

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Providence VA Medical Center
830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2016Contact: Winfield S. Danielson III
401-457-3369
Winfield.DanielsonIII@va.gov

Providence VAMC to Host Vietnam Commemoration

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Providence VA Medical Center and Providence VBA Regional Office will host a joint 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Event and Welcome Home from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, 2016, in the 5th floor auditorium of the main hospital building of the Providence VAMC, 830 Chalkstone Ave.

The theme of the event is to finally welcome home and honor those who served in Vietnam, and to remember those who never made it back. The event is being planned and coordinated by the Vietnam Veteran Appreciation Day Steering Committee, which is led by Vietnam Veterans.

“All of us on the committee are proud and honored to be a part of planning this event,” said Dan Evangelista, Vietnam Veteran member of the steering committee and former chief of Veterans Affairs for the State of Rhode Island. “My comrades did not get a proper welcome home when they returned from the Vietnam War; it’s long past time to honor and thank them.”

The highlight of the commemoration event will be a ceremony at 10 a.m. presenting 50th anniversary pins to Vietnam Veterans in recognition of their service and sacrifice. Veterans interested in participating in the ceremony should register at the event at 9 a.m. Following the ceremony will be keynote speeches by Wayne Smith, a Vietnam Medic, and Kathy Neill, a clinical social worker at the Providence VAMC, and an information session with refreshments.

“We’re honored to host this event with our partners at the VBA Regional Office,” said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VAMC. “We want our Vietnam Veterans to know that we are grateful and proud of their service and sacrifice, not only during the war, but also in their achievements at home, often in the face of significant adversity.”

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