

Locals participate in October 2023 HONOR FLIGHT



■ On Tuesday, Oct. 10 three local veterans joined almost 80 others on an Honor Flight to Washington D.C., to celebrate our living warriors and to honor and mourn our fallen soldiers. Pastor Gary Beatty and island staple Bob Armstrong (pictured above right, in red) and Dean Laux (pictured just above with his wife, Miryam) made the one-day round-trip flight and came back with feelings of amazement, bereavement and joy.

A large crowd gathered to welcome them home Tuesday night at Punta Gorda Airport, including the Color Guard (near left) and the Scottish bagpipe band Guns n Hoses (bottom right). Beacon and Gasparilla Island Magazine advertising representative Caroline Clabaugh got a hug from Alex Davenport, the medical director for all Southwest Florida Honor Flights.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer to help with the flights, if you can donate or if you just want more information, go to swflhonorflight.org.

Photos by Caroline and Dusty



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