

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STATE SENATOR THOMPSON APPLAUDS EFFORT TO HONOR WORLD WAR II
VETERANS**

**ACCOMPANIES SOME OF 'GREATEST GENERATION' TO MEMORIAL IN
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

District 34 State Senator Francis Thompson applauds the generosity of those who made it possible for some of this country's "Greatest Generation" to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on May 9th. The group included 114 veterans from North Louisiana who also toured the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, the Marine Corp Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and observed the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"This is one of the greatest things I've ever done," said Senator Thompson, who accompanied the veterans on the trip. "I was filled with pride to see these brave men from North Louisiana make a trip to the memorial that honors the sacrifices they made for this country. I especially want to thank Senator Riser and Representative Ellington as well as the banks in Franklin, Richland and Caldwell parishes for their donations. Because of their generosity, these American heroes were treated as well as they should be."

The trip was made possible by a money-raising effort spearheaded by Senator Thompson, State Senator Neil Riser and State Representative Noble Ellington, who all personally contributed. Donations from Richland State Bank, BancorpSouth, Guaranty Bank, Cross Keys Bank, Commercial Capital Bank and Regions bank also helped cover transportation costs for the group. State Senator Mike Michot donated wheelchairs for those veterans needing assistance.

The trip to Washington, D.C. is a regularly scheduled event of Louisiana HonorAir, an organization based in Lafayette with the mission of providing Louisiana veterans an opportunity to see the World War II Memorial for the first time. Three additional trips leaving from Shreveport are planned this year. Because of the efforts of HonorAir, over 1,400 Louisiana veterans have made the trip.

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PHOTO (left to right): Horace Maxwell, Elmer Lolly, Benton Thomas, Senator Francis Thompson and Billy Cutler.