



United States House of Representatives Congressional Record

CONGRESSMAN DAVE LOEBSACK (IA-02)
HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2011 NEWTON FREEDOM FLIGHT

OCTOBER 25, 2011

Today, over 160 Iowa veterans from the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Wars will travel to our nation's capital to visit the monuments that were built in their honor by a grateful nation. For many of these veterans, today will be the first time they will visit the capital and the first time that they will see their monuments.

On Sunday, they were given a warm send-off by their neighbors and friends from Newton and throughout Jasper County. More than 800 Iowans gathered to give them the recognition they deserve but, for far too many of these heroes, was never received. When they arrive in Washington today, I can think of no greater honor than to be able to greet them and to personally thank Iowa's – and our nation's – heroes for their service to our country.

The Freedom Flight brings together three generations of veterans who will travel together and support one another throughout their trip. It also brings together veterans who were never given the homecoming they deserved. This trip, made possible by generous donations from Iowans, many of whom the veterans will never meet in person, demonstrates that we as a state and as a country will never forget the debt we owe those who have worn our nation's uniform. The veterans will be able to visit their monuments today because their fellow Iowans refused to let their service go unrecognized. That generosity is truly humbling and should inspire us all to continue to work each and every day on behalf of those who serve our nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Newton Freedom Flight and Iowa's veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.