

sample honor flight letters

sample honor flight letters are essential documents that play a crucial role in expressing gratitude, support, and appreciation for veterans participating in the Honor Flight program. These letters often accompany nominations, sponsorship requests, or thank-you notes related to Honor Flight trips, which honor veterans by transporting them to visit war memorials. Writing effective sample honor flight letters requires understanding the tone, structure, and content appropriate for various purposes, whether it is a request for funding, an invitation, or a personal thank-you. This article provides comprehensive guidance on crafting different types of sample honor flight letters, including templates and best practices to ensure clarity and emotional impact. Readers will also find tips on personalization, formatting, and key elements to include in these letters to maximize their effectiveness. The following sections cover the importance of honor flight letters, detailed samples for different occasions, and advice on tailoring letters to specific recipients.

- Understanding the Importance of Sample Honor Flight Letters
- Types of Sample Honor Flight Letters
- Best Practices for Writing Sample Honor Flight Letters
- Sample Templates for Honor Flight Letters
- Personalizing and Formatting Honor Flight Letters

Understanding the Importance of Sample Honor Flight Letters

Sample honor flight letters serve as vital communication tools that help facilitate the Honor Flight program, which aims to honor veterans by offering them a memorable trip to national memorials. These letters are often used to nominate veterans, request sponsorships or donations, and express gratitude. Their importance lies in their ability to convey respect, honor, and the significance of the veterans' service, while also encouraging support and participation from the community. Well-written letters can increase awareness about the program and inspire more individuals and organizations to contribute to this meaningful cause. Understanding the purpose and impact of these letters is the first step in crafting effective correspondence that supports the Honor Flight mission.

The Role of Honor Flight Letters in Veteran Recognition

Honor Flight letters celebrate veterans' sacrifices and provide an official channel to recognize their contributions. These letters often accompany nomination forms or announcements and help personalize the recognition process. They highlight the veteran's service history and the importance of honoring them through the flight experience.

Facilitating Donations and Sponsorships

Many sample honor flight letters are designed to solicit financial support or sponsorships. Such letters explain the costs involved in organizing flights and the impact donations have on enabling veterans to participate. Clear, respectful requests can lead to increased funding and community involvement.

Types of Sample Honor Flight Letters

There are several types of sample honor flight letters, each tailored for specific purposes within the program. Knowing the distinctions between these types helps in selecting or creating the appropriate letter for any given situation.

Nomination Letters

Nomination letters are used to recommend veterans for participation in an Honor Flight trip. These letters typically include the veteran's military background, achievements, and reasons why they deserve to be honored. They are often submitted to Honor Flight coordinators or related organizations.

Thank-You Letters

Thank-you letters express gratitude to donors, volunteers, sponsors, and organizers who contribute to the success of Honor Flight missions. These letters acknowledge the recipient's support and detail how their contributions make a difference in veterans' lives.

Sponsorship Request Letters

Sponsorship request letters are aimed at securing financial or in-kind support for Honor Flight events. These letters outline the program's objectives, the costs involved, and the benefits sponsors receive by supporting veterans' flights.

Invitation Letters

Invitation letters invite individuals, families, or organizations to participate in, attend, or support Honor Flight-related events. These professional and courteous letters provide event details and encourage engagement.

Best Practices for Writing Sample Honor Flight Letters

Effective sample honor flight letters follow best practices that enhance clarity, professionalism, and emotional resonance. These guidelines ensure that the letters serve their intended purpose and leave a lasting positive impression.

Maintain a Respectful and Formal Tone

Given the solemn and honorable nature of the Honor Flight program, letters should be written with utmost respect and formality. This tone reflects the program's values and honors veterans appropriately.

Include Specific Veteran Information

Personal details about the veteran's military service, such as branch, rank, service years, and notable achievements, add authenticity and emotional weight to the letters. Highlighting these specifics makes the letter more compelling.

Be Clear and Concise

While it is important to include essential details, letters should avoid unnecessary verbosity. Clear, concise language helps the recipient quickly understand the purpose and respond accordingly.

Use a Professional Format

Proper formatting—including a header, date, salutation, body, closing, and signature—ensures the letter looks polished and credible. Bulleted or numbered lists can be used to organize information effectively.

Express Genuine Appreciation

When writing thank-you or acknowledgment letters, sincere expressions of gratitude are crucial. Personalizing these sentiments helps build lasting relationships with supporters and donors.

Sample Templates for Honor Flight Letters

Below are several sample templates illustrating how to structure different types of honor flight letters. These templates can be adapted to suit specific needs and veterans' backgrounds.

Sample Nomination Letter

Dear Honor Flight Coordinator,

I am writing to nominate [Veteran's Full Name], a distinguished veteran of the [Branch of Service], for participation in the upcoming Honor Flight. [Veteran's Last Name] served honorably from [Service Years], contributing significantly during [Specific Conflict or Duty]. Their dedication and sacrifice embody the spirit of our nation's heroes.

It would be an honor for [Veteran's Last Name] to experience this memorable trip to the memorials that pay tribute to their service and that of their comrades. Thank you for considering this

nomination.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

Sample Thank-You Letter

Dear [Donor/Sponsor Name],

On behalf of all the veterans and the Honor Flight organization, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous support. Your contribution made it possible for [Veteran's Full Name] to participate in the recent Honor Flight, a journey that provided immense joy and recognition of their service.

Your kindness and commitment to honoring our veterans are deeply appreciated and have a lasting impact on their lives.

With sincere gratitude,

[Your Name]

[Your Position]

[Organization Name]

Sample Sponsorship Request Letter

Dear [Potential Sponsor],

The Honor Flight program relies on the generosity of sponsors to fund flights for deserving veterans. We are seeking your support to sponsor a veteran's trip to Washington, D.C., where they will visit the memorials dedicated to their service.

The cost of sponsoring one veteran is approximately [\$Amount], which covers airfare, accommodations, meals, and transportation. Your sponsorship will provide an unforgettable experience and demonstrate your commitment to honoring those who have served.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a meaningful difference.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Position]

[Organization Name]

Personalizing and Formatting Honor Flight Letters

Personalization and proper formatting are critical to creating impactful sample honor flight letters. These elements ensure that the letters resonate emotionally and maintain professionalism.

Personalization Tips

Including the recipient's name, referencing specific contributions or relationships, and mentioning recent events or milestones can make letters more engaging. Tailoring content to reflect the

veteran's unique story and the recipient's connection to the cause enhances effectiveness.

Formatting Guidelines

- Use a standard business letter format with aligned margins.
- Include a clear subject line or purpose statement at the beginning.
- Break text into short paragraphs for readability.
- Utilize bullet points or numbered lists to highlight key information.
- End with a courteous closing and signature.

By adhering to these formatting and personalization strategies, sample honor flight letters become powerful tools to honor veterans and support the ongoing success of the Honor Flight program.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Honor Flight letter?

An Honor Flight letter is a written communication sent to veterans, volunteers, or sponsors involved in the Honor Flight program, often to express gratitude, provide information, or request support.

What should be included in a sample Honor Flight thank you letter?

A sample Honor Flight thank you letter should include a heartfelt expression of gratitude, mention of the specific Honor Flight event or experience, acknowledgment of the recipient's support or participation, and a closing statement of appreciation.

How do I write a letter requesting support for an Honor Flight?

When writing a letter requesting support for an Honor Flight, clearly explain the mission and importance of the program, specify the type of support needed (donations, volunteers, etc.), provide contact information, and offer thanks in advance for consideration.

Can I find templates for Honor Flight letters online?

Yes, many websites and Honor Flight organizations offer free templates and sample letters to help veterans, volunteers, and supporters write effective and appropriate Honor Flight-related correspondence.

What tone should I use in an Honor Flight letter?

The tone of an Honor Flight letter should be respectful, sincere, and appreciative, reflecting the honor and gratitude associated with the program and the veterans it serves.

How long should an Honor Flight letter be?

An Honor Flight letter should be concise and to the point, typically one page or less, ensuring it is clear and impactful without overwhelming the reader.

Are there specific guidelines for writing Honor Flight letters to veterans?

Yes, when writing to veterans, it's important to be respectful, acknowledge their service, avoid using overly formal or technical language, and convey genuine appreciation for their sacrifices.

Where can I send a sample Honor Flight letter for review or feedback?

You can send a sample Honor Flight letter for review to local Honor Flight coordinators, veteran organizations, or online forums dedicated to veterans and Honor Flight programs for constructive feedback and suggestions.

Additional Resources

1. *Honoring Our Heroes: Sample Letters for Honor Flight Veterans*

This book offers a comprehensive collection of sample letters designed specifically for Honor Flight veterans. It includes heartfelt messages of gratitude, personal reflections, and templates to help supporters craft meaningful notes. Whether you are a family member, friend, or community member, this guide makes it easy to express appreciation for those who served.

2. *Words of Thanks: Writing Letters for Honor Flight Participants*

Focused on the art of letter writing, this book provides practical advice and numerous examples of letters tailored to Honor Flight participants. It emphasizes the importance of sincerity and personal touch, guiding readers through the process of creating memorable and impactful messages. The book also explores different styles and tones to suit various relationships.

3. *The Honor Flight Letter Handbook: Templates and Tips*

This handbook serves as a go-to resource for anyone wishing to write letters to veterans participating in Honor Flights. It includes a variety of templates categorized by occasion and relationship, along with tips on how to personalize each letter. The author also discusses the emotional significance of these letters for veterans and their families.

4. *Dear Veteran: Sample Letters for Honor Flight Tributes*

A collection of sample tribute letters aimed at veterans who have taken part in the Honor Flight program. The book showcases diverse examples, from short thank-you notes to more detailed stories of gratitude and respect. Readers will find inspiration and guidance to honor veterans through written words.

5. *Thank You, Hero: Crafting Meaningful Letters for Honor Flight Veterans*

This guidebook helps readers create heartfelt and meaningful letters for Honor Flight veterans, focusing on expressing genuine appreciation and recognition. It provides strategies for recalling shared memories and highlighting the veterans' sacrifices. The book encourages personal storytelling as a way to deepen the impact of each letter.

6. *Letters from the Heart: Honor Flight Appreciation Notes*

Featuring a compilation of real letters written to Honor Flight veterans, this book demonstrates the power of gratitude expressed through writing. It offers insight into what makes a letter resonate emotionally and how to connect personally with veterans. Readers will find motivational examples to inspire their own letter writing.

7. *Honoring Service: Sample Correspondence for Honor Flight Veterans*

This volume presents a variety of sample letters and correspondence aimed at honoring the service of veterans participating in Honor Flights. It includes formal and informal letter styles, along with advice on tone and content. The book is suitable for schools, organizations, and individuals looking to show respect through letters.

8. *Expressions of Gratitude: Writing to Honor Flight Heroes*

Designed as a practical writing guide, this book helps readers articulate their gratitude toward Honor Flight heroes. It features suggested phrases, sample letters, and exercises to develop personalized messages. The author emphasizes the healing and uplifting power of written appreciation.

9. *From the Pen to the Heart: Sample Letters for Honor Flight Veterans*

This book focuses on bridging the gap between writer and veteran through thoughtful letter writing. It supplies numerous examples and templates to assist in crafting letters that convey respect, admiration, and thanks. The guide also addresses common challenges writers face and offers solutions to make every letter meaningful.

Sample Honor Flight Letters

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Sample Honor Flight Letters: A Guide to Expressing Gratitude and Respect

Ebook Title: Honoring Our Heroes: A Guide to Writing Meaningful Honor Flight Letters

Ebook Author: Evelyn Reed, Veteran Advocate & Communications Specialist

Ebook Outline:

Introduction: Understanding the Significance of Honor Flights and Letter Writing

Chapter 1: Crafting a Personal and Heartfelt Message: Tips for Connecting with Veterans

Chapter 2: Addressing Specific Experiences and Branches of Service: Tailoring your Letter

Chapter 3: Sample Letters: Examples for Different Relationships (Family, Friend, Unknown Veteran)
Chapter 4: Beyond the Words: Adding Personal Touches and Visual Elements
Chapter 5: Delivering Your Letter: Ensuring Your Message Reaches its Intended Recipient
Conclusion: The Lasting Impact of a Thoughtful Letter and Continued Support for Veterans

Sample Honor Flight Letters: A Guide to Expressing Gratitude and Respect

Introduction: Understanding the Significance of Honor Flights and Letter Writing

Honor Flights are a remarkable initiative that transports American veterans, primarily WWII and Korean War veterans, to Washington, D.C., to visit their memorials. These trips are often life-changing experiences, offering veterans a chance to reflect on their service, connect with fellow veterans, and receive the long-overdue recognition they deserve. While the journey itself is profoundly impactful, the letters received before, during, or after the flight can significantly enhance the veteran's experience, offering a tangible expression of gratitude from the community. This ebook provides guidance on writing meaningful and heartfelt letters to these courageous individuals, ensuring your message resonates with the veteran and leaves a lasting impression. These letters serve as a powerful reminder of the debt of gratitude we owe to those who served and sacrificed for our nation. They are more than just words on paper; they are tokens of appreciation, representing the respect and admiration of a grateful nation.

Chapter 1: Crafting a Personal and Heartfelt Message: Tips for Connecting with Veterans

Writing a meaningful letter to an Honor Flight veteran requires more than just generic phrases of thanks. Authenticity and genuine emotion are key. Start by considering your relationship to the veteran. Is it a family member, a friend, or a veteran you wish to honor anonymously? The tone and content will naturally differ depending on your connection. Focus on personalization. Instead of generic statements like "Thank you for your service," delve deeper. Share specific details about what you know of their service, if any. Did they serve in a particular battle? Did they perform a specific role? Even a small detail shows that you've taken the time to research and appreciate their contribution.

Avoid clichés and platitudes. While "Thank you for your service" is a common sentiment, it can lack depth. Instead, try phrases like:

"I am deeply grateful for your bravery and sacrifice."

"Your service has inspired me to..."

"Learning about your experiences has made me appreciate..."

"The sacrifices you made have shaped the world we live in today."

Incorporate personal anecdotes if appropriate. Share how their service has impacted your life or the lives of others. This adds a layer of intimacy and helps the veteran feel a personal connection to your

message. Remember, your letter is a testament to your appreciation and a chance to forge a bond of gratitude. Let your sincerity shine through every word.

Chapter 2: Addressing Specific Experiences and Branches of Service: Tailoring Your Letter

Each branch of service has unique traditions, challenges, and experiences. Tailoring your letter to reflect the veteran's specific branch of service demonstrates thoughtful consideration. Research the branch of service the veteran belonged to. Understanding their role, the specific conflicts they might have participated in, or the training they underwent will allow you to write a more personalized and insightful letter. For instance, if the veteran was a Navy pilot, you could mention the significance of naval aviation in wartime or the challenges of flying aircraft carriers. If they served in the Army infantry, you might mention the bravery and dedication required for ground combat.

This research doesn't require extensive knowledge of military history; a simple online search can provide you with valuable context. By demonstrating that you've put effort into understanding their background, you show genuine respect for their unique contributions. Incorporating specific details relevant to their branch of service helps create a more personal and resonant message, making your letter more meaningful and memorable.

Chapter 3: Sample Letters: Examples for Different Relationships (Family, Friend, Unknown Veteran)

This chapter provides several sample letters showcasing different writing styles and addressing different relationships. Each example will illustrate how to adapt your approach based on your connection with the veteran.

Letter to a Family Member: This letter would be more personal and intimate, focusing on shared memories and family experiences. It could incorporate inside jokes or specific family history related to their service.

Letter to a Friend: This letter will focus on the friendship and shared experiences. It can discuss the impact their service had on the friendship and the admiration for their character.

Letter to an Unknown Veteran: This letter will focus on expressing general gratitude and appreciation for their service and sacrifice. It will be more formal but still convey genuine emotion and respect. This demonstrates your support for all veterans, regardless of your personal connection.

Chapter 4: Beyond the Words: Adding Personal Touches and Visual Elements

While the written message is central, adding personal touches can elevate the impact of your letter. Consider including a small, meaningful item, such as a photograph of your family, a drawing from a child, or a pressed flower. These tangible elements add a personal touch that goes beyond the words on the page, making the letter more memorable. If you have a personal connection to the veteran, including a shared photograph from a past event can create a powerful emotional connection.

Handwritten letters carry a special weight compared to typed ones. The act of hand writing a letter shows a level of care and effort that conveys sincerity. However, if handwriting isn't feasible, ensure the typed letter is presented in a clear, legible format, avoiding overly casual fonts or styles. A thoughtfully chosen envelope and high-quality stationery also add a touch of class and respect.

Chapter 5: Delivering Your Letter: Ensuring Your Message Reaches its Intended Recipient

The final step involves ensuring your letter reaches the veteran. Check the Honor Flight organization's guidelines for letter delivery. Some organizations may have specific procedures for submitting letters, while others may allow for direct mailing. If you're unsure, contact the organization directly for guidance. Ensure your letter includes the veteran's full name and any identifying information that the Honor Flight organization might require. This will ensure a smooth and timely delivery, so your message of gratitude reaches its intended recipient.

Conclusion: The Lasting Impact of a Thoughtful Letter and Continued Support for Veterans

Writing a letter to an Honor Flight veteran is a meaningful act of gratitude. It's an opportunity to express your appreciation for their service and sacrifice, offering comfort, recognition, and a reminder that their contributions are not forgotten. Your letter can uplift their spirits and bring a sense of closure or pride. By taking the time to craft a thoughtful message, you play a part in acknowledging their immeasurable contributions to our nation. Consider this not only as an act of gratitude for past service but also as an opportunity to connect with and support our veterans in the present and future. Remember, your contribution, however small, can make a big difference in a veteran's life.

FAQs:

1. What if I don't know the veteran personally? Focus on general gratitude for their service and sacrifice. Research their branch of service to add a personal touch.
2. How long should my letter be? Length isn't as important as sincerity. A heartfelt short letter is better than a lengthy, generic one.
3. What kind of paper should I use? High-quality stationery adds a professional touch. Consider card stock or heavier weight paper.
4. Should I include photos? Yes, if appropriate and you have a connection to the veteran. Otherwise, focus on the written message.
5. What if I make a mistake in my letter? Don't worry! It's the sentiment that matters most. Simply ensure the letter is legible and understandable.
6. When is the best time to send my letter? Contact the Honor Flight organization for their recommended timeframe.
7. What if I don't know the veteran's branch of service? General expressions of gratitude are still meaningful. Focus on the universal sacrifices of military service.
8. Can I send multiple letters to different veterans? Absolutely! Your support is greatly appreciated.
9. Where can I find more information about Honor Flights? Visit the Honor Flight Network website or contact your local Honor Flight hub.

Related Articles:

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2. The Emotional Impact of Honor Flights on Veterans: Exploring the psychological benefits of the trips.
3. How to Find Your Local Honor Flight Organization: A guide to locating and contacting your local chapter.
4. Volunteering with Honor Flights: Information on various volunteer opportunities.

5. Fundraising for Honor Flights: Strategies for supporting the organization financially.
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8. The Importance of Community Support for Veterans: Discussing the role of community involvement in supporting veterans' well-being.
9. Oral History Projects Featuring Honor Flight Veterans: Showcasing examples of preserving veteran stories.

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sample honor flight letters: Finding Freedom Emily Mofield, Tamra Stambaugh, 2021-09-09 Finding Freedom invites students to follow America's journey toward finding freedom by examining multiple perspectives, conflicts, ideas, and challenges through seminal historical texts. This unit, developed by Vanderbilt University's Programs for Talented Youth and aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), features close readings of some of the most famous American political speeches from notable Americans, presidents, and minority voices. To sharpen historical thinking, students analyze arguments for freedom, examine dissenting perspectives, and reason through multiple viewpoints of historical issues through debates and interactive activities. To develop advanced literacy skills, students evaluate effective rhetorical appeals, claims, supporting evidence, and techniques that advance arguments. Students synthesize their learning by comparing speeches to each other, relating texts to contemporary issues of today, and making interdisciplinary connections. Lessons include close readings with text-dependent questions, choice-based differentiated products, rubrics, formative assessments, social studies content connections, and ELA tasks that require argument and explanatory writing. Ideal for pre-AP and honors courses, the unit features speeches from Patrick Henry, Frederick Douglass, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lincoln, Kennedy, Johnson, George W. Bush, Obama, and others. Grades 6-8

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During the Revolution John Adams, Charles Francis Adams, 1875

sample honor flight letters: The Evil Hours David J. Morris, 2015-01-20 “An essential book” on PTSD, an all-too-common condition in both military veterans and civilians (The New York Times Book Review). Post-traumatic stress disorder afflicts as many as 30 percent of those who have experienced twenty-first-century combat—but it is not confined to soldiers. Countless ordinary Americans also suffer from PTSD, following incidences of abuse, crime, natural disasters, accidents, or other trauma—yet in many cases their symptoms are still shrouded in mystery, secrecy, and shame. This “compulsively readable” study takes an in-depth look at the subject (Los Angeles Times). Written by a war correspondent and former Marine with firsthand experience of this disorder, and drawing on interviews with individuals living with PTSD, it forays into the scientific, literary, and cultural history of the illness. Using a rich blend of reporting and memoir, *The Evil Hours* is a moving work that will speak not only to those with the condition and to their loved ones, but also to all of us struggling to make sense of an anxious and uncertain time.

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sample honor flight letters: The Heart of a Military Mom Army Mom Strong, Elaine Brye, 2017-04-11 Do you need someone encouraging you, especially when you are learning to let go of your child to military service? How about when they are difficult places or in harm's way? Do you feel stressed or worried? You are not alone. Elaine Brye and Army Mom Strong have combined their efforts to create a powerful, emotional and inspirational pictorial book of encouragement and support for military moms of all branches. The authors are veteran military moms who have supported many moms through the challenges that come with sending a child into harm's way. *The Heart of a Military Mom* gives you valuable insights to help you to stand strong in the face of fear and on the home front. It is the first in a series of supportive books to inspire you to create a more fulfilling journey as a military mom.

sample honor flight letters: Autograph letters, chiefly illustrated with portraits ... on sale by John Waller John Waller (bookseller.), 1870

sample honor flight letters: Wood, Wire, Wings Kirsten W. Larson, 2020-06-23 This riveting nonfiction picture book biography explores both the failures and successes of self-taught engineer Emma Lilian Todd as she tackles one of the greatest challenges of the early 1900s: designing an airplane. Emma Lilian Todd's mind was always soaring--she loved to solve problems. Lilian tinkered and fiddled with all sorts of objects, turning dreams into useful inventions. As a child, she took apart and reassembled clocks to figure out how they worked. As an adult, typing up patents at the U.S. Patent Office, Lilian built the inventions in her mind, including many designs for flying machines. However, they all seemed too impractical. Lilian knew she could design one that worked. She took inspiration from both nature and her many failures, driving herself to perfect the design that would eventually successfully fly. Illustrator Tracy Subisak's art brings to life author Kirsten W. Larson's story of this little-known but important engineer.

sample honor flight letters: War Letters Andrew Carroll, 2008-06-23 In 1998, Andrew Carroll founded the Legacy Project, with the goal of remembering Americans who have served their nation and preserving their letters for posterity. Since then, over 50,000 letters have poured in from

around the country. Nearly two hundred of them comprise this amazing collection -- including never-before-published letters that appear in the new afterword. Here are letters from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf war, Somalia, and Bosnia -- dramatic eyewitness accounts from the front lines, poignant expressions of love for family and country, insightful reflections on the nature of warfare. Amid the voices of common soldiers, marines, airmen, sailors, nurses, journalists, spies, and chaplains are letters by such legendary figures as Gen. William T. Sherman, Clara Barton, Theodore Roosevelt, Ernie Pyle, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Julia Child, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, and Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr. Collected in *War Letters*, they are an astonishing historical record, a powerful tribute to those who fought, and a celebration of the enduring power of letters.

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sample honor flight letters: *Letters of the Late Ignatius Sancho, an African* Ignatius Sancho, Joseph Jekyll, 1803

sample honor flight letters: **The Crossover** Kwame Alexander, 2014 New York Times bestseller • Newbery Medal Winner • Coretta Scott King Honor Award • 2015 YALSA 2015 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults • 2015 YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers • Publishers Weekly Best Book • School Library Journal Best Book • Kirkus Best Book A beautifully measured novel of life and line.--The New York Times Book Review With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering, announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood

from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

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Grand Council was dismissed. They left the Presence impressed and thoughtful, and retired to a private place, where they might talk with freedom. None of the three seemed to want to begin, though all wanted somebody to do it.

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sample honor flight letters: Final Salute Jim Sheeler, 2008 Based on his Pulitzer Prize-winning story, Jim Sheeler's unprecedented look at the way our country honors its dead; Final Salute is a stunning tribute to the brave troops who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan and to the families who continue to mourn them. They are the troops that nobody wants to see, carrying a message that no military family ever wants to hear. It begins with a knock at the door. The curtains pull away. They come to the door. And they know. They always know, said Major Steve Beck. Since the start of the war in Iraq, marines like Major Beck found themselves thrown into a different kind of mission: casualty notification. It is a job Major Beck never asked for and one for which he received no training. They are given no set rules, only impersonal guidelines. Marines are trained to kill, to break down doors, but casualty notification is a mission without weapons. For Beck, the mission meant learning each dead marine's name and nickname, touching the toys they grew up with and reading the letters they wrote home. He held grieving mothers in long embraces, absorbing their muffled cries into the dark blue shoulder of his uniform. He stitched himself into the fabric of their lives, in the simple hope that his compassion might help alleviate at least the smallest piece of their pain. Sometimes he returned home to his own family unable to keep from crying in the dark. In Final

Salute, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jim Sheeler weaves together the stories of the fallen and of the broken homes they have left behind. It is also the story of Major Steve Beck and his unflagging efforts to help heal the wounds of those left grieving. Above all, it is a moving tribute to our troops, putting faces to the mostly anonymous names of our courageous heroes, and to the brave families who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. Final Salute is the achingly beautiful, devastatingly honest story of the true toll of war. After the knock on the door, the story has only begun.

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