daughter, three grandchildren and a guest. The oldest grandson, a high school senior, was particularly impressed and indicated a desire to become involved in the program. What a wonderful opportunity to encourage patriotism and respect in our young future leaders.

The success of Honor Flight is dependent upon monetary donations as well as volunteers. See the website for more information.

([www.honorflighttristate.org](http://www.honorflighttristate.org))