



United States House of Representatives

Congressional Record

CONGRESSMAN DAVE LOEBSACK (IA-02)
HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2011 QUAD CITIES
HONOR FLIGHT

SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

Today I have the great honor of welcoming to our nation's capital ninety Iowa veterans of the Greatest Generation. Accompanied by over seventy volunteer guardians, these veterans have travelled to Washington, DC to visit the monument that was built in their honor.

For many of these veterans, today will be the first time they have seen the National World War II Memorial. I am deeply honored to have been invited to join them when they see their memorial for the first time and to have the opportunity to personally thank these heroes.

I am proud to have a piece of marble from the quarry that supplied the marble that built the World War II Memorial in my office. Like the memorial that it built, that piece of marble reminds me of the sacrifices of a generation of Americans. When our country was threatened, they rose to defend not just our nation but the freedoms, democracy, and values that make our country the greatest nation on earth. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

The sheer magnitude of what the Greatest Generation accomplished, not just in war but in the peace that followed, continues to inspire us today. They did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, they defended and then rebuilt our nation to make it even stronger. Their patriotism, service, and great sacrifice not only defined their generation – they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Quad City Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.