

Volunteers brave freezing weather to honor veterans on Saturday

100 Honor Flight alumni get coffee and treats at WCTC

By Derek Johnson
Special to The Freeman

PEWAUKEE — When most people see that it's minus 5 degrees and snowing on a Saturday morning, they spend the day relaxing with a warm drink, but Ken Janca from Menomonee Falls braved this past Saturday's terrible temperatures to honor veterans at Waukesha County Technical College.

Janca, along with about 50

other volunteers from the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight, spent the below-freezing morning giving out coffee, Valentine's Day cards and candies to veterans that either have been or are planning on going on an Honor Flight from the organization.

"It's a great feeling to thank them for their service," said Janca, who has been volunteering with Honor Flight for five years.

Honor Flight, a national non-

profit with chapters all across the country, traditionally flies World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the museums and war memorials. However, because of COVID-19, the organization has postponed these flights, and Saturday's event was a way for the Wisconsin chapter to safely show its support for veterans during the pandemic.

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Chris Mustvocola from the Christ Lutheran School braves the snow and cold to show support for veterans on Saturday.

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Honor

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“Valentine’s Day seemed like the right day to let veterans know we love them,” said Paula Nelson, one of the organizers of the event.

In addition to offering coffee and treats, community members gathered at the college with signs thanking the so-called Honor Flight alumni for their service. Police cars from Waukesha County Technical College and a fire truck from the Pewaukee Fire Department were joined by a group of students and staff from the Christ Lutheran School in Big Bend.

“Taking a veteran on an Honor Flight was one of the top five things in my life besides having my kids,” said Chris Mustvocola, a staff member at Christ Lutheran. “So that’s why I took my students out here today.”

The veterans appreciated the event, too. Over the course of two hours, roughly 100 cars passed through the college, including Boc Schaff, who served in the Army in the Vietnam War.

“Honor Flight was worth every minute,” Schaff said. “So if the volunteers can come out today, I can too.”