



Morse (left) at the National WWII Memorial with vets (front to back) Kenny Fegley, his sister Ellie Miller, Sens and George Gribben Jr.

**People** | HEROES AMONG US

# FLYING VETS TO A SPECIAL PLACE

**EARL MORSE, 54**  
Enon, Ohio

Earl Morse was a physician's assistant at a VA clinic when he asked a few WWII-era patients if they'd been to the memorial in Washington, D.C., that had opened that spring of '04. "None had, and they weren't going to—they didn't have the means," Morse says. "It broke my heart."

So Morse, a retired Air Force captain and private pilot, decided to take them there. Recruiting volunteer pilots and raising funds to rent small planes, he flew 12 vets in May '05. It would be the

first of 100 flights Morse would make; his efforts vastly expanded with help from Jeff Miller, 58, a businessman who started raising funds to charter commercial flights. Joining forces, the two formed Honor Flight Network (honorflight.org), which has flown more than 100,000 vets to the site.

Last fall Charlie Sens, 89, of Marion, Ohio, cried as he laid eyes on the monument's granite pillars. "Earl did this for the lowest of the low infantrymen," says Sens, who won a Purple Heart fighting in Europe and Africa. "He did it for people like me."

By Anne Lang and Nicole Weisensee Egan



**WORLD WAR II  
HEROES  
REMEMBER**

1. Kenny Fegley, 92, transported supplies in Europe. 2. Sens (right, in Italy during the war with his brother Jim, who served in the Army Air Forces). 3. Ellie Miller, 90, was a Marine mechanic in Hawaii. 4. George Gribben Jr., 88, fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

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# MailBag



“Angelina is more beautiful than ever. Her candor about choosing to have her breasts removed is inspiring” **Clara Walsh** Portland, Ore.

love her is what made this story even better. It's very rare to find true love, and I believe those two can conquer anything.

**Erin Cole** Spartanburg, S.C.

## ANGELINA JOLIE

I sobbed with joy when I read about Angelina Jolie's decision to get a preventive double mastectomy. I made the same difficult choice five years ago at age 38, having survived one battle with breast cancer and never wanting to face another. It was frightening, yet at the same time I felt empowered by my decision. Today I live a healthy, happy and cancer-free life. I thank Angelina for bringing her powerful voice to an issue often burdened by fear and shame.

**Stephanie Hosford** via e-mail

Bravo to Angelina Jolie for making a brave decision to have a double mastectomy. She is truly a strong and vibrant lady. For fiancé Brad Pitt to support and

## HEROES AMONG US

I salute retired Air Force Capt. Earl Morse and businessman Jeff Miller for making it possible for WWII vets to visit their well-deserved memorial in Washington, D.C. My uncle Buzz, who is U.S. Marine Corps Platoon Sgt. Anthony John Kanclier, is one of these recipients. He's one of 16 veterans in the Honor Flight of Oregon who will be visiting our nation's capital in June. His bag is already packed and it's all he talks about. Thanks, Earl and Jeff, for your passion and dedication in paying tribute to our WWII vets.

**Danny Rusak** Parker, Colo.

## PRINCE HARRY

When Prince Harry made a visit to Colorado Springs, on May 11 for the Warrior Games, where more than 200 wounded

servicemen and women from the U.S. and Britain participated in friendly sporting competitions, I felt very proud of the royal. I applaud him for bringing joy to these veterans. By the smiles on their faces, it's clear that his visit made them happy. Keep up the great work, Harry. You're a great role model.

**David Tulanian** Los Angeles

## BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH

Thank you so much for interviewing *Star Trek into Darkness* foe Benedict Cumberbatch. He's my favorite actor and he makes me swoon! His performance on the BBC's *Sherlock* is mesmerizing, and I watch the show constantly on my DVR. After reading his sweet and charming answers, I love him even more. Please continue to write more stories on this talented thespian. He's Hollywood's next big breakout star.

**Sam Maguire** via e-mail

**Corrections** In our May 27 story on the Cleveland kidnapping case, a photo caption date for Amanda Berry should have read 1996. Also, in our Scoop story on Sugarland singer Jennifer Nettles, we incorrectly stated that her 5-month-old son Magnus Hamilton inherited his dad Justin Miller's blue eyes. In fact, the baby's eye color was passed down from his grandfather. We regret the errors.

## UPDATE | CAT CRUSADER



Ten years ago PEOPLE featured Santa Monica-based wildlife vet Dr. Jennifer Conrad for her crusade to ban what many consider the inhumane practice of declawing cats. Since our profile, eight California cities—including Los Angeles and San Francisco—have outlawed the procedure. Her cause will be seen on the big screen later this year when Warner Brothers releases *The Paw Project*, a documentary chronicling her campaign. “It was hard,” says Conrad, 46, who hopes that next year California will become the first state to ban declawing.

“I was ostracized by a lot of other veterinarians. But there's been a definite change in peoples' attitudes toward this issue. They're standing up and saying, 'Enough. It's time to stop this.'”



## WRITE US

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