

Otis Elementary students raise \$1,700 for Honor Flight

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Written by
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FREMONT -- A fourth-grade student at Otis Elementary School on Friday presented Honor Flight of Northwest Ohio with a \$1,711.06 check, enough to take four World War II veterans to see memorial sites in Washington, D.C., next year.

The fundraising efforts were spearheaded by retired Otis teachers Barb Moran and Mary Lou Cooper.

Principal Laura Bryant said the funds donated to the organization were raised thanks to the generosity of local businesses and community members.

David Chilson, representing the regional chapter of Honor Flight, talked to elementary students at the school library Friday morning. Chilson presented a brief history of the Honor Flight program and explained why there is a rush to take the aging population of WWII veterans to the nation's capital.

"The youngest is about 83 and go right up to, a few trips ago, we had a 98-year-old veteran," he said. "It is because of people like you that we are able to do what we do."

Chilson said Honor Flight of Northwest Ohio has flown about 859 local veterans to Washington and about 245 WWII veterans are still on a waiting list locally. Mid-year in 2012, he said, the organization likely will switch to taking Korean War veterans on Honor Flight trips.



Otis Elementary School fourth-grader Aaron Chavez presents a \$1,711.06 check to David Chilson from Honor Flight of Northwest Ohio Friday at Otis. Students at the school helped raise the money, enough to send four local veterans to Washington D.C. / Mark Tower/News-Messenger