



Wisconsin Public Television

NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information:

Kathy Bissen, Director of Production, 608-263-8496

Erik Ernst, publicist, 608-265-3853

Television Documentary Profiles Wisconsin Veterans and Their Stories

Three-hour program and statewide community engagement activities planned

Telling emotional stories that haven't been heard before, Wisconsin Vietnam War veterans recount their experiences in a three-hour television documentary coming to Wisconsin Public Television in Spring 2010. **Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories** will feature dozens of veterans from all regions of Wisconsin who reflect on their memories of the Vietnam War and their experiences during and after the war.

More than 100 Wisconsin veterans from all branches of service have been interviewed by Producer Mik Derks for the programs, sharing moving stories of triumph and loss in the field of duty, brotherhood and companionship in the ranks, and a welcome homecoming they never received after sacrificing nearly everything on the battlefield. Archival video, historical photography and maps evoke the stark imagery of the war alongside the veterans' stories.

The project also includes an ongoing series of statewide community engagement events that will include screenings and discussions in libraries and community centers. A travelling portrait exhibit also will visit communities throughout Wisconsin starting in early 2010.

An extensive in-school curriculum has been developed that will aid teachers throughout Wisconsin in presenting the state's connection to the war to students in middle and high school history classes.

In addition to the television documentary, all of the veterans' interviews will be archived for posterity with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, ensuring that the lasting stories from the Vietnam War will be available for future generations.

More information about the project and advance sneak preview clips from the program are available at WisconsinStories.org.

Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories is produced by a partnership of Wisconsin Public Television, the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

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A service of the
Educational Communications
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MADISON
821 University Ave.
Madison, WI 53706
Phone 608.263.2121
Fax 608.263.9763

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Vietnam War Stories/Add one

Initial major funding for **Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories** and LZ Lambeau has been provided by Don and Roxanne Weber of La Crosse, Associated Bank, Wisconsin Public Service, Oneida Nation, and Ron and Colleen Weyer.

Funding for expanding the programming and educational components of LZ Lambeau and **Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories** continues. Individual and corporate contributions are welcome. To learn more, visit LZLambeau.org.

In planning for **Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories**, project partners have worked with an advisory board with representatives from many veterans' organizations. Members of that committee include the Vietnam Veterans of America-Wisconsin State Council; County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin; Disabled American Veterans, Department of Wisconsin; Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs; Being There-Reaching Out Inc. For the Wisconsin Families of our Fallen Military; Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Wisconsin; American Legion Department of Wisconsin; the Military Order of the Purple Heart; Wisconsin Gold Star Families; Thuy Smith International Outreach Inc.; Veterans of the Menominee Nation, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation; The Hmong Veterans of Wisconsin; AMVETS and the Patriot Guard Riders.

WPT is a service of the Educational Communications Board and University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Wisconsin Public Television is a place to grow through learning on WHA-TV, Madison; WPNE-TV, Green Bay; WHRM-TV, Wausau; WLEF-TV, Park Falls; WHLA-TV, La Crosse; and WHWC-TV, Menomonie-Eau Claire.

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