A Veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America for an amount of ‘up to and including my life.’
On March 30th, 1973, the last remaining American troops departed Vietnam – coming home to “The World” as they called it. Sadly, the way they returned is a shameful chapter in our nation’s history. Stepping onto US soil, the men and women who bravely served were greeted with protesters, not parades, political agendas instead of acclamations of service. They were not honored for the sacrifices made for country; they were made sacrifices for a war our country couldn’t make peace with.

**The Vietnam War was controversial** —
The Vietnam War was controversial – the heroism of those who served was not.
Regrettably, it took us 36 years to thank them for it.

“A nation reveals itself not only by the citizens it produces, but also by the citizens it honors, the citizens it remembers.”

President, John F. Kennedy

On March 30th, 2009, the US Senate issued a declaration stating that it: honors and recognizes the contributions of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam; and encourages the people of the United States to observe “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the contributions of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam and the importance of helping such veterans readjust to civilian life.
This Year – It’s Our Turn:
On November 5th, 2009, Oklahoma Governor, Brad Henry, issued a proclamation declaring 2010 to be the Year of the Vietnam Veteran.

“It is important to honor the sacrifices made by all our veterans. It is especially appropriate, however, that we do so for the men and women who served with distinction and valor in Vietnam, but were denied such praise upon their return home.”
Community leaders, civilians and military organizations across Oklahoma are joining forces to celebrate and honor those who served in the Vietnam War.

The event will be a series of first-class events that:

★ Provide our Vietnam Veterans with long overdue recognition for service to our country
★ Publicly acknowledge the sacrifices made by our Veterans’ families and friends
★ Salute those who supported our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines
★ Support those who have worked tirelessly on behalf of Vietnam Veterans
★ Help the public understand and respect the sacrifices and patriotic service of our Vietnam Veterans
The Event

OPERATION OKLAHOMA
OUR SALUTE TO VIETNAM VETERANS
The Mission

The state of Oklahoma, in partnership with local governments and private industry, will produce a statewide Oklahoma Salute to Vietnam Veterans on the weekend of July 2–4th, 2010. The event will provide a venue for the people of Oklahoma to come together and give our Vietnam Veterans the long overdue recognition and gratitude for service they so richly deserve.

Proposed Itinerary

June 26th – Tulsa to Norman
The Dignity Memorial Wall arrives in Tulsa.
A Veterans’ motorcycle rally and highway patrol escort will accompany the Wall down Route 66 to Norman for display throughout the entire Operation Oklahoma event.

July 2nd – Tulsa
Classic Rock Concert at the University of Tulsa Chapman Stadium and Fireworks Display.

July 3rd – Bricktown, Oklahoma City
All-day event to include performances by Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra and military bands, Veteran Ceremony, and possible Veteran Center Stand Down to provide homeless Veterans free medical and dental services as well as clothing, food, showers, counseling, etc. Additionally, all museums and other tourist venues in Oklahoma City will be free to Veterans.

July 4th – Reeves Park, Norman
All-day event to include concert, flyovers, fireworks, color guards, military choirs, patriotic salute, and Veteran Ceremony. The Memorial Wall will also be on display to the public.

Other possible events and activities:

Service and Unit Reunions
Parade of Service and Organizational Colors
Blood Drive in honor of Vietnam medics, corpsmen, and nurses – with all donations going to the US Military
Military Displays
Community Sponsored Booths
Veteran Screenings and Information
Oklahoma History Center Vietnam War Installation
“The thousands of American men and women who served in Vietnam never received the praise they so richly deserved. I hope, over the next year, Oklahomans from all over our great state will join the Governor in saying thank you to these honorable citizens who live and work next to us every day.”

Major General Myles Deering, Adjutant General of Oklahoma
Why Now?

2,709,918 Americans served in Vietnam.

2/3rds of those who served were volunteers.

Nearly 10,000 women served in Vietnam. All of them, military and civilian, were volunteers.

240 Vietnam Veterans received the Congressional Medal of Honor – our highest military award.

250,000 – 270,000 received a Purple Heart for their service.

2010 is the 35th anniversary of the fall of Saigon.

Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in Vietnam, less than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today.

The men and women who served in Vietnam have waited nearly four decades to be honored for their service, and yet they are the most ardent supporters of the service men and women who have followed in their footsteps.
How You Can Help

Operation Oklahoma – Our Salute to Vietnam Veterans – is entirely privately funded, with no state funds appropriated for the event.

To make the event a success, one that is free to all and imparts each Vietnam Veteran with a sense of pride and feeling of appreciation for their service to country, we need to raise the money necessary to organize and publicize the event.

We expect the total cost to be less than $300,000. That amount will cover the publicity leading up to the event as well as the costs of the event. Any additional funding raised will be directed to support a Vietnam Veterans Foundation or support service dedicated to helping our Vietnam Veterans.

All fundraising proceeds and donations will be dispersed through the Communities Foundation of Oklahoma and Tulsa Community Foundation as tax-deductible contributions.

It is time to recognize this outstanding group of Veterans who served our nation honorably and faithfully during one of the most politically volatile times in our history. We offer several Corporate and Individual Sponsorship packages, each with event benefits and promotional identity.

Please help us make this event a success by making a donation today.

*These men and women answered the call of their country. They went when called and served with honor and bravery. They are not to blame for an unpopular war. They did their duty and served their country.*
Corporate and Individual Sponsorship Levels:

5-Star.... $50k
4-Star.... $30k
3-Star.... $20k
2-Star.... $10k
1-Star.... $5k
The following items are proposed benefits for the sponsorship levels. Benefits may change based on the number of contributions per level.

$50k 5-Star Contribution Level:

Proposed benefits and promotional identity:
Banner with logo / name displayed at all Operation Oklahoma events
Full-page advertisement in each program for Operation Oklahoma events
Logo / name on Operation Oklahoma Website and Facebook page
Logo / name on each sponsorship poster advertising Operation Oklahoma events
Reserved seating and parking spaces for each Operation Oklahoma event

$30k 4-Star Contribution Level:

Proposed benefits and promotional identity:
Banner with logo / name displayed at all Operation Oklahoma events
Half-page advertisement in each program for Operation Oklahoma events
Logo / name on Operation Oklahoma Website and Facebook page
Logo / name on each sponsorship poster advertising Operation Oklahoma events
Reserved seating and parking spaces for each Operation Oklahoma event

$20k 3-Star Contribution Level:

Proposed benefits and promotional identity:
Banner with logo / name displayed at all Operation Oklahoma events
Quarter-page advertisement in each program for Operation Oklahoma events
Logo / name on Operation Oklahoma Website and Facebook page
Reserved seating and parking spaces for each Operation Oklahoma event

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”
President, John F. Kennedy
**$10k 2-Star Contribution Level:**

*Proposed benefits and promotional identity:*

- Banner with logo / name displayed at all Operation Oklahoma events
- Eighth-page advertisement in each program for Operation Oklahoma events
- Logo / name on Operation Oklahoma Website and Facebook page
- Reserved seating and parking spaces for each Operation Oklahoma event

**$5k 1-Star Contribution Level:**

*Proposed benefits and promotional identity:*

- Banner with logo / name displayed at all Operation Oklahoma events
- Logo / name on Operation Oklahoma Website and Facebook page
- Reserved seating and parking spaces for each Operation Oklahoma event
OPERATION OKLAHOMA

Our Salute to Vietnam Veterans

July 2-3-4, 2010

Oklahoma’s Salute to the Vietnam Veterans Event Committee and the state of Oklahoma

with assistance from
Communities Foundation of Oklahoma and Tulsa Community Foundation

www.OperationOklahoma.org