On September 21, 2011, some 90 South Alabama veterans traveled on a chartered flight from Mobile to Washington, DC to spend the day visiting the national monuments, including the World War II Memorial. For many, it was their first visit to our nation's capital and the Memorial.

Congressman Jo Bonner greeted the South Alabama veterans upon their arrival on the National Mall, escorting them into the Memorial dedicated to their service.

"They saved the world and got very little acclaim or recognition for their remarkable efforts," Rep. Bonner observed. "Until the dedication of nation's official World War II Memorial just seven years ago, the heroes of America's Greatest Generation were never properly honored for their valor and their sacrifice.

"For me personally, it is a moving experience to witness the faces of our veterans as they view this grand memorial for the first time. The smiles, the silence and the tears on their faces clearly demonstrate their return to the memories of that challenging time in American history and each of their unique roles in helping to secure our country's final victory.

"Even tourists and school children are emotionally affected by the Honor Flight visits. It's inspiring to see them stop in their tracks in respect for the World War II veterans as they enter the Memorial on foot and in wheel chairs. During these visits, America's heroes finally receive the official thank you they missed more than 65 years ago."

Below are selected photos from the Honor Flight VI South Alabama visit on September 21, 2011.

Welcoming South Alabama veterans upon their arrival at the World War II Memorial

Visiting with an Alabama World War II veteran at the entrance to the World War II Memorial

Visiting with Alabama World War II veterans as they prepare to enter the Memorial

Reflecting at the Alabama column of the World War II Memorial

Both Alabama flag flown over the U.S. Capitol on September 11, 2011 in honor of Honor Flight

Thanking our South Alabama World War II veterans for their service