

Friends!
Food!

You are invited!

Flying!
Fun!



Next year will mark the 40th anniversary of the last US troops coming off the lines in Vietnam. For those veterans who served from 1962-1975 their return to the states and civilian life was not greeted with applause, parades or celebrations but with derision and blame. Next summer citizens, businesses and organizations from nine North Iowa counties are hosting "OPERATION LZ - WELCOME HOME." This overdue Welcome Home -Thank You event for Vietnam era veterans will be held August 26-30th at the Forest City Airport, Heritage Park and Winnebago Rally Grounds.

Events and displays committed at this time are: The Traveling Wall, two Huey and one Cobra Helicopters from the Army Aviation Heritage Group, POW - MIA hot air balloon and the T-6 Thunder Squadron Group from Minneapolis. Rides will be available for purchase on these aircraft. Also coming is a Vietnam Museum, Mobile Riverine Veterans Honor Trailer or Displays, and the Des Moines Skydivers which will give tandem jumps and presentation of colors. More exciting news is the appearance of the three member Poet Ethanol Stunt Squadron! The committee is also

happy to present The Rocky Lynne Band from Tennessee, honoring our great country and those who defend it. At this printing, an application is in process to request the display of a C-130 Transport, APC, and a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter.

The goal of this weekend is to bring our Vietnam era veterans together with families, communities, businesses, organizations and other veterans to give them their rightful honor and gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

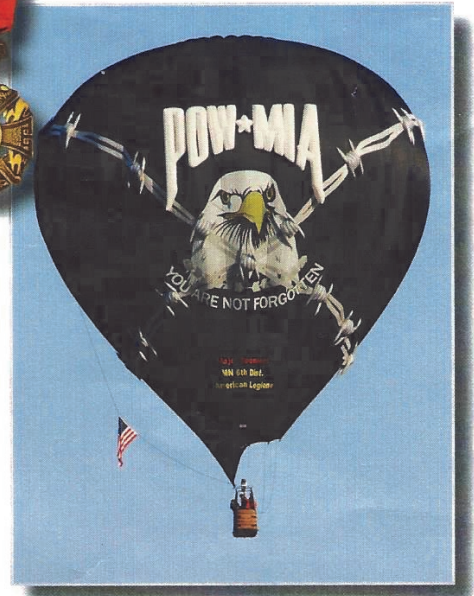
This is a weekend to reflect, renew and restore a group of men and women who responded when their country asked for their service. It is also an opportunity for veterans to share with their children or grandchildren the service they gave for their country.

You are receiving this special invitation to be a supporter in this long overdue Thank You weekend. Ten years from now many of these soldiers will not be here or will be unable to attend an event like "OPERATION LZ - WELCOME HOME." It's never too late to thank a veteran.



Come join us!
Welcome to all veterans
who served
from 1962-1975

Vietnam Veteran
Gary Pearson
of Little Cedar, IA will be
presenting his motor pool
collection and other
interesting memorabilia that
he has collected.



91% of Vietnam Vets were glad they served.

74% enjoyed their service and would serve again.

72% agree they fought a war political leaders wouldn't let them win.

87% of Americans hold Vietnam vets in high esteem.

General Schedule for "OPERATION LZ – WELCOME HOME"

www.operationlz.com

Wed., Aug. 26th - Arrival of the Traveling Wall

Thurs., Aug. 27th - Arrival of Sky Soldiers Helicopters

Thurs., Aug. 27th - Fri., Aug. 28th - Education Days - Area high schools are invited to view The Wall and hear from veterans and history teachers.

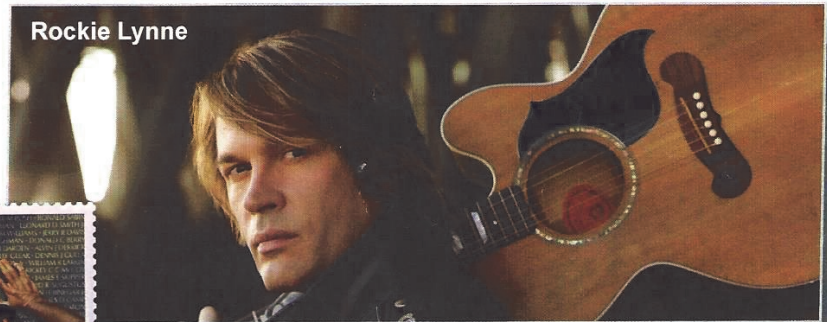
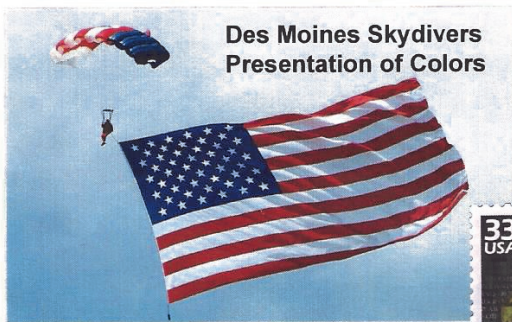
Sat., Aug. 29th - OPERATION LZ - WELCOME HOME

- Mid morning service for vets and families at The Wall - Speaker: Larry Spencer
- Special speaker at Winnebago outdoor theatre
- Airport activities open with skydivers presentation of colors
- Rides, demonstrations, Poet Ethanol Stunt Squadron show, many static displays
- Governor Terry Branstad
- Rockie Lynne Veterans Tribute Concert

Sun., Aug. 30th - Flight breakfast
Helicopter, T-6 Thunder, balloon rides
Poet Stunt plane show

Rain or shine • Free admission • Camping

Camping will be available in the event area at the Winnebago Industries Campground from Aug. 28-29th – Details later.



Operation LZ Guests



Retired Lieutenant General
Dennis J. Hejlik, USMC



Governor
Terry Branstad



Navy Lt. Commander Larry Spencer
7 year Hanoi Hilton Prisoner



*An estimated 60% of Vietnam vets have passed away.
Nearly all Vietnam Vets never received a "Welcome Home – Thank You event."*

Any questions concerning event, please call:

Jack Caputo 641.590.0548; Mark Frakes 641.582.2771; Riley Lewis 641.581.3283; Dave Kingland 641.590.1949

Education



Where you begin your post-secondary education is critical. This guide presents important factors you should consider towards becoming an informed consumer first and a GI Bill user second.

Choosing the right career means considering many important factors. The Department of Labor's (DOL) career search tool *My Next Move for Vets* (<http://www.mynextmove.org/vets/>) is where you can review information about careers for hundreds of standardized and industry-specific descriptors. You might also want to research the projected demand for career fields. The *Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook* (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>) provides information on the expected job prospects for different types of jobs, the education needed, earnings, what workers do on the job and working conditions. Finally, be sure to explore your vocational interests in-depth. The self-assessment tool *Career Scope* (<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/careerscope.asp>) is designed to help you determine your vocational and aptitude needs as well as academic readiness.

Choosing the right school involves more than just completing the school's application process. Make sure the school you attend meets your standards and expectations. For more information on what your GI Bill benefits will cover, visit our *GI Bill Comparison Tool* (<http://department-of-veterans-affairs.github.io/gi-bill-comparison-tool/>) to start researching schools. The Federal Trade Commission also has some helpful information to help you decide. Their "Choosing a College" (<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0395-choosing-college-questions-ask>) guide has eight questions to ask yourself and your potential school before making any decisions.

Other things to check for:

- *Transfer of credits from other schools or for military training*
- *Campus and community service*
- *A strong Veteran voice*
- *Central point of contact*
- *Veteran specific space*
- *Principles of Excellence participant*
- *Expanded housing options*

Given your GI Bill education benefit level and choice of school, you may not need student loans. Depending upon your time in service, your tuition and fees charges could be completely or mostly covered, depending upon your choice of a school or program. If you do take out loans, make sure you fully understand capitalized interest and the repayment terms or you may become heavily indebted. Other questions to ask yourself:

- What is a reasonable amount to pay for my degree?
- What is my interest rate and when do I have to start paying the loan back?
- Will I make enough money to repay my student loan debt?

If you must take out loans to help pay for school, consider a *Federal Direct Loan* (<http://www.direct.ed.gov/>) from ED as repayment terms are generally more flexible and there are greater consumer protections. Check the online tools available through ED at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/> and the Department of Education's <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/quid/aid-offer/index.html>



Other upcoming local events

Rochester American Legion Post 92
3rd Tuesday of each month
315 First Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901

7pm
Legion Riders
2nd Thursday of each month
7pm

Forty et eight at the American Legion
2nd Tuesday of each month
7pm

Military Order of the Purple Heart
3rd Thursday of each month,
6pm, March, May, July, September, and
November

Rochester VFW Post Meeting
2nd Tuesday of each Month VFW Post 1215
16 6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902
7pm

Byron American Legion Post 119
1st Monday of the month
8pm
505 Frontage Road NW, Byron, MN

Vietnam Veterans of America
Meets 4th Monday each month
at 7:00pm, at the Rochester American Legion
315 First Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901

DAV Meeting
2nd Monday, of each Month Rochester's Elks Lodge
1652 Hwy 52 N, Rochester, MN 55901
5:30pm dinner, meeting at 6:00pm

Korean War Veterans
Every Monday at Grandmas Kitchen
1514 N Broadway, Rochester, MN 55906
(Silver lake plaza)
8 AM

Marine Corp League Meeting
4th Tuesday of the month, 7pm, VFW Post 1215
16 6th Street SW, Rochester, MN 55902

Kasson American Legion Post 333
Third Thursday of the month
March 19 , 7pm
212 West Main Street , Kasson, MN 55944

Chatfield VFW Post 6913
2nd Tuesday of the month
9– 2nd St SW, Chatfield, MN

Gulf War Veterans of America
1st Monday of each month
May 4th 1st kick off meeting
7pm, at the Rochester American Legion
315 First Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901



“To promote the interests and welfare of veterans, their dependents and survivors and to enhance their quality of life through counseling, claims assistance, education, advocacy and special projects.”



Veterans Services
2100 Campus Drive SE,
Suite 200
Rochester, MN 55904

