

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MEDIA INVITATION: 5th ANNUAL
WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION**

WHAT: Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

WHERE: Hilton Baltimore BWI Hotel, 1739 W. Nursery Road, Linthicum, MD 21090

WHEN: 4 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 29

RSVP: Elyzabeth Marcussen at emarcussen@hospicechesapeake.org or 443-837-1559

Members of the media are invited to join Hospice of the Chesapeake as we celebrate Maryland's fifth annual **Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day**.

This year's celebration features a list of speakers who will be focusing on welcoming Vietnam Veterans home to a community that is determined to give back to all veterans through volunteer service. We are honored that Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary **George W. Owings III** will be speaking about Governor Larry Hogan's proclamation that 2019 is the Year of the Veteran in the state of Maryland. The proclamation was timely, given that this is the fifth anniversary of when Hogan officially recognized Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in the state of Maryland, making it the first bill he signed into law in his gubernatorial career.

Dr. Scott Shreve, National Director of Hospice and Palliative Care for Veterans Affairs, will share "Action Plans to Improve the Care of Vietnam-era Veterans on Hospice." The master of ceremonies for the evening will be retired Army Command Sgt. Major **Rodwell L. Forbes**, Fort George G. Meade's former Garrison Command Sergeant Major.

Preprogram schedule

4 – 5:30 p.m. – Doors open to allow Vietnam Veterans and guests to visit veterans' resource tables, catch up with or meet fellow veterans and enjoy food and drink. At the entrance to the venue, Veterans will be boisterously greeted by a contingency of active duty military, other veterans and volunteers as they are welcomed home and thanked for their service. Members of the media are welcome to roam outside and in the corridors and the open portion of the ballroom to speak with guests and representatives at the tables.

5:15 – 5:30 p.m. – Guests will be called into the ballroom and encouraged to take their seats as the U.S. Naval Academy Band performs patriotic music. Seats will be reserved in the front row for those media photographers who RSVP. A stand in the rear of the ballroom will be available for video and tripods.

5:30 p.m. – The program will begin. It is expected to last about an hour.

Order of program

- Call to Order and Welcome – CSM Rodwell Forbes, USA (Ret.)
- Presentation of Colors – National Security Agency Joint Color Guard
- National Anthem – U.S. Naval Academy Band
- Pledge of Allegiance – CSM Rodwell Forbes, USA (Ret.)
- Invocation – CPT Wayne Bumbry, USA, (Ret.), Hospice of the Chesapeake Chaplain
- Retire the Colors – National Security Agency Joint Color Guard
- Hospice of the Chesapeake Remarks – Ben Marcantonio, President & CEO
- Year of the Veterans – Secretary George W. Owings III, USMC, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
- Returning from Vietnam – COL Bert Rice, USA (Ret.)
- Action Plans to Improve the Care of Vietnam-era Veterans on Hospice – Dr. Scott Shreve, National Director of Hospice and Palliative Care for Veterans Affairs
- “Not on Our Watch,” – Mary Jermann, Hospice of the Chesapeake Director of Volunteer Services, Chair of We Honor Veterans Committee
- Honor Salute and Moment of Silence – CSM Brian Cullen, Fort George G. Meade, USA
- “Celebrate Me Home,” – Voices of Vets
- Welcome Home: Bringing it Home! -- CSM Rodwell Forbes, USA (Ret.)
- Armed Forces Medley – Voices of Vets

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration Speakers’ Biographies (in order of appearance)

Command Sergeant Major **Rodwell L. Forbes Jr.**, USA/USMC (Ret.) is the founder of Forbes Foundational Freedom (F3MC) and is a motivational speaker/life coach, having spoken at numerous venues across the U.S. He fiercely advocates on behalf of veterans, service members and families, focusing on addressing issues of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, homelessness, suicide intervention and assisting veterans in receiving their rightful benefits. He has over 27 years of military experience after retiring on the Army's Birthday of June 14, 2017. He participated in Operation Desert Storm/Shield, Bosnia Peace Keeping Mission, Operation Iraqi Freedom (three tours) and supported Operation Unified Protector (Libya). He resides in North Carolina with his wife Patricia of 20 years.



Dr. **Scott Shreve**, National Director of Hospice and Palliative Care for Veterans Affairs, is responsible for all policy, program development, staff education and quality assurance for palliative and hospice care provided for enrolled Veterans. With his leadership, the VA's Comprehensive End-of-Life Care Initiative is working to change the culture of care for Veterans with serious illness and to ensure reliable access to quality palliative care. This led to the VA collaborating with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization to establish the We Honor Veterans program which has engaged more than 3,500 community hospices. Shreve commits half of his time to front line care of Veterans as the Medical Director and as a teaching physician at a VA hospice unit in Central Pennsylvania. He is a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine in Penn State's College of Medicine.



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary **George W. Owings III** began his service to his country in 1964 when he volunteered for the Marine Corps. A year later, he arrived in Vietnam and left in 1968 as a sergeant after three tours. In 1985, at age 40, he re-entered the Marine Reserves and served two years as an active reservist. In 1987 his career took a new path when he was appointed by Gov. William Donald Schaefer to the House of Delegates. After 17 years, 10 of which were as Majority Whip, Owings left the House to join the Ehrlich administration as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in 2004. From the beginning, Secretary Owings launched an aggressive initiative to communicate with the state's 480,000 veterans; most of them having no connection to the services and benefits available to them. After a second appointment, he retired in 2007. When Gov. Larry Hogan was elected, Owings was sworn in a second time as the Secretary for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in February 2015.



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For 40 years, Hospice of the Chesapeake has been caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss.
For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.