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**A grateful community says ‘Thank you, thank you, thank you’ to Vietnam veterans**

(PASADENA, MD, April 10, 2017) — More than 1,100 people, including 424 were Vietnam War veterans, gathered at Martin’s Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland, on March 30 to celebrate the state’s 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. The celebration was hosted by Hospice of the Chesapeake as part of its partnership with the We Honor Veterans program.

The four-hour event began with an opportunity for the guests of honors to visit a dozen different groups and agencies offering resources aimed at assisting Vietnam veterans. The two and a half hours leading up to the evening’s program also included food, slideshows of veterans both still with us and who have passed on, and plenty of time to mingle with fellow veterans.

The program included musical performances, an Honor Salute, and a number of speakers, including Baltimore Ravens Head Coach John Harbaugh, as well as Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary **George W. Owings III** and retired Army Maj. Gen. **James T. Jackson**, Director of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, both of whom are Vietnam War veterans.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you for what you have done,” Harbaugh said. “There is no greater call in a fallen world than to serve and defend your fellow citizens.”

Headquartered in Pasadena, Maryland, the nonprofit is a Commemorative Partner in the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration as well as a 4-Star Partner in the We Honor Veterans program, a national hospice initiative honoring the men and women from all branches of the military who have served our country.

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Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of **Hospice of the Chesapeake**. For more information, please visit [www.hospicechesapeake.org](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org).

*(See next page for event photos. High resolution available upon request.)*

All photos taken 3/30/17 at Martin's Crosswinds by Alison Harbaugh, Sugar Farm Productions.



Retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Bobbi , seated, served in Vietnam at the Naval Station Hospital Saigon. The nonagenarian has been to all three Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day celebrations hosted by Hospice of the Chesapeake.



State Sen. John C. Astle lights a candle in memory of the Vietnam veterans who have died. In 2015, Astle sponsored the legislation that made March 30 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Maryland.



Baltimore Ravens Head Coach John Harbaugh offers a light-hearted recollection of an NFL coaches USO tour that sparked bright peals of laughter from the audience and his fellow speakers.



Vietnam veterans, lined up on the right, return salutes after they were asked to stand so that active-duty military, Naval Academy Midshipmen and National Junior ROTC members could honor them with a salute.