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Wright B Flyer, Inc. hosts Wounded Warriors

Veterans take flight onboard the Wright B Flyer replica airplane

Photo 1: Vietnam veteran, Mike Vanderveen, onboard the Wright B Flyer replica at the Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport in Miami Township. Courtesy/Miami Township

Photo 2: Wright B Flyer replica taxis out on the runway with Vietnam veteran, Mike Vanderveen, onboard. Courtesy/Miami Township

Photo 3: Wright B Flyer replica took veterans on runway flights at the Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport in Miami Township. Courtesy/Miami Township

Wright B Flyer, Inc. pulled out all the stops to welcome the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team to Miami Township. The team and other local veterans took the ride of a lifetime onboard the Wright B Flyer replica at the Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport in mid-October.

The softball team was in town to play a benefit game for the Fisher House, currently under construction on the grounds of the Dayton VA Medical Center. Wright B Flyer, Inc. hosted a “Welcome to Dayton” dinner and reception which included a runway flight for each veteran.

“It was such a free feeling. As soon as we lifted off, I felt like a bird,” Mike Vanderveen, Vietnam War veteran, said.

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Vanderveen is a recipient of the Purple Heart. He was serving with the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam War in January 1969 when he stepped on a landmine, losing his legs. He is currently secretary of the Vietnam Veterans of America Miami Valley Chapter 97 in Dayton.

The Wright B Flyer is a replica of the Wright Brothers' first mass produced airplane. You can visit the Wright B Flyer Museum at the Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport on Springboro Pike just south of Austin Blvd.

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