

THE DELTA AIRLINES HONOR GUARD

BEHIND THE SCENES AS A FALLEN WARRIOR COMES HOME

THIS DOES NOT INTEND TO IMPLY THAT OTHER AIRLINES DO NOT DO THE SAME THING

ONLY THAT THIS SITE WAS READILY AVAILABLE

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Most of you may have had the opportunity to view the YouTube video (link below) of the Delta Employees honoring a fallen hero being returned to the United States in 2008. **If not, please take the time to view it now as it is the major point of this story...which could well be called..." The Rest Of The Story".**

Please copy & paste this link into your browser to view the video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_VGxfmDmEo (Sound On)

THE REST OF THE STORY

This is a copy of a letter written by an individual who had recently visited the Airport in Atlanta Georgia on Dec 11, year unknown. I took it from a blog I came across when searching for information about "The Delta Airlines Honor Guard.

THE LETTER

Earlier this week I was out at the Airport visiting the **Delta Holiday Military Lounge**, (open Dec 5-Jan 5 each year) I learned that there were two Military personnel escorting a fallen soldier home. The escorts were accompanied by a chaplain who told me about the Delta Employee Honor Guard ceremony for veterans. This program is put together by a group of Delta volunteers, and I got the chance to meet Brian, a 28-year Delta employee who coordinates the ceremony in Atlanta. He told me that he has been organizing a group of volunteers for the past several years that are a part of this program that began in Atlanta with another employee Tom in 2005. While Brian didn't serve in the military, he proudly showed me pictures of his father who was a veteran, and his son is serving in the Air Force and has been deployed twice to Afghanistan.

DELTA'S HOLIDAY MILITARY LOUNGE

I thought it might be a nice break from the current FlyerTalk discussions about changes, fees, and the SkyMiles programs to share with you something that I had the chance to experience that affirms for me that Delta has the best employees in the industry.

I was out at the Atlanta Airport yesterday and had the chance to stop by and visit the Delta Holiday Military Lounge located near Gate 33.

This is the 42nd year that the Delta employees have hosted this Lounge for Active and Retired Military Personnel and their families while they are traveling through Atlanta during the Holiday Season. I also was told that a similar start-up version of this Lounge is now open at DTW being run by Delta Employees.

The Lounge is open for more than 30 days every year and it is completely staffed around the clock by Delta volunteers.



Look at the overflowing stacks of items all provided by Delta Employees! When I was there, there was a group of Employees that had flown in from Boston and brought a huge supply of Clam Chowder from Legal Seafood. The Employees also provide decorations representing multiple religions as well as a Christmas Tree that is decorated with patches that have been donated by the Armed Forces who have visited the Lounge during years gone by.



The room also has decorations made by school children and there are Military tributes everywhere to Delta for their annual support of the Military.

P.S. These guys sat on the floor watching a movie and drawing and were extremely well-behaved. Kudos to the Mom.

Finally, when I entered the room I was told that there were two military personnel escorting the body of a fallen soldier home. One of the escorts had lost his best friend in the line of duty and was making sure he made it safely home. That led me to experience something that I will post separately, the Delta Atlanta Honor Guard ceremony for fallen soldiers. All I can say is that it was one of the most moving experiences I think I have witnessed.

I am greatly humbled and honored to be able to have spent time with the Delta Employees and Military Personnel in the Holiday Lounge today. It was a true honor to be able to thank many of the military personnel for their service to our country. While the Lounge was relatively empty while I was there, yesterday marked the official end of the war, and this Lounge is expected to be filled with thousands of military troops over the next few weeks. This continued support of the Armed Forces is one of the best I have ever seen! These Employees are some of the most caring and thoughtful people and in my opinion, represent the industry's very best... WELL DONE DELTA employees! 🙌

[DELTA'S SPECIAL EQUIPMENT](#)

The Honor Guard now has several special carts painted in the Delta Paint shop with a flag on top, and one that is specifically designed to transport the veterans' casket. The volunteers participate in a flag ceremony, read a prayer, and give the military escort a special Delta Honor Guard coin to be passed onto the next of kin.

The coin reads: We will cherish them in our memory. We will honor them in what say and do. We will not forget their sacrifice and they will forever be in our hearts.



The back of a coin is given to the escort of every one of the honored fallen.

This program has now expanded to Boston, Minneapolis, and Norfolk, as well as other airlines including American.

This particular ceremony took place on Concourse E, and since this is the International Concourse with restricted access, I had to shoot these pictures from the gate. Several people in the gate area came over to see what I was shooting pictures of, and when I was done more than a dozen people were standing there watching, many with tears in their eyes. Truly it was a very moving experience to witness, and it was an honor to meet some of the caring employees at Delta who make this happen regularly. My many thanks to the Delta Worldport team, and to the many volunteers that participate in this program for veterans as they make their final pass through Atlanta.

PICTURES OF THE DELTA CARTS



DISCLAIMER

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN GATHERED FROM WEBSITES THAT APPEAR TO BE AUTHENTIC WITH CORRECT INFORMATION, HOWEVER, I CAN NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE DATA IN THIS ARTICLE IS COMPLETELY ACCURATE AND CORRECT.