

# All-Veteran Crew Flies Flagship Valor for Salute to the Troops Event

11/11/2022

FORT WORTH, Texas — This Veterans Day weekend, American Airlines is hosting wounded and ill servicemembers from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and their guests at the 13th annual Salute to the Troops event in partnership with MGM Resorts and the USO. American and its partners continue to build on a long history of supporting military servicemembers — past and present — and honoring their selfless sacrifice.

An all-veteran crew, who volunteered their time and talent, transported the group of 190 participants from Washington, D.C. to Las Vegas. They flew onboard **Flagship Valor** — an Airbus A321 with a special livery dedicated to recipients of the Medal of Honor, the highest award for military valor in action.

“My time in the Navy was my proudest moment, so I wanted to work this flight to give back to other veterans,” said American Airlines Flight Attendant Josh Williams. “Having the military camaraderie is rewarding, and it brings me back to when I was active duty. It feels good to give back and be part of a company that acknowledges my sacrifice and the sacrifices of others who gave their life to the military.”

Veterans receive a warm welcome upon arrival at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas.

The crewmembers for the flight — two pilots and four flight attendants — were all veterans.

Around 190 participants pose for a photo outside Flagship Valor.

Salute to the Troops has been held annually for more than a decade and offers active servicemembers an all-expenses-paid trip to enjoy four days in Las Vegas. The group received a warm welcome from American team

members at the airport and a police escort to the hotel, where hundreds of people gathered for a welcome procession at Mandalay Bay. This weekend, they will participate in a variety of activities, including dinners, live performances, musicals, and a tour of the Hoover Dam and Red Rock Canyon. The trip promotes fun, relaxation, and healing and serves as a small thank you for their service.

“This Veterans Day weekend serves as a unique opportunity for me and my fellow servicemembers to build on our experiences and the camaraderie that we’ve built during our service to this great nation,” said Army Veteran Jeremy Haynes. “But it would not be possible without the support of MGM Resorts, USO and American Airlines, as they put a lot of effort to ensure that we recognize and celebrate those who have served our country.”

American supports the military community year-round, which includes supporting nonprofit organizations and utilizing its fleet of aircraft for special missions like Salute to the Troops. In May, American **celebrated** the 250,000th veteran to participate in the Honor Flight program — a historic milestone for the Honor Flight Network, a nonprofit organization that provides veterans trips to visit the nation’s capital and the memorials erected in their honor.

Learn more about American’s Military and Veteran Initiatives program at [aa.com/letgoodtakeflight](https://aa.com/letgoodtakeflight).

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