

“LZ LAMBEAU”

At Long Last - A Welcome Home Party for Wisconsin's Vietnam Veterans

Save the Date - May 21-23, 2010

A Vietnam Veterans event at Lambeau Field in Green Bay is being planned for May 21-23, 2010.

“Something will happen at Lambeau Field on those dates,” says William Hustad, Past VFW State Commander and one of the project organizers. “At this time we’re still working on the details.” A project website, **LZLAMBEAU@ORG**, is presently in the works that will soon allow people interested in the event to sign up for email information as it becomes available.

Sometime in the Fall of 2009, the plan is to make an official announcement of the event from Lambeau Field. “It will be more of an invitation, from Wisconsin to all our Vietnam Veterans and their families (a special invitation will go out to all Gold Star Families from Vietnam) , and also to all Veterans of all Wars and all eras and their families. It'll be like a big reunion, including a memorial for lost friends, and a party.”

The planned Welcome Home weekend grew out of the **Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories** project underway by the partnership of Wisconsin Public Television, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. Like the Wisconsin WW2 War Stories and the Wisconsin Korea War Stories projects before it, the Vietnam War Stories project is based on recognizing the first-person experiences of our veterans. In production are a 3 hour documentary, a companion book of veterans' stories, a companion traveling portrait exhibit, and a series of veteran-only previews and community discussions around the state.

The LZ Lambeau event will be the culmination of all the project's different activities, with a preview of the documentary on the stadium's Tundravisión. The Moving Wall also has been tentatively reserved for the event, along with other exhibits such as a Vietnam era motor pool, and a possible Huey helicopter or two. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum plans to transport its entire Vietnam exhibit to Lambeau and reassemble it in the Atrium for people to see.

Plans are also underway to kick off the event with a Motorcycle ride on Friday May 21, starting at the Veterans Memorial Stadium in LaCrosse, and ending at Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

Representatives of various groups have formed an advisory board for the event, and they include: the Vietnam Veterans of America-Wisconsin State Council; County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin; Disabled American Veterans, Department of Wisconsin; WI Dept of Military Affairs; Being There-Reaching Out, Inc For the WI Families of our Fallen Military; Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Wisconsin; American Legion Department of Wisconsin; the Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Wisconsin; Veterans of the Menominee Nation, the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation; The Hmong Veterans of Wisconsin; and the Patriot Guard Riders.

Asked about the name of the event, LZ Lambeau, the producer of the documentary explained the name came from one of the interviews recorded for the WPT documentary. “This veteran said that a lot of guys never got a ‘landing zone’ after Vietnam, and a lot of guys still need one. So we figured we’d do whatever we could to see they finally got one.”

William Hustad said that fund raising is still an issue and support from individuals, Corporations and Foundations are still being sought.