

News and stories

Marine awarded Medal of Honor in World War II welcomed here

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Brian Albrecht | [Cleveland.com](#)

CLEVELAND, Ohio - A welcome befitting a [Medal of Honor](#) recipient greeted Hershel "Woody" Williams Thursday evening when his plane landed at Burke Lakefront Airport.

Williams, the last surviving Marine who was awarded a Medal of Honor during World War II, was visiting Cleveland to talk with local business and civic leaders Friday about establishing a [Gold Star Families Memorial Monument](#) here.

One of the goals of the Hershel Woody Williams Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, Inc., is to erect monuments across the country honoring Gold Star families who have lost loved ones in the military. Twenty-one have been established, and another 51 are planned in 37 states.

Williams' visit was organized by the Cleveland committee of the foundation.

His plane was welcomed by a Cleveland Fire Department water cannon salute as it taxied to the airport terminal.

A crowd had assembled to greet him, representing the Marines and

other service members, the Department of Veterans Affairs, VFW Post 3345, the Greater Cleveland Young Marines, and members of the Cleveland police and fire departments.

As he left the airport in a World War II-era Jeep, Williams made a brief stop to visit another World War II vet - the USS Cod Submarine Memorial, which gave him a deck-gun salute.