

BECOME A WISHES ON WINGS DONOR

The Wishes on Wings program would not be possible without the generosity of donors who care so deeply for our nation's heroes. To become a Wishes on Wings donor please contact:

**FARGO VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
VOLUNTARY SERVICE (135)
2101 ELM STREET NORTH
FARGO, ND 58102**

(701) 239-3700 EXT. 9-3395

Or make checks payable to:

Fargo VAHCS Wishes on Wings



BECOME A WISHES ON WINGS WISH RECIPIENT

If you are a Veteran or know of a Veteran who may qualify and benefit from the Wishes on Wings program, please contact:

**HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE
PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

(701) 239-3700 EXT. 9-2726

Department of Veterans Affairs

Fargo VA Health Care System
Voluntary Service (135)
2101 Elm Street North
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: 701-239-3700 ext. 9-3395

Department of Veterans Affairs

**GRANTING WISHES TO
VETERANS WITH LIFE-LIMITING
OR TERMINAL ILLNESS**

WISHES ON WINGS

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

-John Fitzgerald



VA Defining
HEALTH CARE
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

TEL: 701-239-3700

WISHES ON WINGS GRANTING WISHES TO VETERANS WITH LIFE-LIMITING OR TERMINAL ILLNESS



THE FARGO
VA HEALTH
CARE SYSTEM
IS ALWAYS
STRIVING TO
PROVIDE THE
VERY BEST

PATIENT CENTERED CARE POSSIBLE. THE
WISHES ON WINGS PROGRAM WAS CREATED
WITH THIS IN MIND.

WISHES ON WINGS SERVES VETERANS BY
MEETING THE UNIQUE DESIRE OR WISH OF A
VETERAN AT THE END OF LIFE. WISHES CAN
BE AS SMALL AS A LUNCH WITH FAMILY
MEMBERS TO AS EXTRAVAGANT AS A RIDE IN
A HELICOPTER. WHATEVER THE WISH, BIG
OR SMALL, A COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF VA
EMPLOYEES WILL DO THEIR BEST TO HELP
THE VETERAN EXPERIENCE IT.

WISHES ARE MADE POSSIBLE SOLELY
THROUGH THE GENEROCITY OF CARING
DONORS.

THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE WISHES ON
WINGS PROGRAM IS TO HELP THE VETERAN
DO WHAT THEY WANT WITH THE LIMITED
TIME THEY HAVE LEFT. STRIVING TO
PROVIDE PATIENT CENTERED CARE TO OUR
VETERANS IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE
TO THE FARGO VA AND THE WISHES ON
WINGS PROGRAM IS ONE WAY WE WORK
TOWARD THAT GOAL.

Wishes Granted

"Up, Up and Away"

A Veteran's shared that his last wish was to ride in a helicopter one last time. The Veteran was escorted to the airport by a local motorcycle group and saluted by CLC staff members and his family during takeoff. Upon return he was greeted by a local National Guard unit and news affiliates. Wonderful, heartfelt memoirs were made for all involved.

"Lost and Found"

A Veteran's last wish was to be buried with the military medals he had been awarded; however, over time the medals had been lost. The Wishes on Wings Committee coordinated with VA agencies to obtain replicas of the lost medals. They were presented to the Veteran by a Colonel. The Veteran was granted his wish. He was buried with his medals and his family was left with a lasting memory.

"Class Reunion"

A Veteran's last wish was to see his high school friends. With the help of the Veteran's family and the generosity of donors, the Wishes on Wings committee threw him a high school reunion to remember. The committee organized decorations, a DJ, refreshments and a photo booth. Sixty-five friends and family attended the event. What better way to celebrate a Veteran than to surround him with those he loves.



The Wishes on Wings Process:

Referral: Veterans currently on inpatient hospice status can request to have a wish granted. The criteria for inpatient hospice status are outlined in the Hospice and Palliative Care Medical Center Circular.

Medical Eligibility: The medical eligibility is determined with the help of the Veteran's primary Physician. The Physician must state the Veteran is eligible to be granted the wish.

Funding the True Wish: A member of the Wishes on Wings committee meets with the Veteran and family to discuss their one true wish and the ability to grant that wish is determined.

Granting the Wish: The Veteran is granted their wish and every effort is made to ensure it is an unforgettable experience for the Veteran and their family. This Wishes on Wings initiative adds meaning to the Veteran's final days and creates memories for the Veteran's family that will last a lifetime.