



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

CDA Web Alert

September 14, 2010

WWII Veterans receive patriotic send-off and welcome home celebrations at Midway International Airport



Today, ninety-three World War II veterans received a send-off celebration at Midway International Airport for their day trip to the National WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. The departure celebration included roll-call and performances by the vocal trio "Legacy Girls," who pay tribute to the famous Andrew Sisters.

While in the nation's Capitol, the veterans experience a day of remembrance and reminiscing for some who have waited more than sixty years to see the WWII Memorial. In addition to visiting the WWII Memorial, the veterans also travel to the Iwo Jima, Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials.

Over 1,500 family, friends and supporters are expected to welcome the veterans when they return to Midway this evening. In addition, dozens of active duty military personnel; the Illinois USO; and Chicago Police and Fire Department Pipe and Drums Corps will participate in the welcome home festivities.

Honor Flight Chicago, in partnership with Southwest Airlines and the United Services Organization (USO), hosts the all-expenses paid trips for the Chicago-area veterans.

The National WWII Memorial commemorates the 16 million who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort at home.

Honor Flight Chicago's mission is to provide WWII veterans from the Chicagoland area with a visit to the National World War II Memorial and to show appreciation for their patriotism. This year's Honor Flight monthly schedule began in April. The remaining flights for 2010 are scheduled for October 6 and 26.

For more information on Honor Flight Chicago, please visit www.honorflightchicago.org



The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM), released in August 2009. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the SAM, please visit www.airportgoinggreen.org.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), introduced by Mayor Richard M. Daley in June 2001, transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit www.oharemodernization.org to learn more about the OMP.

###