



U.S. AIR FORCE

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445th Airlift Wing to celebrate 20th anniversary of Honor Flight

Aug. 5, 2025

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – The Air Force Reserve's 445th Airlift Wing, in coordination with Honor Flight Dayton, will fly roughly 150 U.S. military veterans to Washington, D.C. and back Sept. 21 aboard two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

The event, known as Operation Honor, recognizes the 20th anniversary of the first Honor Flight, which originated locally when retired Air Force Capt. Earl Morse convinced pilots from the Wright-Patterson AFB Aero Club to fly 12 veterans aboard six small planes to Washington to see the World War II Memorial.

To honor the wing's historical connectiveness to the veterans, the Air Force Reserve Command will designate one of the C-17s as the Spirit of Hanoi Taxi, commemorating the historic C-141 aircraft that transported the first American prisoners of war from Vietnam and was later assigned to the 445th Airlift Wing.

The Honor Flight program provides many veterans, but especially those who served in the Vietnam War, long-overdue recognition. Thousands of community members are expected to welcome them home at Wright-Patterson AFB, where the 445th will host a free, public concert on its campus. Attendees must reserve tickets in advance. Off-base parking will be available, and shuttle buses will transport guests to and from the event.

Tickets, event details, and a deeper look at the [Honor Flight story](#) are available at <https://www.eventsprout.com/event/operation-honor>.

Details regarding media access and coverage opportunities will be released at a later date.

For additional information, please contact the 445th Airlift Wing Public Affairs.

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