



## Family Visits to D.C.

Many vets travelling to DC have family members who live in and around DC. Those family members may wish to visit with the vet while he/she is in DC. That is fine with us. However, there are a few rules that we must follow.

- The Guardian is in charge. Given the circumstances, we will allow a little latitude, but the guardian has to be with the vet at all times and we cannot allow the vet to leave the general area. The vet will be under our care and we are responsible for him/her during the trip.
- We do not generally give out our itinerary. Lots of things can happen to alter the itinerary (examples include flight delays, weather delays, traffic or unexpected events in DC) and we cannot be responsible for mix ups. We can provide a tentative itinerary (with the understanding that things can change.)
- There are places where we do not want family involved and places not easily accommodated:
- **Not Good:** at the DC airport
  - We are on a tight schedule in the AM to load the bus and set off to DC
  - When we arrive at the airport in the PM, we clear security as quickly as possible and then are in the
  - Secure area where non-passengers are not allowed
- **Maybe:** at ANC where we view the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Time is fairly limited here.
- **Good:** at the USAF Memorial where we stop for lunch
- **Best:** at the DC Mall where the major memorials are located. Meeting the vet at the DC Mall after the group picture is taken is what we recommend. This will give the family approx. 90 minutes to walk with the vet.
- Family members will need their own transportation. The bus is full and DC law does not allow anyone to stand on a moving bus.
- Some family members assume that if they show up at lunch or dinner, they can eat with their vet. That is possible for lunch but the family member must make their own arrangements for food. That is not possible for dinner because we eat on the other side of TSA Clearance.
- In general, the US Park Police prefer that no private vehicles are involved in the escorted "motorcade". The park Police know what they are doing as does the bus driver. Most "civilians" have no experience operating a motor vehicle in these conditions and will be a hazard to themselves and others.

It is requested that family members contact Villages Honor Flight about their plans at [InfoLine@villageshonorflight.or](mailto:InfoLine@villageshonorflight.or) or by phone at (352) 432-1382. This will allow the guardian to be informed and, if a cell phone number is provided, will allow us to contact the family if there is a change in itinerary.