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Welcome Home 2011

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebration of 25th anniversary of Chicago Vietnam veterans Welcome Home planned for June 2011

MOVING WALL, NAVY PIER RALLY, CONCERT, BANQUET & MORE

Honorary Chairman
Mayor Richard M. Daley

Founder
Chuck Lofrano

Chairman
Robert Kolling

Treasurer/Oversight
Bob Lammie

Aide-de-camp
Deana Lofrano Olson
Linda Woody Kolling

Special Projects
Bob Wieland

Technology
Shannon Homan

Art Display
Debby Preiser
Sarah Lammie

Sponsorship/Fund Raising
Jeane Douglas
George Isdale

Concert VIP
Andy Olson

Vets Service Org. Liaison
Roger McGill

Navy Pier/Rally
Mark Lymperopoulos

Volunteer Coordinator
Carole Lammie

Moving Wall
Jack Shiffler

Congressional Medal of Honor
Liaison
Al Lynch, CMH

Women Veterans Liaison
Constance Edwards

Vietnam Commemorative
Liaison
Robert Getz

Merchandising
Shannon Homan

Photographer
Jim Obos

Welcome Home 2011 will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 1986 Vietnam veterans Welcome Home Parade. The anniversary weekend will be celebrated June 17-19, 2011. The weekend of activities for Veterans, other retired or active military, friends, and family, was officially launched on Veteran's Day 2010.

On June 13, 1986, the Chicago Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Parade became the largest parade of its kind in the history of the United States. Over 200,000 veterans and their families marched proudly down the streets of Chicago to the applause of over 300,000 spectators. The emotional and inspirational day was a healing celebration that forever changed the country's outlook of the Vietnam veteran. 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of this historic event.

Welcome Home 2011 is designed to celebrate veterans from all conflicts and their families and friends, the weekend will feature veteran author discussions, information booths on veterans assistance groups, memorabilia and souvenir vendors. Events that highlight the weekend include:

FRIDAY, June 17th

- Veteran's art & photo exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Arts Center.
- Vietnam Moving Wall display open to the public at Navy Pier.

SATURDAY, June 18th

- Kickoff Rally at Navy Pier with entertainment by Britt Small, Jackie Marx, Rev. John Steer, and Kelly Trudell to name a few.

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- Heroes banquet featuring MC Bill Kurtis and Bob Weiland, "Mr. Motivation" as the keynote speaker. Bob, a Vietnam veteran who lost his legs during the conflict, led the 1986 Parade on his hands. The City of Chicago will be recognized and several Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients will serve as honored guests.

SUNDAY, June 19th

- Interfaith service with Rev. John Steer.
- Millennium Park concert featuring Dennis DeYoung and the music of Styx, as well as ARRA, Joe Cantafio & The 101st Rock Division, and Kimotion.
- Weekend military unit reunions.

(Schedule as of February 1, 2011 - Subject to change without notice.)

Robert Kolling, a Purple Heart recipient Vietnam veteran and chairman of Welcome Home 2011, said "the weekend of events is designed to remember the dedicated service and valor of Vietnam-era veterans and to recognize and thank Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, and all U.S. veterans and their families and to 'hand the baton off' to the next generations of United States veterans."

The Palmer House Hotel has been selected as the Welcome Home 2011 headquarter hotel. Attendees, family and friends can reserve discounted accommodations from Thursday, June 16, 2011 through Monday, June 20, 2011 by calling (312) 726-7500. To receive the discounted rate, please be sure to mention Welcome Home 2011 when making your reservations.

Additional information on the schedule of events, upcoming deadlines, concert or banquet tickets, volunteer or sponsorship and recognition opportunities is available on the Welcome Home 2011 website at www.serviceandhonor.org or by calling the event hotline at (312) 925-5506.

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