



**Honoring Piedmont North Carolina's Veterans
Their Courage, Valor and Sacrifice in WWII**
A Service Project of Rotary District 7690



July 22, 2009

District 7690 Presidents and Assistant Governors:

The inaugural Triad Flight of Honor (www.triadflightofhonor.com) is off to an amazing start! As you know, our Rotary District is the lead organization in the planning, leadership, and execution of this event to send 100 World War II veterans to Washington, DC on October 3rd.

The media (WXII, WKZL, and Rock 92) began a media blitz on July 1st to publicize this event to the community. The response has been in a word overwhelming. For the 100 veteran seats and 33 guardian seats on the flight, we have received over 200 applications from interested veterans and over 200 applications from people wanting to go as volunteer guardians.

That being said, we will do our best to honor our commitment to taking those veterans recruited from your club if you are willing to sponsor them at \$500 per veteran. However, we hope you will also consider sponsoring the men and women who are on our wait list. We can let you know how many veterans have already applied from your community. Due to the large number of applicants, we hope to schedule multiple flights to honor these veterans.

PLEASE LET JEFF SIMS KNOW BY AUGUST 1ST YOUR CLUB'S FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO THIS PROJECT AND IF YOU ARE SPONSORING A SPECIFIC VETERAN(S) OR SOMEONE FROM OUR WAIT LIST. HIS EMAIL IS JSIMS@BANKOFGNANITE.COM OR YOU CAN REACH HIM ON HIS CELL AT (336) 706-0194. IF POSSIBLE, WE WOULD LIKE TO COLLECT ALL DONATIONS BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2009.

Our main effort now is fund raising to cover the \$50,000 budget for the flight. Many club Boards have since pledged to sponsor a Veteran and make a donation, which we greatly appreciate. A \$500 donation will sponsor a Veteran on the flight and a \$1,500 donation (sponsorship of 3 veterans) will allow a club to reserve a Guardian seat for \$200. Total cost to the club is \$1,700.00.

Donations may also be made personally. This is a tax-deductible contribution and can be made at any BB&T branch office in the Triad. Contribution forms can also be printed from our website: www.triadflightofhonor.com and mailed to PO Box 4613, Greensboro, NC 27404. In addition, we are seeking corporate donations from employers who may also offer a matching gift program and contributions from local organizations (Boy Scouts, VFW groups, churches, other civic clubs, etc.)

We challenge you to survey your club to contribute to this worthy cause and honor the valor, courage, and sacrifice of our WWII Veterans. Jeff would be eager to speak to you further about a presentation at your club with an update and heartwarming story on the impact of these flights.

Respectfully,

District Governor Mike Conrad