

Honor Air Flight Project Takes Off

Written by Denise Ringler
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The Boone Sunrise Rotary Club is participating in a national initiative, the "Honor Air Flight Project," which provides funding and support to send WWII veterans to Washington, D.C., for a day-long tour of the city, combined with special activities and a ceremony that recognizes and honors their remarkable service to our nation. To date, the organization has 21 veterans from our community scheduled to make the trip to our nation's capital in early to mid-May, along with "guardians" who travel with the group.

Additional slots are still available for WWII veterans from our area who wish to participate. These will be the last flights from our area, as our WWII veterans are now at an average age of 90 years, and most will no longer be able to travel long distances in the future. Anyone interested in learning more about the program, or sharing this information with a veteran from our area, can obtain additional details by calling Bob De Camera at 828.964.3499, or by contacting him via e-mail at bob@BooneRealEstate.com.

Photo: Boone Sunrise Rotary Member Col. Dennis Ray (right), with Ken Wiley, author of "Lucky Thirteen: D-Days in the Pacific," a riveting account of Wiley's WWII experiences as a Coast Guardsman on an Attack Transport in the Pacific, navigating hostile waters to provide transport for troops, under fire by enemy gunners.