American Airlines Newsroom

NEWS RELEASE

American Airlines Hosts Medal of Honor Recipients

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Heroes enjoyed a ceremonial send-off and chartered flight to nation's capital

Medal of Honor recipient Army Maj. (Ret.) Drew Dix arrives at DCA to attend National Medal of Honor Day events.

Medal of Honor recipient Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret.) Hershel "Woody" Williams is greeted at DCA. Williams is the last living recipient from the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima.

Children of volunteers hold up signs to welcome their heroes to Washington, D.C.

Medal of Honor recipient and Army Col. (Ret.) Bruce Crandall and his service dog, Huey, enjoyed a first class experience aboard the Airbus A321T charter flight from JFK to DCA for National Medal of Honor Day.

FORT WORTH, Texas — American Airlines team members reaffirmed their commitment to our nation's military with annual events paying tribute to Medal of Honor recipients. The events culminated with a charter flight carrying 26 recipients and their families to Washington, D.C., Saturday to attend National Medal of Honor Day events and activities.

"American Airlines and our more than 130,000 team members are proud to partner with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the recipients of our nation's highest military award for valor in combat," said David Seymour, Senior Vice President of Integrated Operations at American and graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. "Our long-standing commitment to veterans and their families is unwavering. Many of our team members, including the pilots who flew the charter flight, are veterans and know firsthand the dedication and sacrifice required of those who serve."

The celebrations began Friday evening when the Medal of Honor recipients and their guests attended the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's annual Circle of Honor Gala, this year at the Cipriani Club in New York

City. The event celebrated their courage, selfless service and patriotism.

The honorable guests received a hero's sendoff Saturday at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) before boarding an Airbus 321T bound for the nation's capital. Upon arrival at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), the veterans' plane was greeted with a water cannon salute and hundreds of team members and supporters were at the gate to welcome the heroes to Washington. Recipients and their families were then escorted to a special dinner hosted by American in their honor at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City.

"We're extremely grateful for the overwhelming generosity of American Airlines in their support of the Medal of Honor recipients and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and Foundation," said Karl Horst, President and CEO of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation. "American helps the recipients and the foundation all year long to ensure we can travel the nation to educate and inspire American citizens about the values and the legacy of the Medal of Honor."

Since 2009, American has been involved with the foundation by supporting Medal of Honor recipients and the organization's activities. In 2011, the company became the first airline to offer all current and future Medal of Honor recipients top-tier ConciergeKey® status in its AAdvantage® loyalty program. Given to only its most elite customers, this status ensures these heroic individuals will have access to all elite amenities during their travel experience. In October, American will once again serve as the official airline of the Congressional Medal of Honor Convention, which will take place in Tampa, Florida.

American has long-standing ties to the nation's armed forces. With more than 7,000 team member who are veterans or still serving in the reserve component, the airline places a strong emphasis on these initiatives through collaborations with organizations including the Gary Sinise Foundation, the George W. Bush Institute and USO Metro Washington, D.C.

For more information about the ways American supports military, veterans and their families, please visit **aa.com/letgoodtakeflight**.

About the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation was founded in 1999 by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to perpetuate the legacy of the Medal. Through character development, scholarship and citizen recognition programs based on the values embodied in the Medal — courage, sacrifice, selfless service and patriotism — the Foundation teaches all citizens that they can make a difference in the lives of others. The Foundation also supports the important work of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with Tax ID #25-1828488, the Foundation carries a rating of 4/4 stars for fiscal management, accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator, America's premiere nonprofit evaluator.

About American Airlines Group

American Airlines and American Eagle offer an average of nearly 6,700 flights per day to nearly 350 destinations in more than 50 countries. American has hubs in Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix and Washington, D.C. American is a founding member of the oneworld® alliance, whose members serve more than 1,000 destinations with about 14,250 daily flights to over 150 countries. Shares of American Airlines Group Inc. trade on Nasdaq under the ticker symbol AAL. In 2015, its stock joined the S&P 500 index. Connect with American on Twitter **@AmericanAir** and at **Facebook.com/AmericanAirlines**.