



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Honor Flight for WWII Vets Scheduled for April 21st from Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS..... On Wednesday, April 21, 104 central Illinois World War II Veterans will board the third Honor Flight from Springfield's Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport. Bound for Washington D.C., the Veterans will visit the National World War II Memorial, Arlington Cemetery and other memorials and return home that same day.

“This is the second year for the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight to fly out of Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport,” stated Springfield Airport Authority Board Chairman, Frank Vala. “We welcome all of the World War II Veterans and are honored to be able to host such a memorable event for them,” continued Vala.

The Honor Flight, funded by generous donations from individuals, organizations and businesses, and arranged for by Land of Lincoln Honor Flight, Inc., provides WWII Veterans an opportunity to visit the National Memorials that commemorates their service to America. Land of Lincoln Honor Flight is just one part of the national Honor Flight network, whose mission, in part, is to provide round trip transportation and accommodations from the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in Springfield, Illinois for any central Illinois World War II Veteran who wishes to visit the World War II Memorial and other memorials in Washington, D.C.

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This day trip is provided completely free of charge to the veteran in honor of his/her service to our country.

The 104 central Illinois Veterans will depart Springfield at approximately 7:00 a.m. on a charter aircraft operated by Sun Country Airlines and fly non-stop to Washington D.C. 56 guardian volunteers will accompany the World War II Vets to ensure their safety and comfort throughout the day. Through a generous, but anonymous donation, Mark McDonald and a cameraman from WSEC Public Television will be on this Honor Flight to obtain video footage to create an Illinois Stories program to be aired at a later date on WSEC public broadcast television.

Veterans on this flight come from the towns of Alton, Argenta, Astoria, Athens, Auburn, Beardstown, Bloomington, Brighton, Bunker Hill, Chatham, Clinton, Dawson, Decatur, East Peoria, Farmersville, Forsyth, Gillespie, Girard, Godfrey, Golden, Hartsburg, Hillsboro, Jacksonville, Lincoln, Litchfield, Maroa, Middletown, Morton, Mt. Pulaski, Naples, New Holland, Nokomis, Normal, Oreana, Pekin, Peoria, Petersburg, Pleasant Plains, Quincy, Raymond, Rochester, South Jacksonville, Sherman, Shipman, Springfield, Taylorville, Tremont, Virden, Weldon and Witt.

The Honor Flight will return to a “Welcome Home” ceremony at the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in the main passenger terminal on the same day, April 21st, arriving at approximately 9:15 p.m. The public is invited to the welcome home ceremony at Capital Airport, which will include a formal Military Honor Guard.

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For more information about the flights, how individuals and groups can help the mission, obtain applications, become a member and learn more about Land of Lincoln Honor Flight, go to their web site at www.landoflincolnhonorflight.org or contact Ray Wiedle at 314- 427- 2317 (home) or (217) 622-1473 (cell) or via email at arwiedle@sbcglobal.net.

ABOUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN CAPITAL AIRPORT

Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport is one of the fastest growing regional airports in the Midwest and experienced a 5.35% passenger growth in 2009, despite a nationwide trend of decreased passenger traffic. Currently, United and American Airlines have multiple, daily flights to Chicago's O'Hare International. Direct Air offers seasonal flights to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and Ft. Myers/Punta Gorda, Florida. Capital Airport is home to the Passenger Service Center, the only on-site airport operated customer service center in central Illinois, and Sky Club, an unparalleled level of service for frequent travelers.

More information, including a complete listing of arrivals and departures can be found online at www.flyspi.com or by calling the Passenger Service Center at 217.788.9200.

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