



# VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY

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**MEDIA KIT**  
**03/26/2011**



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**From: The United War Veterans Council**  
**www.UnitedWarVeterans.org**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VETERANS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS HONOR  
SERVICE AND SACRIFICE ON  
“VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY”**

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***Tribute Ceremony To Keep The Legacy Of The 1,741 Fallen  
New Yorkers Alive***

**NEW YORK, NY, February 28, 2011** – Hundreds of Vietnam War veterans and the family members of those killed in action in defense of our great nation will pay tribute to their collective sacrifices at a commemorative event on “Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day.” Hosted by The United War Veterans Council, this ceremonial observance will honor the fallen soldiers of the Vietnam War, as well as those New Yorkers who have made the ultimate sacrifice since 9/11, on **Saturday, March 26 at the Vietnam Memorial Plaza at 55 Water Street, New York, NY from 12 PM to 4 PM.**

The memorial ceremony will begin with the reading of the names of the 1,741 fallen Vietnam soldiers from New York City and those New Yorkers who have lost their lives since September 11, 2001. Following the reading, Paul Bucha, Medal of Honor Recipient of the Vietnam War, and John Rowan, the National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, will share their personal messages of sacrifice. To further honor the deceased individuals, and the families who keep their legacies’ alive, the UWVC will recognize Gold Star Family Members—families who have lost a member during service.

The event strives to uphold the words of Abraham Lincoln, who urged all Americans “to care for him who shall have borne the battle.” The United War Veterans Council invites the public to help us achieve this mission, ensure that we remember the sacrifices of those who served and demonstrate our support for those currently serving and their families.

For more information about The United War Veterans Council and the “Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day” event, visit **[www.UnitedWarVeterans.org](http://www.UnitedWarVeterans.org)**

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**From: United War Veterans Council**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**New Yorkers Honor Legacy of 1,741 Fallen Soldiers on  
“Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day”**

Hundreds of Vietnam War veterans and relatives of fallen soldiers will come together for a commemorative ceremony on “Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day.” Hosted by The United War Veterans Council, this event will pay special tribute to the New Yorkers who lost their lives during the Vietnam War and those from NYC who have made the ultimate sacrifice since 9/11 on **Saturday, March 26 at the Vietnam Memorial Plaza at 55 Water Street, New York, NY from 12 PM to 4 PM.**

The day’s event will include a reading of the names of the 1,741 fallen Vietnam soldiers, remarks from Paul Bucha, Medal of Honor Recipient of the Vietnam War, John Rowan, the National President of Vietnam Veterans of America, and patriotic music performed by the U.S. Army 319 Statue of Liberty Band.

To further honor those individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and the families who continue to keep their legacies’ alive, the UWVC will recognize the families of the fallen heroes.

The United War Veterans Council invites the public to help us ensure that we remember the sacrifices of those who served and demonstrate our support for those currently serving and their families.

For more information about The United War Veterans Council and the “Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day” event, visit [www.UnitedWarVeterans.org](http://www.UnitedWarVeterans.org)

**DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 26**

**TIME: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**PLACE: VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA- LOBBY PROMENADE  
55 WATER STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10041**

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**TODAY'S PROGRAM**  
**- INDOOR CEREMONY -**

Patriots Medley  
*319th Statue of Liberty U.S. Army Band*

Welcome  
*Don Buzney, Master of Ceremonies, Vietnam veteran*

Presentation of the Colors  
*The New York City Joint Service Color Guard*  
*Vietnam Veterans of America, Queens Chapter #32 Color Guard*  
*The Navy Junior ROTC Color Guard*

Our National Anthem  
*amberRose Marie, Veterans Advocate*

Procession of Wreaths  
*Wreath carriers escorted by the New York City Transit Pipe & Drum Corps*  
*(of the Transit Veterans Association)*

POW/MIA Table Ceremony  
*Command Sergeant Major Sylvia Laughlin*  
*US Army Garrison -- Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, New York*

Opening Comments  
*Patrick Gualtieri, Executive Director*  
*United War Veterans Council, Vietnam veteran*

Recognition of Gold Star Families

From Then to Now  
*Vince McGowan, Founding President, United War Veterans Council*  
*Chairman, Veterans Advisory Board, NYC, Vietnam veteran*

All Services Medley  
*319th Statue of Liberty U.S. Army Band*

2011 VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY

**In Remembrance**

*Begin the reading of the 1,741 names of those from New York City  
who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam War*

**Our Motto**

*"Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"  
John Rowan, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America*

**Never Forget**

*Paul W. Bucha, Medal of Honor Recipient, U.S. Army, Vietnam*

**In Remembrance**

*Reading of Names continues*

**Vietnam War Commemoration**

*Michael L. Rhodes, Director, Administration and Management  
Office of the Secretary of Defense, Vietnam War Commemoration*

**Our Legacy**

*Lieutenant Commander Kim Mitchell, United States Navy  
Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff - Warrior and Family Support*

**Lunch**

*The Veterans Glee Club, Conducted by Gene Wisoff  
(Comprised of veterans of several local male glee clubs)  
The Mendelssohn Glee Club • The Down Town Glee Club  
The Bayside Glee Club • The University Glee Club*

**The Vietnam War and our Youth**

*Lieutenant Robert Skibar (US Navy – Retired)  
Former Senior Naval Military Science Instructor and  
past Grand Marshal of the NYC Veterans Day Parade, Vietnam Veteran*

**Walk a Mile in Their Boots**

*Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade, Jessica Bryan - Navy Junior ROTC*

**In Remembrance**

*Reading of Names continues*

**INDOOR CEREMONY, CON'T.**

Proclamation from the Mayor of New York City  
*Edna Wells Handy, Commissioner*  
*Department of Citywide Administrative Services New York City*

In Remembrance  
*Reading of Names concludes*

The Price of Freedom  
*Reading of the 89 names of those from New York City who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas of operation since 9/11/2001*

Proclamation from the Governor of the State of New York  
*William Kraus, Acting Director,*  
*New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs*

**- OUTDOOR CEREMONY -**

Welcome  
*Brian Delate, Master of Ceremonies, Vietnam veteran*

United We Stand  
*The New York City Transit Pipe & Drum Corps*

Presentation of the Colors

Pledge of Allegiance

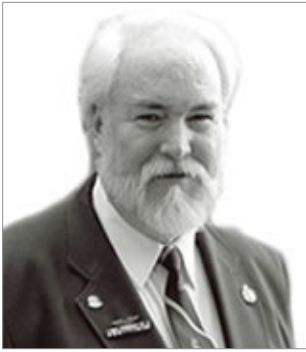
From "In Flanders Fields" to "One Red Flower"  
*Paul D'Elia, President of the Memorial Day Foundation*  
*and David Woodrow, Vietnam veterans*

Wreath laying ceremony  
*Invited Guests and Organizations*

Rifle Salute  
*6th Communication Battalion, United States Marine Corps*

Taps  
*319th Statue of Liberty U.S. Army Band*

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SPECIAL GUEST  
**JOHN ROWAN**

NATIONAL PRESIDENT,  
 VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

A native of Queens, NY, Mr. Rowan served our nation in Vietnam in the United States Air Force. He was a founding member and the first president of VVA Chapter 32 in Queens, NY, served as the chairman of VVA’s Conference of State Council Presidents, for three terms on the national Board of Directors, and as president of VVA’s New York State Council.

Vietnam Veterans of America is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. Its founding principle is: “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”



SPECIAL GUEST  
**PAUL BUCHA**

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT,  
 U.S. ARMY, VIETNAM

Mr. Paul Bucha attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, and was sent to Vietnam in 1967 as a captain in command of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment. He received the Medal of Honor, our nation’s highest decoration for valor, for his actions near Phuoc Vinh on March 16-19, 1968. During this engagement, Captain Bucha led his company against a battalion-size force of the North Vietnamese Army. Despite suffering painful shrapnel wounds, Mr. Bucha organized his company’s defenses, coordinated artillery and air support, rescued trapped members of his command, and ensured the safe evacuation of his unit’s wounded and the recovery of its dead.

Today, Mr. Bucha is an advocate and spokesperson for the New York veterans community and veterans everywhere. He is a member of the Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Plaza.



**SPECIAL GUEST**

## **LIEUTENANT COMMANDER KIM MITCHELL**

**UNITED STATES NAVY**

LCDR Mitchell, born and abandoned in 1971 in DaNang, South Vietnam, was adopted by a U.S. Air Force Tech Sergeant stationed in Vietnam and raised in Wisconsin. She went on to graduate from the United States Naval Academy in 1996 and earn a Masters Degree in Organizational Management from The George Washington University. Following graduation, LCDR Mitchell was assigned to a variety of ship and shore assignments.

After these assignments, LCDR Mitchell served as the Military Assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in the Office of Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy. Within a year, LCDR Mitchell transferred to the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to serve as the Deputy Director for the Office of Warrior and Family Support, a position she currently holds.



**SPECIAL GUEST**

## **MICHAEL L. RHODES**

**DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**

The Secretary of Defense appointed Mr. Rhodes to serve as the Director of Administration and Management, advising the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Department of Defense leaders on a wide range of programs and policies.

Mr. Rhodes also served as Assistant Deputy Commandant for Manpower & Reserve Affairs, Headquarters, United States Marine Corps. Prior to his service in support of the U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. Rhodes served with U.S. Southern Command, responsible for Sustaining Base and Quality of Life Affairs.

Throughout his career, Mr. Rhodes has supported our military service members through service in numerous community, family support and personnel positions at installations across the country. He served four years active duty with the U.S. Army and is a member of the Senior Executive Service since October 2000.

## About the United War Veterans Council

The United War Veterans Council, Inc. (UWVC) is a 501(c)19 non-profit organization that is chartered by the City of New York to produce the annual Veterans Day Parade and other events honoring service.

The UWVC is the keeper of a tradition that looks back to the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic of the American Civil War. This torch was passed to veterans of the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. Following WWII, the initial United War Veterans Council assumed the responsibility for holding Memorial Day and Armistice Day (now Veterans Day) ceremonies.

Today the UWVC is one of the most respected organizations serving veterans in the country. Our membership includes veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and all other eras, as well as our newest veterans who have served in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

We also welcome and encourage non-veteran volunteers and supporters to participate in our work, strengthening the bond between those who serve and "the homefront".

In addition to the New York City Veterans Day Parade, we support a wide range of projects and programs dedicated to mobilizing the public and veterans to work together to honor service, including:

- Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day
- Recovering Veterans Internship Program
- JrROTC Community Service activities
- Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive/Stories of Service
- Thank You For Serving Project
- Goodwill Valentine's Day Caravan to Walter Reed Army Hospital and the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda
- NYC Contingent to the National Memorial Day Parade

The United War Veterans Council tries to uphold the words of Abraham Lincoln, who urged all Americans "to care for him who shall have borne the battle." We invite you to help us ensure that we remember the sacrifices of those who served and demonstrate our support for those currently serving and their families.

## 2011 Calendar of Events and Activities

### February 12-14

Valentine's Day Goodwill Caravan  
*Bringing love and goodwill from the people of New York to our veterans and military*

### March 26

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day  
*Honoring our Vietnam Veterans at 55 Water Street (Vietnam Veterans Plaza)*

### Month of May

"A Flag, a Flower, a Moment of Memorial"  
*Encouraging Americans to observe Memorial Day publicly and privately*

### May 29

Memorial Day in Washington, D.C.  
*Leading NYC's 9/11 contingent in the National Memorial Day Parade*

### June 14

Flag Day/Army Birthday  
*Public ceremony*

### August 14

Second Annual Spirit of '45 Day  
*Honoring the legacy of the World War II generation*

### November 11

92nd Annual New York City Veterans Day Parade  
*92nd Annual Commemoration, observing the 10th Anniversary of 9-11-2001*

### Early December

Holiday Wreath Laying Ceremonies  
*Remembering those who made our blessings possible*