

By Ellen Sussman Special to the Green Valley News |  
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## Couple serving together as Honor Flight guardians

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Ellen Sussman / Green Valley News

### Off to DC!

Ray and Kay Robinson.

A Quail Creek neighborhood (Unit 15) sponsored WWII veteran Jimmie Johnson of Wellton on today's Honor Flight by collecting \$1,400.

If you'd like to learn how to sponsor a veteran, go to [www.honorflightsaz.org](http://www.honorflightsaz.org).

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As members of the Patriot Guard Riders, Ray and Kay Robinson of Sahuarita honor World War II veterans by attending every early morning Honor Flight sendoff and every return.

When Southern Arizona Honor Flight takes off this morning, the couple will show their patriotism in another way. Both will be going as guardians to ensure every veteran, now in their late 80s and 90s, is well cared for.

Ray is a former Navy pilot who served in Oahu and Okinawa and flew patrol aircraft in the late 1960s. He then flew helicopters with the Army National Guard 1970s.

"I have admiration for what the veterans did in World War II and want to bring pleasure into their lives at this late stage," Ray said, who also serves as a chaplain with American Legion Madera Post 131 in Green Valley.

The Robinsons say they are grateful to the men and women in the armed forces. Both have followed Honor Flight stories in the Green Valley News for several years. When they signed on to be guardians both said they would volunteer in whatever way Honor Flight needed them on the three-day trip to Washington, D.C., to see the WWII Memorial.

Kay anticipates her guardian experience to be very rewarding as she listens to the veterans' stories. Ray is looking forward to serving as a couple.

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After a recent orientation meeting, Kay decided to call her assigned veteran in Tucson to introduce herself.

"I called one morning and got no answer so I left a message. My veteran called back later in the afternoon and said I shouldn't call before 2 o'clock because he's always out on the golf course until then," she said. "He's 102!"