



★ **mpt**  SALUTES ★

VIETNAM VETERANS

Already three years in the making, MPT's salute to Maryland service members of the Vietnam era culminates in 2016 as a long-overdue thank-you to those who worked and fought in an unpopular war.

MPT's salute comprises ...

- A stirring, three-hour documentary film told by and about Maryland's Vietnam-era veterans
- A major weekend event to honor those who answered the call to serve
- A motorcycle Honor Ride saluting fallen and missing service members
- An educators guide to foster Vietnam study in the high school curriculum and a middle school oral history project
- And a statewide traveling exhibit coming soon to a location near you!

mpt.org/vietnam

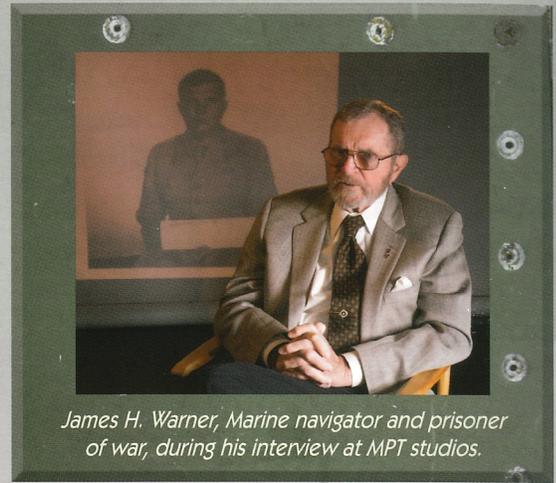
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A MARYLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY: *MARYLAND VIETNAM WAR STORIES*

Few conflicts in U.S. history have so divided the nation as did the Vietnam War. Yet, hundreds of thousands of men and women answered their country's call to fight in this unpopular war. More than 58,000 made the ultimate sacrifice, and hundreds of thousands more were injured – physically, psychologically, or both – coming back to a nation which spat upon them or called them “baby killers.” It was indeed a painful chapter in American history.

With time comes wisdom, and as the nation's collective consciousness admits the shameful treatment of service personnel, various initiatives have surfaced to redress the treatment of the Vietnam veteran. To recognize veterans' sacrifices, their valor, and the price they paid in and after this conflict, Maryland Public Television will air a three-hour documentary and allow veterans themselves to speak of what they have seen and how they have served.

MPT's documentary comprises three hours of dramatic television as approximately 100 veterans tell the story of the war in their



James H. Warner, Marine navigator and prisoner of war, during his interview at MPT studios.

own words – sometimes heart-breaking but always insightful. Men and women reflect on their service ... on stories of life and death, pumping adrenaline, and bittersweet moments ... on their return home to an often-ungrateful nation ... on life, 50 years later.

MARYLAND VIETNAM WAR STORIES
airs in one-hour chapters over three successive nights.
Airdate: May 2016

**A MAJOR WEEKEND EVENT:
LZ MARYLAND
JUNE 18-19, 2016**



**THE MARYLAND STATE
FAIRGROUNDS, TIMONIUM**

LZ is for “landing zone,” a place of safety. It's fitting that we salute Maryland's Vietnam-era veterans here where their roots are planted. Those in conflict knew that an LZ was a safe, clear, and ready place for helicopters to land without harm. MPT will make *LZ Maryland* reflect the same safety. The event message is simply this: *This landing zone is secure from the hurt and pain of the past. We have created a safe landing and welcome you home. We thank you for serving your country. We gather here – with you and your family and friends – to celebrate your service, valor, and sacrifice.*

The two-day weekend at the fairgrounds will include such features as

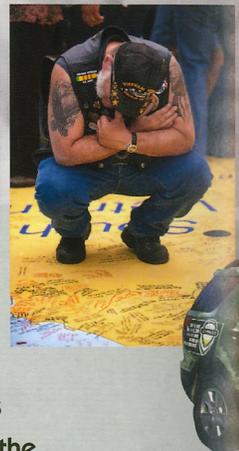
- display of a Huey helicopter and other era military vehicles and aircraft

- culmination of a motorcycle Honor Ride featuring Vietnam veterans and veterans of other wars from across the region as a salute to fallen and missing service members
- the display of The Wall That Heals, the traveling half-size replica of D.C.'s Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- an on-site mobile Army surgical hospital (MASH) unit
- a “Writers Hooch” area for books on the Vietnam experience by Maryland veteran-authors
- entertainment from the Vietnam years
- an approximately 100' x 120' Vietnam “tour of duty” map for veterans to sign to indicate where they served
- and, most fittingly, solemn ceremonies to salute those Marylanders who were killed or missing in combat.

The 106-acre Maryland State Fairgrounds boasts on-site parking, easy access to interstate highways, and the availability of light rail transport for attendees. Numerous indoor areas afford places for relaxation and conversation.



The Wall That Heals visits LZ Maryland.



THE HONOR RIDE

Several hundred members of veterans organizations, associations, and clubs will participate in a motorcycle Honor Ride, representing soldiers who died in combat or who are still missing. The riders will travel from various locations across Maryland and surrounding states and enter the *LZ Maryland* event in formation as a salute to the fallen and missing service members.

Interested clubs or individuals are invited to participate. Please contact: Murray Hall, Honor Ride Captain, 301-807-8267.



EDUCATION: TEACH THE CHILDREN

Middle school and high school students are likely to have a family connection to Vietnam. They often have grandparents, aunts, or uncles who served. Whether they've heard stories from family members or come from homes where the war was simply not discussed, MPT believes there should be an academic component to its salute to expose students to the experiences of the men and women who served.

For this reason, working with district-level social studies coordinators, MPT will create an Educators Guide to accompany its documentary for use by high school faculty when teaching Vietnam in the history curriculum. Similarly, a service learning connection will be made as middle and high school students produce Vietnam veteran oral history projects. Having conversations with Vietnam veterans will help ensure that these young citizens come to understand those who served so bravely five decades ago.

STATEWIDE TRAVELING EXHIBIT



Made possible in part by the SunTrust Foundation, the *MPT Salutes Vietnam Veterans Traveling Exhibit* features both current-day and wartime images

of 16 men and women along with their recollections of incidents from the war. Also included are artifacts from the war and opportunities for display visitors to craft messages to veterans. MPT invites citizens of all ages to visit the exhibit. Display venues across Maryland are listed on the station's Vietnam website at mpt.org/vietnam.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER PROGRAM

MPT is proud to be a commemorative partner in the 50th anniversary Vietnam War observance of the U.S. Department of Defense. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state, and local communities; veterans' organizations; and other nongovernmental organizations so that all might assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

To learn more or to help support this initiative, please contact us.

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The Honor Ride	Brie O'Neal	TheHonorRide2016@gmail.com
Volunteer opportunities	Jessie Campbell	jessiacampbell@mpt.org
Educational activities/ school participation	Jenn Pleszkoch	jpleszkoch@mpt.org

South Vietnam

MAILING LIST

To join MPT's mailing list for free updates on the **MPT Salutes Vietnam Veterans** activities and events, send an email to: mptpresident@mpt.org.

"... when we came back from Vietnam, we were met by jeering crowds who spat upon us and called us butchers ... I can't tell you the pain that caused us. To have risked out lives for our country and then be shamed by its citizens hurt more than I can tell you. For more than forty years, I never spoke of Vietnam or my part in it. ... And now to be honored for what we did. That brings us a peace and fulfillment we never thought we'd know. I'm deeply grateful ..."

- Tom Glenn // Ellicott City, Maryland // Letter // June 30, 2015

"In more recent years, some steps have been taken to honor Vietnam veterans. ... But has it been enough? Almost certainly not. And as evidence of this shortfall in goodwill, we turn to Maryland Public Television, which for two years has been developing a documentary, Maryland Vietnam War Stories, interviewing more than 60 Vietnam veterans from the Free State (so far) about the experience of serving and coming home. ..."

- The Baltimore Sun // Editorial // November 10, 2014

"We encourage Carroll County residents to visit the MPT exhibit ... to learn more about the sacrifices that these men and women made for their country. At the same time, we thank Maryland Public Television for making this happen."

- Carroll County Times // Editorial // July 22, 2015



On the cover: The artwork "Doc' and His Boys" by LCpl Richard Yaco, USMC (watercolor on paper, April 1968). Locale of work: Cua Viet, Vietnam. Courtesy of Art Collection, National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Virginia.

mpt MARYLAND PUBLIC TELEVISION

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For additional copies of this publication for your group, please call 410-581-4138.