



WE HONOR VETERANS

Flight of Honor: Our Veterans Deserve to be Honored

Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice, Fort Wayne, IN

Having served in World War II as an army nurse, patient Mary Voss had always wanted to visit Washington, D.C., but didn't think it possible since she was receiving hospice care. When Bonnie Gerstung, RN Case Manager at HH-For Wayne, IN presented the idea of participating in an upcoming Honor Flight for Veterans, Mary was very excited her dream would soon become a reality.

On May 28, 2014 Mary and Bonnie joined 69 other Veterans and their guardians to be a part of the 13th Honor Flight of Northeast Indiana. Their first stop was the National WWII Memorial where the Veterans got off the bus to see it all close up. Next, the group enjoyed driving past the White House, United States Capitol building, Smithsonian, Holocaust Museum, and Jefferson, Lincoln and Martin Lither King Memorials. Other stops included the Korean Memorial and the Air Force Memorial. The highlight of the trip was seeing the Women in Military Service for America Memorial where Mary was presented with an award. She also loved watching the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Solider.

Mary's family was very excited about this opportunity. Her son and daughter-in-law provided a nice sendoff and Mary's grandchildren and several of HH-Fort Wayne staff were present to welcome back the group. The Fort Wayne International Airport had more than 1,000 people from northeast Indiana anxiously awaiting their arrival in an effort to thank them for their service to our country. There were many Veterans returning with tear-filled eyes, exhibiting joy and gratitude. "We are losing these soldiers so quickly," Bonnie said. "Soon they will all be gone and so will their stories. Our WWII Veterans have sacrificed so much for our country. They deserve to be honored."