

Bob Hanna takes part in Korean War veteran honor flight

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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Bob Hanna watches the changing of the guard at the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia last Tuesday. His visit was part of an honor flight which took Korean War combat veterans from Nebraska to visit the Korean War Memorial, other memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. The honor flight was hosted by Patriotic Productions of Omaha. (Courtesy Photo | Mike Theiler for the Lincoln Journal Star)

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

Bob Hanna of Wauneta was part of an honor flight that took 135 combat veterans from Nebraska to Washington, D.C. last Tuesday to visit the Korean War Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery.

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The honor flight was organized by Patriotic Productions, based in Omaha and run by Bill and Evonne Williams.

Hanna said the trip was “very impressive.” Hanna’s daughter, Nancy Munderloh, drove him to Omaha on Monday, Oct. 28 in preparation for the trip on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

It was a long day for the Korean veterans—starting at 3 a.m. Tuesday and ending at 1 a.m. Wednesday—but Hanna said it was worthwhile.

He said they saw the Korean War Memorial and drove around Arlington National Cemetery, including being able to watch the changing of the guard.

“It was quite the deal and I appreciated it very much,” said Hanna.

The trip was provided at no cost to the veterans as a way of honoring and saying “thank you” to our nation’s heroes.

Will Williams of Patriotic Productions said the organization received 555 applications from veterans to take part in the honor flight. The 135 who took part in the honor flight were from 70 communities across Nebraska.

A total of approximately \$90,000 was raised from 350 donors to finance the honor flight for Nebraskan veterans.

While the veterans were in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday Evonne Williams organized activities in Omaha for their wives and families which included a lunch, tour of Omaha and a pizza party.

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Bill Williams said the pizza party was especially special for the family members because it gave the veterans' wives a chance to talk about their experiences during the Korean War when their husbands were gone to war.

When the veterans returned to Omaha late Tuesday night 200 people were at the airport to greet them.

On Wednesday, the organization took veterans from Iowa on an honor flight as well.

Previously, Patriotic Productions took seven flights of World War II veterans on honor flights in 2007 and 2008.



While in Washington, D.C. the honor flight veterans posed for a group photo in front of the Air Force Memorial. A total of 135 combat veterans from the Korean War visited memorials as part of the honor flight. (Courtesy Photo | David Buell)