



LZ MICHIGAN ★ WELCOMING HOME MICHIGAN'S VIETNAM VETERANS ★ JULY 3, 2010

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LZ Michigan honors Vietnam War veterans

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A “welcome home” celebration will be held at Fifth Third Ballpark to honor Vietnam War veterans for their sacrifice and service.

WGUV, Grand Valley State University and the West Michigan Whitecaps present LZ Michigan. LZ is an abbreviation for Landing Zone, military slang for a helicopter clearing where supplies or troops are landed. The event coincides with WGUV TV's broadcast of a three-part documentary, *Vietnam War Stories*.

The community celebration takes place Saturday, July 3, at 7 p.m. at Fifth Third Ballpark in Grand Rapids. Vietnam veterans will be honored, including those who were killed or declared missing in action. The event will feature speakers, musical entertainment, displays and a video from the premiere of *Vietnam War Stories*. The celebration will close with fireworks.

“We are honored, privileged and humbled to be able to bring this event to West Michigan and recognize the service of Michigan's Vietnam veterans,” said Michael Walenta, WGUV general manager.

For more information, contact WGUV's Tim Eernisse at (616) 331-6630, or GVSU News and Information Services at (616) 331-2221.

NOTE:

As a precursor event to LZ Michigan, Grand Valley State University's Student Veterans Organization will host a 5K fun run/walk on the Allendale Campus to celebrate and officially welcome home Vietnam veterans and their families.

The “Welcome Home 5K” is set for Sunday, March 28, at 2 p.m. Students, faculty and staff members, their families and members of the public are encouraged to participate. The course will start by Lubbers Stadium and continue by the Laker Turf Building through south campus, ending at the Student Services Building. Refreshments will be served in the Kirkhof Center following the event.

Participation in the Grand Valley 5K is free; participants are asked to bring a baseball hat as a registration fee. The hats will be collected and given to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. John Koch, a member of the Student Veterans Organization, said when veterans take bus trips to West Michigan Whitecaps games, many don't have hats to wear.

For more information about the fun run, visit www.gvsu.edu/veterans.