



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LZ Michigan kicks off to welcome home Vietnam veterans**

**(Grand Rapids, MI, January 25, 2010)** - Hundreds of veterans, their family members and community members are expected to attend a July “welcome home” celebration to honor Vietnam War veterans for their sacrifice and service. LZ (Landing Zone) Michigan is scheduled for Saturday, July 3, 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, a motorcycle rally and a video from the premiere of “Vietnam War Stories.” The celebration will close with fireworks.

**MEDIA NOTE:** A news conference to detail the day’s events will be held **Monday, May 24, at 8:30 a.m. in the Stadium Club at Fifth Third BallPark** in Grand Rapids. Speakers include Vietnam veterans Stan Cheff and Ron Oakes, Congressman Vern Ehlers, West Michigan Whitecaps CEO Lew Chamberlin, and state Sen. Bill Hardiman. The Kent County Honor Guard will also be present. Plans will be announced for a scholarship for dependents of Vietnam War veterans.

“It is time our nation makes these veterans proud of their service to their country,” said Jan Rosochacki, Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. “The LZ Michigan project will finally welcome home these veterans the way they deserve.”

Tickets for LZ Michigan can be reserved at [www.lzmichigan.org](http://www.lzmichigan.org) or by calling 800-442-2771. Adult tickets are \$10; Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans receive complimentary tickets. All proceeds will be used to support programming at LZ Michigan.

For a complete list of sponsors, partners and event details visit [www.lzmichigan.org](http://www.lzmichigan.org).

### **BACKGROUND**

LZ Michigan will take place Saturday, July 3, at Fifth Third Ballpark to welcome home Michigan’s Vietnam War veterans. LZ is an abbreviation for landing zone, military slang for a helicopter clearing where supplies or troops are landed. This statewide effort will culminate in a day of recognition and celebration of their service and sacrifice. The event is not political or military; it is the community’s expression of thanks, support and welcome for the men and women who served in Vietnam.

WGUVU's continued mission is to provide educational, informative, and entertaining programs and events to the West Michigan community as a service of Grand Valley State University.

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