

A Way to Say Thanks

Eight United States soldiers were flying home from Iraq on a two-week leave in July 2004. What happened next was heartwarming.

Before one of the soldiers boarded the plane, a passenger traded his first-class ticket for the soldier's coach ticket.

As the plane was boarding, other passengers asked to trade their first-class seats for the coach seats occupied by the remaining soldiers.

Devilla Evans, a flight attendant on the American Airlines flight from Atlanta to Chicago, said, "I was so privileged to be flying with these two groups of unselfish people. Here you have these kids who are putting their lives on the line, protecting our freedom, and here are these people who gave up their seats that are usually fought over. You really have to have a large heart to do something like that."

Another flight attendant, Lorrie Gammon, said, "The soldiers were very, very happy, and the whole aircraft had a different feeling."

What a wonderful gesture of appreciation for our men and women in uniform. Word of that incident spread, and similar demonstrations of goodwill have occurred on other flights since then.

And people with "large hearts," as flight attendant Evans put it, are at work every day in the centers of Life Care and Century Park.

They contribute to the comfort and well-being of residents and patients through the exercise of professional talents administered in a spirit of love, and they often sacrifice personal time and energy – and, in some cases, their own financial means – to be certain their customers are respected and happy.

By their commitment and their practice, they build the reputation of our company.

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others (Philippians 2:3-4 KJV).

– Beecher Hunter