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Wish Granted to Senior Veterans to Travel from Monroe, OH to Washington DC to Visit World War II memorial on March 31

On March 30th, Jeremy Bloom's Wish of a Lifetime will grant a group wish to a group of World War II Veterans from the Mt. Pleasant Retirement Village in Monroe, Ohio and from Life Care Alliance in Columbus, OH to visit the World War II Memorial. The Veterans will travel on a bus to the Capitol stopping at VFW Posts in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia to have a meal and meet with other WWII Veterans.

They will stop for lunch hosted by VFW Post 5356, St. Clairsville, OH at about 12:00 pm. on Tuesday, March 30. The group will have supper hosted by William D. Byron VFW Post 3285, Hagerstown, MD at about 5 p.m. and travel to Washington, D.C. for an overnight stay.

On March 31st, they will gather at the WWII Memorial on the National Mall for a ceremony at 2:00 PM. Commander Kirk S. Lippold, United States Navy (Ret.) and representatives from the Joint Chiefs of Staff's offices are slated to join the group at the memorial for a brief ceremony. Commander Lippold was the Commanding Officer of USS COLE when it came under a suicide terrorist attack by al Qaeda in the port of Aden, Yemen. During his command he and his crew distinguished themselves by saving this American war ship from sinking.

Then they will travel home (also by bus) on April 1st and will be hosted at the Bridgeport Country Club in Bridgeport, WV by the Rob Colburn and the Visiting Angels. It promises to be a very special trip.

Meet one of the veterans: Marion Riggs

Marion Riggs hit the beaches of Normandy on D Day manning a Twin 40 machine gun on the deck of a 284 LST. He was in a newly formed branch of the navy on an LST - Landing Ship Tank. He explained, "*We were formed because the Germans were sinking our ships faster than we could put them in the water. We were first in line on the beach of Normandy and for some reason we were told to back down and let a 282 take our place. We backed off and the*



Germans bombed the 282. There were over 300 men on that ship, only nine walked away. It happened right in front of us. I was never afraid, not once. The officers were on deck and through our earphones they told us where to fire, if it was in the air or on the ground, we did what we were trained to do. Our gun had two barrels and took seven men to operate. We did what we had to do."

Marion's story is just one of the amazing stories that will be shared on this journey. There is a fighter pilot, a bombardier, a nurse from the Army Nurse Corp (101 yrs old) and a Navy officer who saw the face of the pilot of the plane that dropped the bomb on Pearl Harbor to name a few. They do not want to see the WWII Memorial on their own, it is critical for them to share it with other Veterans who experienced the Depression and WWII.

The statistics indicate that 1200 WWII veterans die every day. It is important that we help fulfill their wish of a lifetime. You can help make this wish happen by donating to Jeremy Bloom's *Wish of a Lifetime* www.wishofalifetime.org



About Jeremy Bloom's Wish of a Lifetime Wish of a Lifetime Goes National

Effective January 1st, 2010, Jeremy Bloom's Wish of a Lifetime (JBWOL) began granting wishes to lower-income older adults in all fifty states.

The foundation, incorporated as a Denver based 501©3 less than two years ago, has experienced an unprecedented amount of growth and support in the Colorado community. *"I think that this is an amazing opportunity for us to reach seniors that we weren't able to impact before. We have done some amazing things here in Colorado and it will be exciting to provide this opportunity to well-deserving seniors all across the U.S.,"* said Laura Wildt, the National Director of Wishes.

The foundation plans to build Wish Committees in other states to help facilitate their national wishes and to partner with other senior non-profits and senior focused companies to help identify and target wish applicants.

Jeremy Bloom, Founder of JBWOL, recently retired from professional sports to devote additional time to the national development of the foundation. His vision and goals are culturally rooted: *"Our mission is to create a cultural shift on how we view aging. Our hope is to inspire all generations by highlighting our wish recipients who are accomplishing extraordinary things well into their eighties and nineties."*

Wishes have ranged from publishing a children's book to jumping out of an airplane ... from visiting a dying daughter to going on a date with Jeremy. Although the foundation does have guidelines for granting wishes, the sky is literally the limit for what type of wish is grantable. Deirdre Moynihan, Executive Director, states, *"Our wish recipients inspire other seniors to reach for their dreams and try new things. We are a fast moving society and, too often, we push those that move slower aside. It's nice to take a step back and appreciate the tremendous value of elders. They have paved the way for us and we should not take them for granted."*

The future is bright for JBWOL. As the population of seniors in the U.S. increases greatly over the coming years, there are many opportunities for the foundation to continue to give back to seniors. This is a wonderful venue for people to continually recognize the talents and skills of seniors and to value them in ways that they haven't been valued before.

Jeremy Bloom's Wish of a Lifetime
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