

As director of Grand Valley State University's Office of Multicultural Affairs, I appreciate and support WGVU as my source for LZ Michigan Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans.



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–Connie Dang, Grand Valley State University, Michigan

I'm Connie Dang. As director of Grand Valley State University's Office of Multicultural Affairs, I appreciate and support WGVU as my source for LZ Michigan Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans. Born in Vietnam, I came to my new homeland, Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the late 1970s as a Vietnamese refugee. My most prominent memory of the Vietnam War happened the night before the fall of South Vietnam. That night, the North communist military combat troops invaded the central city of Saigon to take over the capital. My family of eight, my parents and five siblings, took coverage in a building not too far from the capital. As bombs exploded nearby, shaking the foundation of the building, we held each other tightly and prayed for our safety. Outside of the building, the American and Vietnamese soldiers bravely fought to the very end of the Vietnam War.

I am a survivor of the Vietnam War. I respectfully pay tribute to the Vietnam veterans as well as the survivors of fallen veterans who have made it possible for me to pursue my dreams and to enjoy America's freedoms. LZ Michigan provides my family and my community a forum to remember, respect and honor the sacrifices and sufferings made by many men, women and their families for our safety and freedom. It has been 35 years since the war ended, Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans gives me an opportunity to officially thank those individuals for the service they rendered to my birth country and the sacrifices they made on behalf of the Vietnamese. These men and women left the safety and comfort of their homes, families and country to fight for our freedom so I could sleep safely in my bed, and my family and other Vietnamese could go about their daily lives.

To the Vietnam veterans, you are not forgotten and will always be my heroes!

WGVU is engaged in our community. We are honored to bring community events like LZ Michigan to our area. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor and partner in LZ Michigan or other WGVU events, please contact us at 616-331-6630. Thank you for supporting our local community!

