

NEWS



# Chicago Flights take off to honor Veterans

Drew Blankenberger: Reporter

At least once a month, Chicago honors the Veterans that served our country in World War II. Chicagoans send Vets to Washington D.C. When at Washington D.C., they observe the memorials that were built for their fellow comrades that died in the war. When the Vets return, they are given an honor celebration by thousands of people.

This memorial service is called the Chicago Memorial Honor Flights. This is a way of saying, "thank you" to all the people who have served and defended our country during World War II.

Mrs. Becki Calomino, otherwise known as Mrs. Cal, is one of the thousands of participants in the Chicago Flights. It started when her husband's grandparents introduced Mrs. Cal to the American Legion Association in Monee. There, she got to see the Chicago Flights for the first time. She did not get to go on the actual flight, but she got to watch the flight take off. She saw at least two thousand people there.

Ever since then, she has been going to the Chicago Flights every year. She stays from when they send the Vets to the nation's capital, all day until the Vets come home.

However, the cost to send Vets to Washington D.C. is not cheap. It rough-

ly costs \$500 to send one Vet on a flight to Washington D.C. Mrs. Cal supports the Vets by going to monthly fundraisers to help pay for the cost of the Vets' flight. In the fundraisers, there are many activities; different bands play and TVs and gift cards from stores, such as Best Buy, are raffled.

"It is a good cause," said Mrs. Cal, "it gives our World War II Vets a chance to reflect and honor what they did to defend this country."

The Chicago Memorial Flights gives Chicagoans a chance to look at the accomplishments of the Vets while defending this country. Chicagoans give the Vets the opportunity to reflect by taking them to the country's capital, from 4

a.m. to 7 p.m. and then celebrate their return home. The celebration is usually a parade made up of many people who waited for the return of the Vets from the time they left in the morning.

"It's a time to reflect," said Mrs. Cal. "It's the time when we commemorate the lives that were lost. We celebrate that honor they had to defend us, and the lives of the soldiers who have de-



**Veterans Honored** - Mrs. Calomino's husband's grandparents, Dom and Opal Calomino help take part in presenting the Colors at the World War II Memorial.

fended us, which are still living with us right now."

Mrs. Cal is not a direct participant in the Chicago flights. She thinks it would be a great idea for Beecher High School to help with the cause.

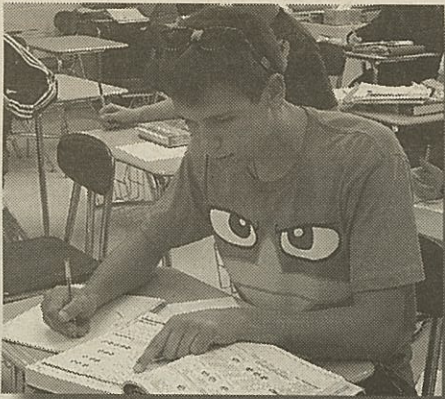
"I would love it if the school would take part in the honor flights," said Mrs. Cal. "It would be an excellent school project, and it would help with the cost

of sending Vets to the nation's capital."

Americans need to honor the Vets who are still alive from World War II. According to [honorchicagoflights.org](http://honorchicagoflights.org) in five to seven years, nearly all of the WWII Vets will be gone. Americans should commemorate the Vets that are still alive. More information can be found on the Chicago Honor Flights at [honorchicagoflights.org](http://honorchicagoflights.org).

# Hopes are high for AOL to be a success

Cecelia Carr: Reporter



**AOL a possible fix?** - Students even in green zone, like John Banasiak (Sr), have a chance to get their homework done and work toward improving their grades.

For the past three years, changes have occurred to better Beecher High School. This year the Additional Opportunities for Learning (AOL) period has been added to the end of the day. AOL period is the idea of Dr. Wright, the principal of BHS.

"I took a little of this and a little of that and applied them together," said Dr. Wright.

Instead of a traditional study hall Dr. Wright designed a 30 minute period at the end of each school day customized for students' needs. By shortening each class throughout the day by 5 minutes he was able to gain the 30 minutes.

Every school in Illinois is required to have a Response to Intervention (RtI) program. The RtI program was estab-

lished to assist students who need help in certain classes.

"I think the idea of AOL will have a larger effect at the lower grade levels, but has the potential to help high school levels as well," said Mr. McCord.

The AOL period is divided into three zones. Red, Green, and Yellow zones. The AOL period zones are located in different areas of the school. Red Zone is for students who need to improve on their scores on state and national tests. This is important for students who will be attending college. ACT or SAT scores should not be underestimated.

These scores give college administrators an easy tool to compare the students applying to that school. ISAT and other academic testing scores are

also important. Good numbers help the school's reputation. They show what areas the student is having a hard time with or what subject the student is excelling in. BHS students attending Red Zone are given the resources and help to raise their grades.

"I like Red Zone because it will help me with ACT," said Stephanie Hall (Jr).

The Yellow Zone is for students who are failing or near failing a subject. The resources and teacher support help students who are struggling in math, English, science, or history. When their grades improve the students will return to Green Zone.

"I like Yellow Zone because you can ask teachers questions when you need to," says Sarah Lally (Jr).

The third zone is the Green Zone, which is designed for students whose scores or grades are average or above average. This period gives students a chance to complete homework, read, or work on projects. The Green Zone is similar to the traditional study hall.

Dr. Wright read books and attended conferences, then he came up with a study period that is better than the traditional study hall.

Freshmen do not attend AOL period every day. They have the opportunity to work with the freshmen mentors. The mentors are upperclassman who help the freshmen with school work and adjusting to high school.

"I like that (the mentors) help us with problems with homework or problems in school," said Shaun Hughes (Fr).

So far the program seems to be going well, but will the AOL program get the result that the school is looking for?

"It is too early to tell but I am very happy with what I see going on," said Mr. Wright. "I don't think it can do anything but help."

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