

**Visitors' Business:**  
**Proclamation:**  
Welcome Home



To all to whom these Presents Shall Come: Greeting:  
**Proclamation**

WHEREAS, *on June 13, 1986, the Chicago Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Parade was held with over 200,000 veterans and their families marching proudly down the streets of Chicago to the applause of over 300,000 spectators; and*

WHEREAS, *that emotional and inspirational day helped change the Country's outlook of the Vietnam Veterans; and*

WHEREAS, *the parade provided a healing process which generated a grassroots movement that laid the groundwork for today's returning soldiers; and*

WHEREAS, *June 13, 2011 will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this historical event; and*

WHEREAS, *to commemorate this anniversary "Welcome Home 2011," "Together Then, Together Again," will be held June 17-19, 2011 with numerous events including an Art and Photo Display at the Chicago Cultural Arts Center, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall will be on display at Navy Pier, a "Kick-off Rally will be held at Navy Pier on June 18 which will include a "Pass the Torch" ceremony, a banquet will be held at the Palmer House on Saturday evening, June 18, and on Sunday, June 19, an afternoon of music will be held at the Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park;*

*Now, Therefore I, Maria D. Rodriguez, President of the Village of Long Grove, Lake County, Illinois, by virtue of my office, do hereby proclaim June 17-19, 2011 as:*

**"Welcome Home 2011"**

*in the Village of Long Grove and urge all citizens of Long Grove to attend "Welcome Home 2011" events and to recognize the service of our Vietnam, Iraqi and Afghanistan Veterans and those currently serving our Country.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Village of Long Grove, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.*

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*Maria D. Rodriguez  
Village President*

*Attest:*

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*Karen Schultheis  
Village Clerk*



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# About Us



## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Parade

Welcome Home 2011

PO Box 2323

Chicago IL 60664-2323

[www.serviceandhonor.org](http://www.serviceandhonor.org)

### Keynote Chairman

Mayor Richard M. Daley

### Founder

Chuck Lefrano

### Vice Chairman

Robert Kolling

### Treasurer/Organizer

Bob Luzzano

### Aide-de-camp

Deana Lofgren Olson

Linda Woady Kolling

### Technology

Sharon Rowan

### Art Display

Danny Prober

Sarah Luzzano

### Sponsorship/Event Raising

James Douglas

George Isdale

### Entertainment

Robert Kolling

Andy Olson

### Vets Service Org. Liaison

Roger McGill

### News Photo/Video

Mark Lyngoropoulos

### Volunteer Coordination

Carmel Luzzano

### Moving Wall

Jack Shiller

### Congressional Medal of Honor

Lizium

Al Eyrack, CSH

### Women Veterans Liaison

Constance Edwards

### Vietnam Commemorative Line

Lizium

Robert Ceb

### Merchandising

Sharon Rowan

Liz Kikert

### VA Hospital Liaison

Janet Tigg

### Photography

Jan Olson

On June 13, 1986, the Chicago Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Parade became the largest parade of its kind in the history of America. Over 200,000 veterans and their families marched proudly down the streets of Chicago to the applause of over 300,000 spectators. It was an emotional and inspirational day designed to be a healing celebration. If you were there you will never forget it.

That weekend helped to change the country's outlook of the Vietnam veteran. At that time, the country had a difficult time accepting the plight of the Vietnam veteran, and the parade provided a healing process, which generated a grassroots movement that laid the groundwork for today's returning soldiers. As part of the lessons learned by the Vietnam veteran, we have bridged the generation of men and women who now no longer have to overcome the obstacles that we, as Vietnam veterans, endured at the time of our return from war.

June 13, 2011 will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this historic event. Some of the original Parade Committee members have formed the Welcome Home 2011 Committee to commemorate this anniversary and have planned a weekend of activities for the entire family, which includes:

- A display of photographs at the Chicago Cultural Arts Center submitted by veterans
- A kick-off Rally at Navy Pier on Saturday morning
- The Moving Wall display at Navy Pier
- Saturday evening dinner not only to recognize the City of Chicago for all of the support they have given to its veterans, but to recognize and honor all veterans, with Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients as special guests
- Sunday morning service provided by Reverend John Steer
- The weekend culminates with a day-long concert featuring Styx founder, Dennis DeYoung, as well as other entertainment
- In addition there will be unit reunions scheduled, as well as family discount coupon books available for Chicago attractions and dining.

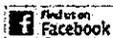
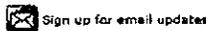
Please visit the Welcome Home 2011 website at [www.serviceandhonor.org](http://www.serviceandhonor.org) for the latest information and detailed listing of events, or contact any of our committee members.

See you in Chicago in 2011.

Robert Kolling  
Vice Chairman

*Duty, Honor, Country*

*.....Never Forget.....*





# Welcome Home 2011

TOGETHER WE CAN... TOGETHER WE CAN WIN

## JUNE 19, 2011

## CHICAGO MALLINO

### 25th Anniversary of the 1986

### Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home

- ★ A Vietnam War Photo exhibit at the Cultural Center
- ★ Vietnam War Wall display at Navy Pier on Friday
- ★ Free Vietnam Hospitality Reception at the Sheraton Hotel
- ★ Keynote address by Navy Pier on Saturday
- ★ Homecoming Dinner Saturday featuring BIN KURTZ (Vietnam War hero and Medal of Honor recipient) as the keynote speaker
- ★ Vietnam War Interfaith service at the John Stear
- ★ Sunday concert at the Navy Pier featuring Donny Osmond, the ARRA, Kin, and the Vietnam Band.
- ★ Welcome Home Reunions, veteran national booths, and various discussion panels are also part of the ongoing events.
- ★ Discounted parking available for restaurant and other activities for the family.

**WELCOME HOME WEBSITE**  
**FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION, MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS**  
**REGISTER FOR EVENTS**



[www.sevenfor.org](http://www.sevenfor.org)

Welcome Home 2011 Chicago, IL 60664-2323

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**What is the purpose of the event?**

The Welcome Home 2011 has been designated to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the most historic event that veterans and the City of Chicago have ever experienced, namely the 1986 Chicago Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Parade. The words of our fallen Chairman, Chuck Lofrano, "If you were there, you will never forget it."

That weekend helped to change the country's outlook of the Vietnam veteran. At that time, the country had a difficult time understanding the plight of the Vietnam veteran, and the parade provided a healing process, which generated a grassroots movement that laid the groundwork for today's returning soldiers. As part of the lessons learned by the Vietnam veteran, we have bridged the gap between men and women who now no longer have to overcome the obstacles that we, as Vietnam veterans, endured at the return from war.

In addition to our own celebrations and mini-reunions, we will be recognizing our Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans and those still serving. We will be honoring their service to our country, just as we were honored 25 years ago. This will be a passing of the torch in a way. It is time for the newest generation of men and women to pick up where we have left off.

**Is there going to be a parade?**

No, there will not be a parade. The 1986 Chicago Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Parade was the largest event in the nation's history. It provided a healing process and will always be remembered as THE PARADE. We have been we

As a part of the weekend's events, we are honoring our soldiers serving overseas. To include a parade welcoming them this time would be considered inappropriate while there are those still serving. When the time is right, we can rest assured that the City of Chicago, as well as the entire nation, will properly welcome them all home.

**What events are planned for the weekend?**

There will be an Art and Photo Display at the Chicago Cultural Arts Center the entire weekend. Veterans, especially those who served in the '86 Parade, are encouraged to send entries in to be displayed. An photo entry form as well as a photo can be downloaded from <http://www.serviceandhonor.org/forms.html>.

Friday is check-in day and there will be information and discount coupon books for family activities and restaurants available. Unit and service organization reunions and hospitality suites will be set up for meeting up with friends – o

The half-scale model of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. (The Moving Wall) will be on display at the entrance of Navy Pier. Also, the Illinois Department of the Military Order of the Purple Heart will display their collection of soldiers from Illinois that includes all wars.

There will be a kick-off Rally at Navy Pier on Saturday morning. This will include the opening ceremony with guest entertainment followed by entertainment by Jackie Marx and Britt Small. Vendor booths and information booths will also be on display at Navy Pier.

Following the Rally, there will be a 'Pass the Torch' ceremony, honoring the OEF/OFI veterans, as well as military veterans.

Saturday night the Palmer House Hotel will host a banquet to honor and thank the City of Chicago for all of the support shown its veterans over the years. Guests will include Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients along with Keynote speaker Bob Wieland and Master of Ceremonies, Bill Kurtis. Bob Wieland was asked personally by General William Westmoreland to march in the 1986 parade and Bob marched the entire parade on his hands. Bob's stop in Chicago will be a part of his Race A on a hand-cycle from Los Angeles to Maryland.

Reverend John Steer will lead an inter-faith ceremony Sunday morning at the Chicago Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

A Sunday afternoon of music will be held at the Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park, featuring Dennis DeYoung, Kirshon (founder of the Lt. Dan Band, Kim Williams), ARRA, and USO's Joe Cantafio and the 101st Rock Division.

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There will also be vendors' booths, veteran authors discussion panels, veteran's benefits, information booths, and throughout the weekend.

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**Do I need to register?**

Many of the events that are being planned for the weekend do not require any registration. If you are planning on staying for the events, you will need to make reservations with a hotel. The Saturday night banquet dinner requires a ticket, Sunday afternoon concert.

All of the vendor's displays, seminars, reunions, the art and photo exhibit, the Moving Wall, and the Rally at Navy P activities. Family discount coupon books will also be available at no cost.

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**What if I can't afford to stay at the HQ hotel?**

While the Palmer House Hilton Hotel has been designated as the official Headquarters for Welcome Home 2011, visit any of the many hotels in the city and surrounding areas.

Special event rates have been negotiated with the Palmer House in order to help make your stay at the premier hotel more affordable.

Most of the unit and service organization reunions will be located at the Palmer House as well as most of the vendor's various scheduled seminars.

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**What if I want to set up a booth to promote my cause?**

If you are a vendor and would like to pursue the possibility of setting up a display booth at the HQ hotel or at Navy P, visit our web site at <http://www.serviceandhonor.org/contact.html> and send an e-mail request to the Chairman, giving a detailed request as well as your contact information. Someone will contact you with further information.

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**How can I help?**

You can help by spreading the word and encouraging people to register early for their hotel rooms and purchasing tickets. There are also flyers and forms that can be downloaded from the web site that can be reproduced and distributed.

Ask your organization to publish a flyer or write an article for their newsletter.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels, starting at \$100.

If you want to volunteer to help out at the event, there is a sign-up page on the web site. Go to <http://www.serviceandhonor.org/volunteer.html>.

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**Where can I get more information?**

Keep up with any new information as it becomes available. Visit the site at [www.serviceandhonor.org](http://www.serviceandhonor.org). There are document flyers, photo display application forms, sponsorship opportunity forms, etc. available for downloading.

There is also a Hot Line that includes the latest information as well as an opportunity to leave a voice mail message to return your call as soon as possible at (312) 925-5506.



Logo design by Jackie Marx

