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## West Michigan Bikers and Veterans Step Up to Help Talons Out Honor Flight

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. (July 19, 2013) - "I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU," Veteran Affairs Medical Center spokesperson Deborah Hall says, "for all who helped make the July 14, 2013 Talon's Out Honor Flight program at the Battle Creek Veterans Affairs Medical Center a huge success." Hall is referring to the combined Honor Flight: The Movie screening for Veterans at the VAMC and inaugural Talons Out Veterans Poker Run.

On July 14, [90 motorcycle riders on 60 bikes](#) took part in a Poker Run fundraiser for Talons Out Honor Flight of Southwest Michigan. At the same time, the VAMC in Battle Creek hosted a screening of the documentary telling the story of the Honor Flight Network. Along with the movie, Veterans in Battle Creek were treated to time with the bikers as they stopped at the VAMC to interact and thank the Veterans for their service.

"We have heard from several nursing staff that the Veterans were talking about the program all evening," Hall says of the event. "It really brought our Veterans out of their shells and they truly felt honored and appreciated. Our Community Living Center planned a reading of the mail call packets for after dinner with all the WWII Veterans. Following the program, bedside visits were enjoyed with seven WWII Veterans who were unable to make it over for the program."



**Several bikers commented that they were pleased and humbled by the ride through the Ft Custer National Cemetery.**

Bikers in the poker run raised enough money to send 3 World War II Veterans to Washington, D.C. at no charge to the Vets. At a cost of \$500 per Veteran, that's a \$1500 fundraising success. "For a first-time event with little time to promote, we feel like this was a great success to build on," Talons Out president and co-founder Bobbie Bradley says. "We're so proud of our biker friends that they stepped up to help us send Vets to Washington, D.C."

About Talons Out Honor Flight: Talons Out is a volunteer non-profit organization with the goal to fly World War II Veterans to Washington, D.C. at no cost to the Veterans. Talons Out is the Southwest Michigan hub of the national Honor Flight Network. Learn more at <http://talonsouthonorflight.org>

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