

RSVP Volunteer Program

RSVP IS A PROGRAM OF THE WESTERN DAIRYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

Sept/Oct 2019

RSVP Volunteer Veterans Experience the Freedom Honor Flight

Three years plus three months is the time it took for RSVP volunteer and Vietnam War veteran, Jerry Knudtson, to be notified that he was approved to take the Freedom Honor Flight on May 18th, 2019 to Washington D.C. Four years ago Jerry heard about the Honor Flight and decided he wanted to go. Shortly after that he completed and submitted the application, knowing there was a waiting list. Gordon Boe, a Vietnam Era Vet and RSVP volunteer, was also on the waiting list for three years. Jerry and Gordon were notified of their approval for the Honor Flight about two months before the trip. Neither Jerry nor Gordon selected a guardian. Jerry stated that he could have chosen a guardian go with him but he chose not to in order to ensure as many veterans as possible could go on the flight. RSVP volunteer and Vietnam veteran, Larry Motzer waited five years before he was able to be on the same Freedom Honor Flight as Jerry and Gordon this past May.



Pictured: RSVP volunteer & veteran Larry Motzer; RSVP volunteers Jerry Knudtson & Gordon Boe.

Larry was able to have his son (who is an Army veteran) as his guardian during the trip. Larry has been looking for a way to pay tribute to those who lost their lives while serving ever since he left Vietnam. A WWII veteran had previously shared with Larry about the Freedom Honor flight and, after that, he knew he wanted to take the trip. The Freedom Honor Flight gave him the opportunity to do so.

Prior to going on the Freedom Honor Flight, veterans must attend an orientation which goes over essential details of the trip before taking the flight.

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Western Dairyland EOC Inc. is a private, non-profit community action agency established in 1966 for the purpose of alleviating poverty-related conditions and assisting low-income families to achieve their economic self-reliance. We welcome your comments & suggestions about the Western Dairyland RSVP program.

RSVP Contact Information

Address:

Western Dairyland EOC Inc. RSVP Program
23122 Whitehall Road
PO Box 125
Independence, WI 54747

Office hours:

Monday - Friday from 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Website:

www.westerndairyland.org/rsvp.phtml

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Have You Moved? We want to hear from you!

The RSVP Program has had the pleasure of working with many wonderful volunteers and watching the impact each person has made in their own community through volunteerism.

We ask that you please help the RSVP office stay updated. Are you still volunteering? Perhaps you are not feeling well or maybe you have been physically unable to volunteer due to an illness or surgery? We also know summers are busy and you may be enjoying more time with your family which may result in being too busy to volunteer at this time.

Whatever the reason, we would really like to hear from you. To insure that you receive RSVP volunteer recognition and to assist you with future RSVP volunteer opportunities, we ask that you be sure to record all volunteer hours at your volunteer work site.

Feel free to contact us at anytime; we welcome your input, concerns and volunteer stories.

Call us at 1-800-782-1063 ext. 1205, 1207 or 1232.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Welcome New Volunteers!!

Florence Nelson	Connie Seyffer
Cassie Losinski	Roselle Bee
TJ Schultz	Cheryl Alme Bysong
Darlene Boberg	Bonnie Olson
Robert Gamoke	Kristin Smith Procter
Janice Giemza	Gordon Boe
Carol Berklund	Marcia Devendorf
Bob Luethi	Charles Devendorf



Continued from Page 1...

During the orientation, they also have an opportunity to meet their guardian for the trip to D.C. (It turned out that Gordon's guardian for the trip was his cousin!) Each veteran receives Freedom Honor Flight polo shirts and other items free of charge in appreciation of their service. Founded in April 2008, the Freedom Honor Flight serves 30 counties in three states, Freedom Honor Flight flies veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials built in their honor. The fall of 2008 was their first flight to Washington D.C. Larry informed us that the cost of each flight is \$100,000! He added that it is wonderful that enough donations come in to support the mission. This one-day trip includes visits to the World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Wall, Marine Corps War Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. With spring and fall flights, the organization coordinates the transportation and itinerary of more than 200 veterans annually. To date, more than 1,800 veterans have participated in the Freedom Honor Flight program. Jerry added that on the trip they also had time to go to the Pentagon to see the 9/11 Memorial, the Air Force Memorial, and the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall. They also were able to get a look at the White House. All of this is done in one day!



Freedom Flight passengers received the treatment on the trip that they deserve. Jerry added that they had a police escort while they were travelling between the memorials, hardly having to stop for a red light! The day began at 5:30 am (at the La Crosse Airport) and they returned to La Crosse at about midnight that same day. The flight took about an hour and forty-five minutes. It was a long day but well worth it. Larry stated that he thoroughly appreciated the entire experience. One of his most memorable experiences was at Arlington National Cemetery; seeing The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Larry recalls it was an eerie place to visit but he felt honored to do so. He was surprised but humbled at the number of people at the memorials [there to remember their loved ones]. Larry also shared that his son (also his guardian) found the grave Audie Murphy. Audie Murphy was one of the most decorated American combat soldiers from WWII. Among his thirty-three awards was the Medal of Honor-the highest award for bravery that a soldier can receive. It was definitely a memorable experience for both Larry and his son.

On flight # 23 out of La Crosse, there were a total of 97 veterans, including Jerry, Gordon, and Larry. Six were WWII veterans, 26 were Korean War veterans, and 65 were Vietnam veterans. Jerry mentioned that a gentleman named Daniel Boone also took the trip with them. Jerry said that he and many of the other passengers talked to Daniel about his famous name, telling him jokingly he 'looked good for being almost 200 years old!'

Jerry was very honored and excited to have this experience. However, the most memorable thing about the trip is 'not exactly what he seen at the memorials, but the way each veteran was treated.' There was a very positive reception during the entire trip. They were greeted with applause, bands, and fireworks upon their arrival in Washington D.C. Jerry said, "It was also a beautiful 86 degrees".

The day after returning [on May 19, 2019], Eleva/Strum School District hosted a Senior Scholarship Night, awarding two scholarships. Jerry was in attendance at the event and ended up getting invited by the principal to come onstage to speak about his experience on the Freedom Honor Flight.

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RSVP FEATURED VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Neighborhood Food Pantry
Millston location (Jackson County): Volunteer Coordinator for the Millston food distribution site needed. The volunteer would pick up food from Brockway on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 8 am, & bring it to the Millston site for distribution from 9 – 10 am. After distribution, the food would get returned to Brockway. Please call us @ 715-985-2391 Ext. 1205 today if you are interested in this 1/mo. opportunity!

Volunteer Drivers (Pepin & Buffalo County Aging): Volunteer drivers are needed to transport individuals to medical, social & personal appointments. This flexible volunteer opportunity is based on your schedule & availability, so you can choose or deny rides @ the time of booking. Use your own vehicle or possibly a county vehicle based on location/availability. Mileage reimbursement is paid monthly when you use your personal vehicle. Give us a call today; start making a difference in your community!

Durand Meal Site—(Pepin County): The Pepin County Senior Nutrition Program is actively recruiting four volunteers to help out at the Durand Meal Site (located at Corral Bar & Riverside Grill) from 11:15am -1pm Tuesday-Friday. Duties would include: greeting participants, answering the telephone, & completing a small amount of paperwork. For more information, please contact us at 715-985-2391 Ext. 1205.

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Durand Area Food Pantry (Durand): Volunteers are needed to assist with registration and food distribution on Wednesday mornings from 9-12 and Thursday afternoons from 1-4. On occasion, additional help may be needed to help unload the delivery truck and stock pantry shelves. Call 715-985-2391 Ext. 1205 to learn more!

RSVP is seeking volunteers to put plastic on house windows before winter in multiple counties. Call to learn more!

Heartland Hospice Services (Buffalo, Eau Claire, Pepin & Trempealeau County): Compassionate individuals are needed to provide hospice services @ facilities & in homes in several locations including cities in Buffalo, Eau Claire, Pepin, & Trempealeau counties. Interested volunteers will attend an orientation & are trained @ the Heartland office in Eau Claire. This opportunity is very flexible & can be as little as an hour @ a time. (Includes friendly visits, reading, playing cards, singing to patients/playing music, or keeping patients company while family members take a break.

Volunteer Drivers (Trempealeau & Jackson County): The ADRC's in Jackson & Trempealeau County are seeking volunteers to transport individuals to medical appointments. This is a very flexible opportunity, snow birds are welcome! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver, give us a call @ 715-985-2391 Ext. 1205

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6 | RSVP VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT— EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

On Tuesday, August 6th, Eau Claire County RSVP volunteers gathered at the Florian Gardens in Eau Claire. During this annual event, RSVP is able to show appreciation for our RSVP volunteers and the impact they are making in their community. Volunteers visit with volunteers from other Eau Claire county sites, enjoy a wonderful meal, program, and the opportunity to bring home great raffle prizes donated by local businesses.



Thank you to the following businesses and organizations for contributing to the Eau Claire County Volunteer Recognition Event.

We appreciate your support!

Action City, Bowl Winkle's, Chip Magnet, Cold Stone Creamery, Culver's, Eau Claire Children's Theatre, Eau Claire Children's, Famous Dave's BBQ, Festival Foods, Houligan's Steak & Seafood Pub, Johnny's Pizza Shop, Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts, McDonald's, Micon Cinemas, Northern Tap House, Pizza Ranch, Scheels, Sleep Inn & Suites Conference Center, Tangled Up in Hue, Visit Eau Claire, Western Dairyland RSVP, and the Corporation for National & Community Service.





RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE



Looking for an apartment? The Housing Authority of the City of Eau Claire can help. Applications are currently available for all Housing Authority housing programs.

- All Housing Authority Owned Units
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- Must Meet Federal Household Income Limits

Please pick up an application from the Housing Authority office at 203 South Farwell Street or call the Housing Authority at 839-4943 for more information. You can also contact the office if you require voice TDD, specialized needs due to handicap (such as sign language interpreter, wheelchair accessibility, reader) or if you need a bilingual interpreter.

Call the Housing Authority for application, income guidelines, and other qualifications



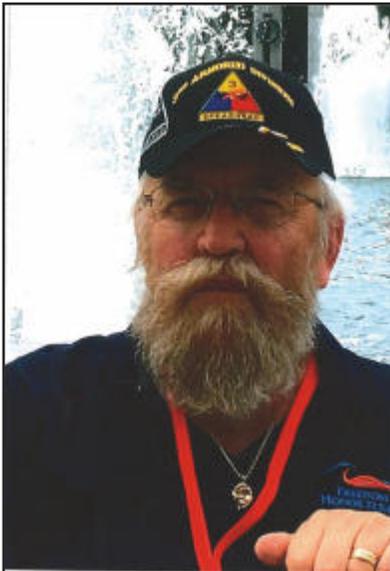
8 | *RSVP Volunteer Veterans Experience the Freedom Honor Flight*

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In front of school staff, students, parents and other community members, Jerry talked about his overall experience. Jerry felt honored to have the opportunity to not only take the flight, but share his story with the community.

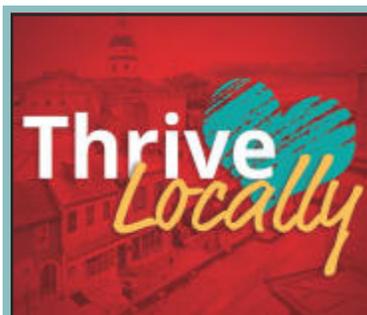
Jerry mentioned that he is Senior Vice Commander for the Strum VFW, Junior Vice Commander for the Eleva American Legion, a member of the Am Vets in Pleasantville, and the 40-8 (a branch of the American Legion) in Osseo. In order to be a member of the latter, you must be invited to join. Larry spent 17 years in the Air Force and now likes to support those currently serving our country by participating in R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed) Fridays. He feels like it is a great way to show support. He said, "We [veterans] had our time to be in uniform; now it's their time."

Gordy, Jerry and Larry were all proud of their experiences with the Freedom Honor Flight. During every part of the trip, they felt that they received the best reception and were truly honored and appreciated. The RSVP Program is honored to have veterans serving as volunteers with our program. Each veteran has already given so much for their country and now they are continuing to provide impactful service in their community. If you would like to learn more about the experience, you can visit: <https://www.freedomhonorflight.org/>.



FUN FACT:

Since its founding as the first Wisconsin honor flight hub, Freedom Honor Flight has flown 1,127 World War II veterans, 791 Korean War veterans and 87 Vietnam War veterans to Washington, DC, to see their memorials. In 2018, the group reached the 2,000 mark with a total of 2,005 veterans served.



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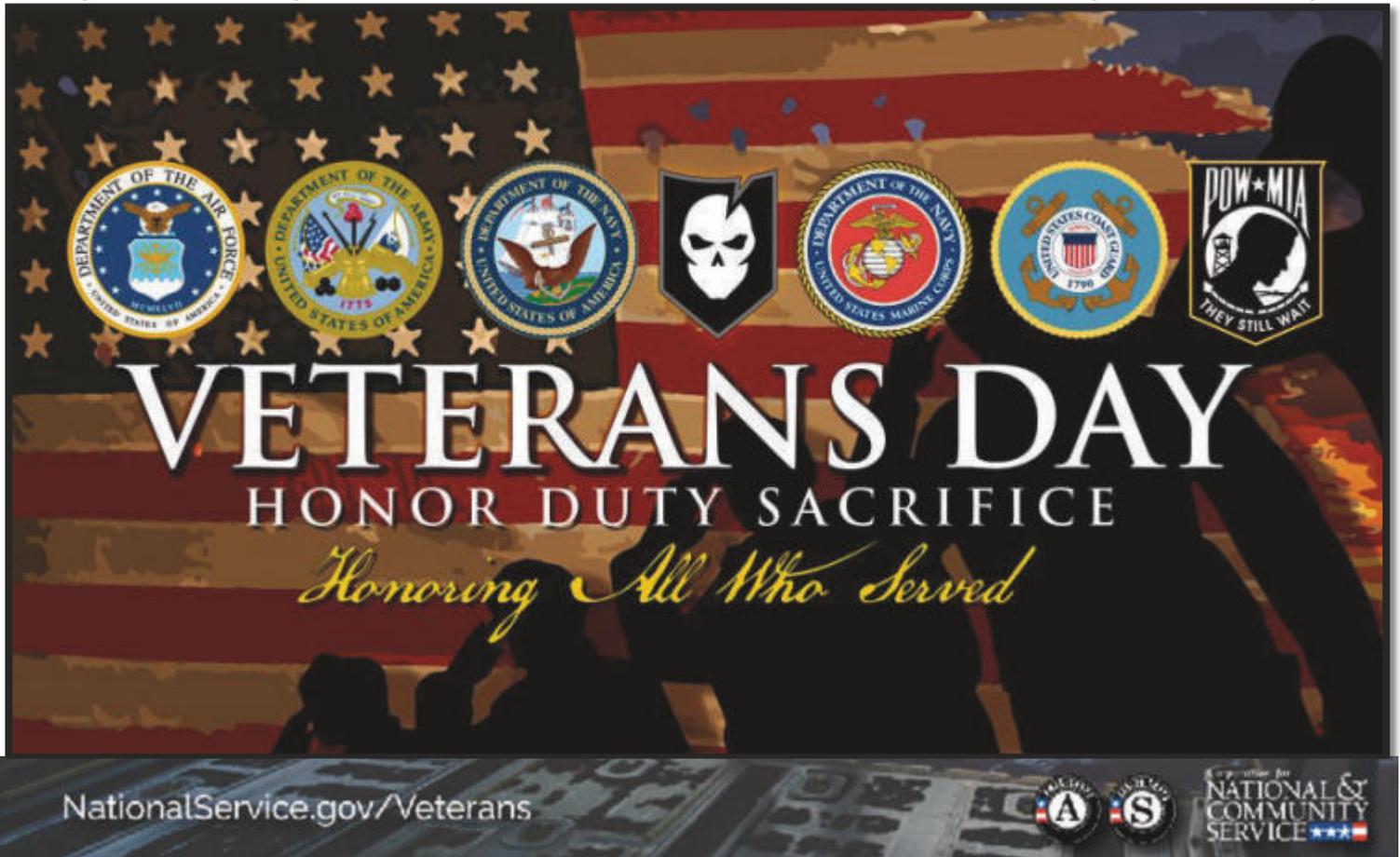


The Western Dairyland RSVP Program would like to recognize and honor veterans serving in the RSVP Senior Corp Program.

Your selfless contribution has made, and continues to make, an impact on countless individuals. Whether you are a veteran, or are serving veterans and military families, you are a part of a family of Senior Corps volunteers and AmeriCorps members.

Always, we appreciate you for your dedication to strengthening our communities by continuing to serve in your country.

For your bravery, hard work, and dedication to our country, we thank you



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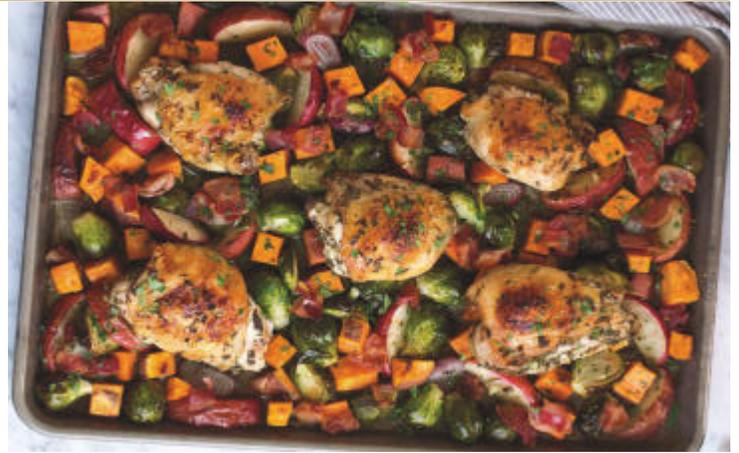
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Easy Chicken Dinner

Ingredients:

- 5 (6 - 7 oz) bone-in, skin on chicken thighs
- 4 Tbsp olive oil, divided
- 1 1/2 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 3 cloves garlic, minced (1 Tbsp)
- 1 Tbsp each minced fresh thyme, sage & rosemary
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper
- 1 large sweet potato, chopped into 3/4-inch cubes
- 1 lb Brussels sprouts, sliced into halves
- 2 medium Fuji apples, cored & sliced into half moons about 3/4-inch thick
- 2 shallot bulbs, peeled & sliced about 1/4" thick
- 4 slices hickory smoked bacon, cut into 1" pieces
- 2 Tbsp chopped parsley, for garnish (optional)



Servings: 5

Prep Time: 20 Minutes

Cook Time: 30 Minutes

See more at: <https://bit.ly/2xDCFfg>

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 450°.
2. Pour 2 Tbsp olive oil, red wine vinegar, garlic and herbs into a gallon size resealable bag.
3. Add chicken, season with salt and pepper then seal bag and massage mixture over chicken while working to evenly distribute herbs. Set aside and let rest while chopping veggies.
4. Place sweet potato, Brussels sprouts, apples and shallot on an 18 by 13-inch rimmed baking sheet.
5. Drizzle with remaining 2 Tbsp olive oil then toss to evenly coat, season with salt and pepper to taste. Spread into an even layer.

6. Set chicken thighs over veggie/apple layer.
7. Separate any pieces of bacon that may be stuck together then sprinkle bacon over veggie apple mixture.
8. Roast in preheated oven until chicken and veggies are golden brown, about 30 - 35 minutes (chicken should register 165 in center). Broil during last few minutes for a more golden brown crispy skin on chicken if desired.
9. Garnish with parsley if desired and serve warm.



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RSVP Volunteer Program

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