# SACRIFICE MEETS HOPE

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Dream //lights. Our Impact

# MISSION

Giving Back to Those Who Gave

"One Dream Flight at a time."

#### Dream Flights was established in 2011 to provide a unique and thrilling experience to senior veterans to thank them for their service.

This includes WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam veterans, who did not receive the acknowledgment they deserved for their service and sacrifice. With a family of pilots and a thriving career in senior care, Darryl Fisher had a bright idea: mix his love for flying with his passion for putting grins on the faces of our beloved elders. And like that, Dream Flights was born.

Dream Flights is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit serving and honoring veterans in senior living communities across the United States.



The inaugural dream flight occurred on March 29, 2011, in Oxford, Mississippi in a red-hot 1940 Boeing Stearman biplane, a family heirloom owned and once flown by Darryl's father.

Since then, we have been on a mission to gift unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experiences to veterans across our nation. With a fleet of six restored open-cockpit Stearmans, every year the Dream Flights team flawlessly fulfills its mission of giving back to those who gave.

Dream Flights is a mission, a cause, and an experience. To date, we've safely flown more than 6,500 Dream Flight missions.

Our Planes



Honor

VETERAN

"Dream Flights is an experience that touches the human soul and is an incredible way to give back to the men and women who fought for our freedoms."

Paul Bodenhamer Dream Flights Volunteer Retired United States Air Force

Thanks to the generous support of so many, we provide 600-800 Dream Flights annually to WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans.

Every year, we journey across the country bringing the magic of flight to senior living communities far and wide. Together with our partners, we bring joy, gratitude and a sense of adventure to deserving veterans, ensuring that their sacrifices and bravery are duly honored and celebrated.

Dream Flights are always free. Thanks to the support of our volunteers, sponsors, and partners we never charge veterans or their families for a Dream Flight.



"A Dream Flight is more than an airplane ride. It opens a veteran's eyes that they can do anything they set their minds to."

> Scott Buchanan, CEO Ohio Masonic Communities

100%

#### The Miracle of a Dream Flight.

Veteran Eddie Lamken had lost his zeal for life and had taken to a wheelchair. He seemed to have lost interest in everything around him. When his son Dave suggested a Dream Flight, Eddie remained uninterested and showed no excitement. When the day of the flight arrived, Dave was anxious and full of doubt as he pushed Eddie towards the Stearman.

When the flight was done, Dave could see that Eddie was waving and smiling ear-to-ear. With very little assistance, Eddie climbed out of the cockpit, down the stepladder and, as he stood there with his cane, he was so happy he started to cry. From that day forward, Eddie was transformed and no longer relied on the use of a wheelchair. It was like he was 50 again.

# **66** THANKS TO DREAM FLIGHTS ...



... our father experienced a renewed sense of vitality, which added several more years to his life."

-David Lamken, Eddie's Son

















At Dream Flights, a harmonious interaction unfolds among the pilot, crew, and our dream flyers that can only be described as magic.

Our flight crew earnestly uphold principles of safety, dignity, and reverence for the courageous individuals who pledged their allegiance to serve and uphold the honor of our nation.

It is a privilege to encounter these exceptional individuals, to attentively hear their narratives, express gratitude, share moments of joy, and provide them with an unforgettable experience.

Each mission at Dream Flights represents a chance to counter sacrifice with optimism.





"Wow! A Dream Flight is a deeply felt experience of a loving appreciation for our service. I am honored and grateful for their appreciation for us veterans." FI@I

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Ron Plomell, Army veteran, age 76 Air Medal Recipient Faces beaming with such wide smiles that they become achy. Laughter resonating from usually composed and reserved men and women. And a giddy-up in the step of aging bodies long reliant on walkers and wheelchairs.

These are just a few of the joyful sights and sounds of our beloved seniors that we get to experience and share with family, friends and our partners at Dream Flights.

For a single day we create bonds, inspire optimism, and revive energy for our Dream Flyers. This nostalgic experience serves as a ray of hope during what are often challenging times, while offering a chance to experience pure joy that can only come from flying through the air, feeling the wind on your face, and embracing a profound sense of adventure.





Our Impact

6,500+ Dream Flights Given

1,500+

**Dream Flight Events** 

1,000+

Cities Flown

49

States Flown

toin (15

Partner with us as we take to the skies to create unforgettable experiences for our country's military heroes as gratitude for their service to our great nation.

As a largely volunteer-run organization, partners are a crucial aspect of our story, strengthening our foundation and helping to make our mission soar. Through volunteer donations of time, and our partner's donations of financial resources, we never charge for a Dream Flight.

Together with our partners, we make magic happen one Dream Flight at a time. "Our partnership with Dream Flights is one more way Sport Clips can thank veterans for their service. Flying in an open-cockpit biplane is a magical experience for seniors living an otherwise quiet life. We're honored to be part of a life-changing mission that aligns with our own and allows team members to show their gratitude to generations of veterans."

Gordon Logan, Founder & Chairman Sport Clips

# Join our giving circle and amplify your impact.





#### **President's Society**

An annual contribution to Dream Flights as a President's Society partner provides opportunities to support the organization's fundamental operations. As our partner, you will help fund the care and preservation of our fleet of six WWII-era Boeing Stearman biplanes. You will also support Dream Flights University, a pilot training program with a focus on safety culture. Name on plane recognition will be considered for our President's Society donors.

#### **Dream Flight Leader**

A Dream Flight leader stands out for their monthly dedication and contributions that help sustain the Dream Flights mission. Your monthly donation sponsors the gift of a Dream Flight for a military hero.

#### **Dream Flight Friend**

Gifts made in honorarium or memoriam are a great way to acknowledge and celebrate a cherished loved one. You can also make a donation to support the mission of Dream Flights. As a valued supporter, your donation will be pooled with other gifts and used where it will have the greatest impact.

#### **Dream Flight Champion**

Our Champion partners ensure the gift of 600-800 Dream Flights every year to senior living communities. Your annual donation supports direct costs associated with Dream Flight missions including fuel, operations, flight logistics, and the routine maintenance of our planes to uphold the safety standards that are paramount in operating Dream Flights.

#### PLATINUM: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Logo on website • National & local publicity opportunities • Social Media collaboration Earned media • Priority for Dream Flights will be given

#### GOLD: \$2,500 - \$4,999

Logo on website • National & local publicity opportunities • Social Media collaboration Earned media • Priority for Dream Flights will be given

#### SILVER: \$1,000 - \$2,499

Logo on website • National & local publicity opportunities • Social Media collaboration Earned media • Priority for Dream Flights will be considered

#### **Our Values**

Safety Passion Integrity Transparency Team Work

### **Our Principles**

#### SAFETY

Safety will be our highest priority in all foundation activities.

#### SERVICE

We will be passionate about honoring and serving all that we come in contact with during the Dream Flight experience.

STEWARDSHIP We will be good stewards of all our resources.

**IMPROVEMENT** We will get a little better every day.

**SIMPLICITY** We will seek to keep things simple.

**PERSERVERANCE** We will always Press On.

# Giving Back to Those Who Gave One Dream Flight at a Time.

@DreamFlightsOrg



To learn more about our giving levels or partnership opportunities contact Dawn Harris at dawnh@dreamflights.org or 775-516-2294.

Thank you for supporting our mission.

www.DreamFlights.org Federal Tax ID: 45-2780141