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***Join us to Welcome Home our Vietnam Veterans!***  
***National Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony on March 29***  
*Free Museum Admission*

**(COLUMBUS, Ohio)** – In observance of National Vietnam War Veterans Day, the [National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#) (NVMM) invites the public to [join us as we honor and welcome home our Vietnam Veterans](#) with a special in-person and live-streamed ceremony on March 29 at 10 a.m. in the Great Hall. This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return home of U.S. combat troops from Vietnam and the repatriation of U.S. prisoners of war (POWs).

Museum admission is free to all guests on March 29 thanks to the support of NVMM sponsors.

“Vietnam was the first war from which America did not welcome our Veterans back home as heroes so we take this day as a time to say ‘thank you’,” said Lt. General Michael Ferriter, U.S. Army (Retired), president and CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. “Vietnam Veterans served when they were called upon by our country, and they and their families deserve our honor and gratitude for their service and sacrifice.”

### **Welcome Home Ceremony**

The Welcome Home Ceremony will feature a keynote speech from Captain Charles “Charlie” J. Plumb, U.S. Navy (Retired). He will share his story as a “Top Gun” jet fighter pilot who completed 75 combat missions before being shot down by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected from his aircraft, parachuting into enemy territory where he endured six years as a POW. He now uses his journey of courage and resilience to help others face their challenges through his book, “Who Packs Your Parachute: A True Story about Charles Plumb,” and as a speaker for groups and events. Books will be available for purchase, and Plumb will meet with guests after the ceremony.

### **Community Involvement**

Area school students and Columbus Metropolitan Library branch guests will share their appreciation for our Veterans by creating “Welcome Home” signs and writing letters of thanks. Franklinton High School students will create signs through an art class, and some students plan to attend the ceremony to honor the Veterans and share their signs. Students from Lincoln Elementary in Gahanna plan to make signs as well. Materials for “Welcome Home” signs will be available at the Shepard Library Branch March 20-23 and the Canal Winchester Library Branch on March 24. Guests can stop in at the NVMM anytime before March 29 to create signs or write letters to be distributed to Veterans on National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

### **History of National Vietnam War Veterans Day**

National Vietnam War Veterans Day was established as a national observance in 2017, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War, to recognize the nine million Americans who served during the Vietnam War. March 29, 1973, was the day U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, was disestablished and the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam.

[Free Welcome Home Ceremony tickets are available online.](#) The event will be live-streamed and available later on NVMM [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channels.

### **About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum**

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and does not receive federal funding. The museum takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history, both during their service and as they continue serving in our communities. We honor the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. History is presented in a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multimedia presentations, interactive exhibits, online events and digital content. Together, these elements link our national story to the larger context of our world. For more information, please visit [NationalVMM.org](http://NationalVMM.org).

***EDITOR'S NOTE: Retired Captain Charles Plumb is open to interviews prior to his arrival in Ohio.***

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**NATIONAL VETERANS**  
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