



## 445th Airlift Wing to Host Operation Honor Events at Wright-Patterson AFB

Aug. 26, 2025

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio** – The Air Force Reserve’s 445th Airlift Wing invites members of the media to attend a series of commemorative events Sept. 19–21 in honor of War veterans and the 20th anniversary of Honor Flight Dayton.

These events, part of Operation Honor, will spotlight the unveiling of a newly renamed aircraft, a historic Honor Flight mission, and a community-wide welcome home celebration.

### Event Schedule & Coverage Opportunities

#### *C-17 “Spirit of Hanoi Taxi” unveiling*

**What:** The 445th AW will unveil the newly designated C-17 “Spirit of Hanoi Taxi,” honoring the original C-141 that repatriated American POWs from Vietnam.

**When:** Friday, Sept. 19 at 11 a.m.

**Where:** 445th Airlift Wing, Wright Patterson AFB

#### **Interview Opportunities:**

- Maj. Gen. (Ret) Edward Mechenbier, Guest Speaker and Vietnam POW
- Col. Mathew Muha, Lead Planner, Operation Honor
- Capt. Earl Morse, Founder, Honor Flight
- Al Bailey, President, Honor Flight Dayton

#### *Honor Flight Departure*

**What:** About 165 veterans will board the newly named C-17 the “Spirit of Hanoi Taxi,” and an additional C-17 crewed by the 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station, for a daylong journey to Washington, D.C. to visit national memorials.

**When:** Sunday, Sept. 21 | Media access: 4–6 a.m.

#### *Operation Honor Flight Coverage and Memorial Visits*

**What:** Media are invited to fly with veterans and 445th AW members to Washington, D.C., and accompany them during memorial visits. This is a rare opportunity to document firsthand the emotional impact of Honor Flight.

**When:** Sunday, Sept. 21 | 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.



**Where:** 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB | C-17s | Washington D.C. War Memorials

**Note:** Seats are limited. Selected media will be asked to follow respectful coverage guidelines due to the sensitive nature of the experience.

### ***Welcome Home Ceremony & Concert***

**What:** Community members and the 445th AW will host a public celebration to welcome the veteran's home from the Honor Flight.

**When:** Sunday, Sept. 21

- The concert begins at 4 p.m.
- Flight arrival expected around 8 p.m.

**Where:** 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson AFB

### **Why it Matters**

This milestone marks:

- **20 years of Honor Flight Dayton**, a nonprofit dedicated to honoring veterans by transporting them to visit memorials built in their honor.
- **30 years of the 445th Airlift Wing's presence at Wright-Patterson AFB**, showcasing its enduring commitment to service and community.
- **A long-overdue welcome home for Vietnam-era veterans**, many of whom never received the recognition or appreciation they deserved from their communities. This event offers a chance to honor their service with the respect and gratitude they were denied decades ago.

These events offer powerful storytelling opportunities that highlight patriotism, legacy, and the enduring bond between veterans and today's Airmen. For background, see:

[Day of Honor brings veterans out of shadows, into community.](#)

### **RSVP & Media Access**

Media interested in attending one or more events must RSVP by **Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 4 p.m.** to ensure base access and coordination.

- **Email:** [445aw.pa2@us.af.mil](mailto:445aw.pa2@us.af.mil)
- **Phone:** (937) 257-5784

Upon RSVP, detailed access instructions and day-of logistics will be provided.

For outlets unable to attend, media assets including photos, video, b-roll, and interviews will be available at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/445-AW>

445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs  
<https://www.445aw.afrc.af.mil/>