



Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area

Our Medical Emergency: Lessons Learned

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Objectives

- Overview of the Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area
- Medical team
- Joseph Boyles, WW II Veteran
- Lessons learned

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Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area

- Founded in 2020
- Serving southeastern North Carolina
- Board of directors
 - President*
 - Treasurer* (as a guardian)
 - Secretary
 - Flight Leader*
 - Volunteer Leader
 - Guardian Leader*
 - Veteran Leader*
 - Events Leader
 - Fundraising Leader
 - Medical Team Leader*
- *traveled on the 2025 flight



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- WW II Memorial
- Korean War Memorial
- Vietnam Wall
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Iwo Jima
- Navy Memorial
- Air Force Memorial



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Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area

- Wilmington, NC
- March 22nd, 2025 training day
- April 26th, 2025 flight day
- Annual chartered flight
 - ILM to Washington, DC
 - 82 Veterans, 82 Guardians, leadership team, bus captains, and medical team
 - 182 total people on trip
 - Four buses each with tour guide
 - 8 total medical team members

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Medical Team

Multi-disciplinary team:

- Two emergency medicine physicians
- One orthopedic physician
- One NP
- One RN
- One LPN
- Two Paramedics



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Medical Team Duties

- Training Day
 - Individual meeting with each Veteran
 - Review medical history and screen for any anticipated issues
 - Evaluate ambulatory status and need for wheelchair for flight day
 - Socialize and enjoy lunch with all Veterans and Guardians



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Medical Team Duties

- Flight Day
 - **Monitor and manage any medical issues or questions throughout the day**
 - Keep medical supplies available and use as needed
 - Assist with wheelchairs and transitions from airport and plane
 - Assist with loading Veterans and Guardians on and off the bus with each stop
 - Maintain wheelchairs under bus and have available for Veterans as needed
 - Provide hydration and snacks throughout day to Veterans and Guardians
 - Help keep bus clean and tidy
 - Assist the bus captain as needed
 - Socialize with Veterans and Guardians

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Medical Team Supplies

- AED
- BP cuff
- Stethoscope
- Gloves
- Ice packs
- Wound care supplies
 - Scissors
 - Gauze
 - Tape
 - Coban
 - Tegaderm
 - Steri strips
 - Band aids
- OTC medications
 - Tylenol (Acetaminophen)
 - Motrin (Ibuprofen)
 - Benadryl
 - Loperamide
 - Pepto Bismol
 - Triple antibiotic ointment

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Joseph Boyles

- 98-year-old WW II Veteran
- Guardian on flight
 - Daughter- Vicki Boyles
- Wheelchair dependent



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Joseph Boyles

- Medical emergency at Arlington National Cemetery during Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Mr. Boyles unresponsive and in cardiac arrest
- Extrication from ceremony and resuscitation
- AED use
- 911 activation



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Joseph Boyles



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Joseph Boyles

- Medical team member with Mr. Boyles to emergency department in ambulance
- Veteran leader with daughter and her fiancé (another Veteran on flight) in Uber to hospital



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Joseph Boyles

- Assist with communication to medical team in the emergency department
 - Name
 - Medical history
 - Allergies
 - Code status
 - Sequence of events
- Assist with logistics of deceased Veteran

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Logistics

- Travel arrangements
- Keep experience positive for all other Veterans and Guardians
- Communication and coordination
 - Honor Flight Network
 - American Airlines
 - ILM airport Liaison
 - Media
 - Social Media

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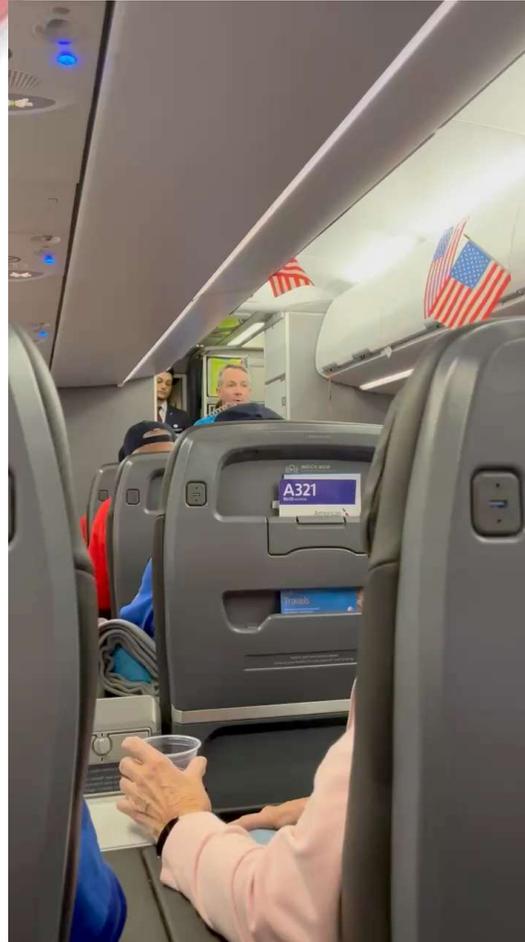


Communication

- Veterans and Guardians were aware that a Veteran went to the hospital but no further updates or information throughout the day
- Messaging via secure chat with leadership team
- Announcement on flight home of Mr. Boyles passing
- Final Roll Call

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Final Roll Call



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Communication



- Honor Flight Network
 - Hub Liaison Leader
 - DC Support Liaison
 - President communication
- ILM Airport
 - Events Leader communication and coordination

- American Airlines
 - Very accommodating
 - Offered to return remains at no cost
 - Personal escort through security and housed in American Airlines Admirals Club
 - Communication with flight crew
 - Assisted with Final Roll Call
 - President, Medical Leader, Flight Leader, Veteran Leader

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Media and Social Media

- Managed by President

Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area completed its fourth mission to Washing, DC on Saturday April 26.

The joy felt on the day of honor and remembrance was dampened by returning to Wilmington with one less hero than we departed with in the morning. The "Final Roll Call" tribute was shared with the travelers as the news of the loss of a WW II Veteran was shared.

Out of respect for the Veterans' family, we will not be releasing any further information at this time.

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Media and Social Media

- Daughter Vicki agreed to local media story
- Facebook posts

<https://www.wwaytv3.com/wilmington-veteran-dies-during-weekend-honor-flight-trip-to-washington-d-c/>

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Lessons Learned

- Emergency information for each Veteran
 - Emergency contact with relationship and phone number
 - Medical history
 - Medication list
 - Allergies
 - Code status/advanced directives
- Medical Team supplies and AED location
- Medical Team debrief and review

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Lessons Learned

- Honor Flight Network
 - Emergency contact/on-call
 - Recommendations, tipsheet, protocols, procedures
 - Templated media press release
- Leadership Team Debrief and Review
- Communication methods
 - Secure chat app for leadership
 - Plan for radios and earpieces for medical team

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2026 Flight

- Honorary guests
 - Vicki Boyles
 - Bernie Edwards

- Training Day
 - March 21st, 2026
- Flight Day
 - April 18th, 2026



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Questions and Open Discussion



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