



BILGEWATER

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 39-02, Des Plaines, IL 9TH WR
FC Bridget Darrey VFC Jeff Silberg FSO-PB Chas. Hague

Our URL: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=095-39-02>

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CONGRATULATIONS TO DENNIS WAUGH FOR QUALIFYING AS COAST GUARD CHAPLAIN! (it was harder than you might imagine)

ZOOM INTO THE NEXT MEETING OF FLOTILLA 39-02, 17 NOVEMBER!

We are still doing our Flotilla meetings via Zoom, which works pretty well. FC Bridget Darrey will send out an announcement giving the information for getting into the meeting. If you haven't joined, give it a try! This month's meeting is especially important, as Flotilla elections will be held. We will be electing a whole new Bridge, and they need to know that we support them.

The Division meeting is also held in Zoom Format. The next one of those will be 1 December.

39-02 MEMBER HONORED



On Wednesday, 27 October, Bob Reczek participated in an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. where he and 118 Veterans saw the memorials to the Services. It was quite an experience, beginning at 0200 to be at Midway Airport by 0400 where the veterans boarded a plane that flew them to Dulles Airport. There, they were bused into Washington, where they saw the Marine Corps, Air Force, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and the Lincoln memorials, The Marine Silent Drill team was a special treat.

On the way back to Dulles, the veterans stopped at The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, part of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. The vets were greeted by Shuttle Discovery, but Bob especially wanted to see Enola Gay, the aircraft that dropped the first atomic bomb.

On the flight back the Honor Flight leader gave a recap of the day, he concluded with the two words servicemen always looked forward to: "Mail Call!" The veterans were given cards and notes that thanked them for their service from their friends and schoolkids, and relatives. At Midway, Bob was greeted by a special Honor Guard consisting of Division Commander Landa, Flotilla Commander B. Darrey, and District Captain T. Darrey.

Here are Bob's comments on this momentous event:

What were your expectations before the trip, and how did that change by the end of the day?

The expectation I had; was I am taking an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. with other veterans to see the Memorials dedicated to the various wars.

The impact of the entire day changed in that the HFC is run like a high precision machine. I tell people, that at no time are you left alone, there was always someone ready to assist you. You were always with your guardian, who if met in D.C. became such a bond, you became friends forever.

Visiting these different memorials, especially the Air Force site, where you find out its significance on 9/11 being the path of the plane that flew into the Pentagon. My guardian showed me the path from flying over the Sheraton Hotel, clipping its antennas to over the hill, then into the building across the street. What gave it special meaning was she was working across the street and witnessed the aftermath.

How can you not mention the Marine Corps silent drill team? What was a real treat was when they broke ranks, a drill team member came up to me and started talking to me. I looked at his rifle and said that it was the same type I had in boot camp back in 1963. It was a



Garand M1 which he let me hold and look at. The entire HLC team in their color-coded shirts made the event flow and everyone was easy to recognize as to their role.

What was the most memorable part of the day?



It was at the Air and Space Museum seeing the Enola Gay; this was on my bucket list. The reason was at the company I worked at was an employee who joined after WW II, an article in a pamphlet celebrating the company's 75-year anniversary, mentioned those who served in WW II, and it mentions him as being the radio operator in the Enola Gay when the atomic bomb was dropped.

What was the most meaningful part of the Welcome Home celebration for you?



Having the plane baptized again by the fire department was the start. Stepping foot into the terminal and being greeted by the USCG Auxiliary District Captain, Division Commander, and my Flotilla Commander in their dress blues, who escorted me was a complete surprise. Walking the path to the floor below to the baggage area was very emotional, the hundreds, if not a thousand people, military, firemen, policemen, patriot guard, families with children all shouting welcome home. The big surprise was to see my wife, holding posters she made, my daughter wearing my army shirt, accompanied by her husband. I could not hold my composure; I was so proud.

MUSEUM SHIP USCGC ALERT SUNK

From the USS *New Jersey* Museum comes word that USCG Cutter *Alert* sank in Portland, OR. *Alert* was to have been a museum, but the group fell apart, homeless people took over and stripped the ship, and she sank from neglect 1 November.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8yzzPgsidM&list=WL&index=11>

