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HONOR FLIGHT NAMES DAVID A. SMITH BOARD CHAIR

New Board prepares to resume trips August 15

ARLINGTON, Va. (March 30, 2021) – The Honor Flight Network announced David A. Smith, founder of *Honor Flight San Diego*, as Chair of its Board of Directors. The Honor Flight Network comprises more than 125 independent hubs across the country. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Honor Flight transported more than 20,000 veterans to Washington, DC, annually, to see the national memorials built in their honor.

“Dave Smith is an exemplary leader, organizational management expert, and devoted champion of the Honor Flight mission,” said Meredith Rosenbeck, CEO of the Honor Flight Network. “As the founder of the San Diego hub, Dave has helped take more than 1,400 veterans to Washington, DC, traveling one of the longest journeys in the Honor Flight Network.”

Smith founded the San Diego hub in 2010 after experiencing an inspiring Honor Flight trip with his WWII Marine Corps father in 2009. He is also the founder of Professional Workplace Interaction, Inc. (PWI), where he has cultivated extensive experience in executive management, national project management, field operations, product launch, and financial management at corporate and small business levels. As Board Chair, he will lead the Board’s newly elected officers and two new members:

- Brian Ziegler, Madison, Wis., Vice Chair
- Paula Nelson, Hartford, Wis., Secretary
- Frank Kimler, Walden, N.Y., Treasurer
- John McCaskill, Washington, D.C., Member-elect
- Matthew Shuman, Arlington, Va., Member-elect

“I am very honored to be selected as President and Chairman,” said Smith. “My first priority is to get our hubs flying again—when it is safe to do so—and get our nation’s heroes on their Honor Flight.”

The Honor Flight Network initiated a mandatory suspension of all trips in 2020 in response to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) over COVID-19. Currently, the organization plans to resume trips on August 15, 2021. The Board of Directors will continually assess the need to extend the suspension as more information is provided by health authorities. Shortly after resuming trips, the Honor Flight Network expects to reach the historic milestone of having provided 250,000 veterans with what is often called “the experience of a lifetime.”

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About Honor Flight Network

The Honor Flight Network began as a group of volunteer pilots flying World War II veterans to see the new national World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. The Network has since expanded to 125 hubs across the country. In addition to World War II veterans, the organization transports those who served in the Korean War, Vietnam War, intermediary operations, and in special cases of terminal illness or injury, veterans from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2005, the Honor Flight Network has taken more than 240,000 veterans to Washington D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to honoring the sacrifices of those who served. For more information, visit honorflight.org.