Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration

March 30, 2018
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Martin’s West, Baltimore, MD

Hosted by Gilchrist
Presenting Sponsor: Alban CAT

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Thank you for joining us at Gilchrist’s inaugural Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration—a day to honor and thank the men and women in our community who served during the Vietnam War.

Gilchrist is a nationally recognized nonprofit that provides care and support for people with serious illness through the end of life, through elder medical care, counseling and support, and hospice care. Many of Gilchrist’s hospice patients are veterans and many of them served during the Vietnam era.

Gilchrist’s Welcome Home celebration honors the veterans in our care as well as all of the veterans in our community, and coincides with Maryland’s Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan in 2015. This celebration is one of the many ways Gilchrist recognizes the unique needs of veterans and thanks them for their sacrifice and service to our country. We are proud to honor those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

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We are grateful to the following sponsors for their support of this event.

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WebbMason Marketing is delighted to join Gilchrist in welcoming our Veterans home. It is our honor to be a part of the wonderful celebration!

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Program

Call to Order
Colonel George C. Forrest, USA (Ret.)

Presentation of the Colors
Captain James Lopez, USA (Ret.)
Commander, VFW Post 2621

“The Star Spangled Banner”
Wayne L. Miller, USMC

Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome
Colonel George C. Forrest, USA (Ret.)

Invocation
Father John Bauer, USA

Retire the Colors
Captain James Lopez, USA (Ret.)
Commander, VFW Post 2621

Opening Greeting
James C. Alban IV, USMC
President, Alban CAT

We Honor Veterans Task Force
Cathy Hamel
President, Gilchrist

State of Maryland
Secretary George W. Owings III, USMC
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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| “America the Beautiful”                  | Joseph Shortall  
Artistic Director, Baltimore Children’s Choir                                                 |
| The Wall That Heals                      | Jan C. Scruggs, USA  
Founder, Vietnam Veterans Memorial                                                                |
| Honor Salute and Moment of Silence       | Command Sergeant Major Toese Tia, Jr., USA  
Aberdeen Proving Ground                                                                          |
| United States Military                   | Command Sergeant Major Rodwell L. Forbes, Jr., USA (Ret.)  
Former Garrison Command Sergeant Major  
Fort George G. Meade                                                                             |
| Maryland National Guard                  | Major General Linda L. Singh  
The Adjutant General Maryland National Guard                                                          |
| “God Bless the USA”                      | Wayne L. Miller, USMC                                                                            |
| Benediction                              | Reverend Medgar L. Reid, USMC                                                                      |
| Closing Comments                         | Colonel George C. Forrest, USA (Ret.)                                                            |
Thank You

We are grateful to so many people who joined Gilchrist in giving a celebratory and joyous welcome home to the Vietnam veterans in our community. A special thank you to the following friends of Gilchrist who helped to make this possible:

- Gilchrist’s We Honor Veterans Task Force
- Essex-Holly Neck Memorial Branch, VFW Post 2621
- Military Personnel of Aberdeen Proving Ground
  - Maryland Senator John C. Astle
- The Boys’ Latin Center for Military History
  - Curators: Frederick “Butch” Maisel
  - Captain Christian Maisel
- Delegate Clarence “Tiger” Davis
- Cynthia Dresser, Veterans Administration
- Rebecca Anderson, Christine White, Gunnery Sergeant Scott Dixon, Private Parker White & The Young Marines
- Students of Catonsville Middle School
- Dr. Rhonda Richetta, Ahmad Collick, and the students at City Springs Elementary and Middle Schools
  - Lisa, Donna & Jason Payne
- 29th Division Association – Maryland Post 58
- Fran Minakowski – Maryland Public Television
“This is the story of our Vietnam service members—the story that needs to be told. ...It’s another opportunity to say to our Vietnam veterans what we should have been saying from the beginning: You did your job. You served with honor. You made us proud. You came home and you helped build the America that we love and that we cherish. So here today, it must be said—you have earned your place among the greatest generations.

...as we say those simple words which always greet our troops when they come home from here on out: Welcome home. Welcome home. Welcome home. Welcome home. Thank you. We appreciate you. Welcome home.”

– President Barack Obama at the Commemoration Ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War
Our Speakers

Master of Ceremonies

Colonel George G. Forrest, USA (Ret.)

George G. Forrest consults nationally in areas of leadership development, executive coaching, team building, conflict resolution, school-to-career partnerships, at-risk teens, gang awareness, African American male issues and insights on the Vietnam War.

Forrest retired from the U.S. Army after more than 20 years of active duty. During his military service, he served as commander of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, Arlington National Cemetery, combat company commander of an infantry rifle company in Vietnam, professor of military science, St. Norbert College, strategic planner for NATO and author/instructor at the Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. His military decorations include the Silver Star for heroism, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star for valor (awarded twice), Republic of Vietnam Cross for Gallantry (three awards), Combat Infantry Badge(CIB) and Parachute Badge. His story and other members of The First Cavalry Division in the Battle of the Ia Drang was the subject of Mel Gibson’s movie, “We Were Soldiers.”

Forrest was inducted into the Morgan State University ROTC Hall of Fame in 1992 and was Rotarian and LINKS Man of the Year in 1994. He represented Maryland as a torchbearer for the 1996 Olympic Games. In 2002 he was honored by the Maryland Senate for his heroic service to the state and the nation.

Command Sergeant Major Rodwell L. Forbes, Jr., USA (Ret.)

Rodwell Forbes, Jr. is the founder of Forbes Foundational Freedom and is a Motivational Speaker/Consultant (F3MC), 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 (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, homelessness, suicide intervention and assisting veterans in receiving their rightful benefits.

Forbes has over 27 years of military experience. He participated in Operation Desert Storm/Shield, Bosnia Peace Keeping Mission (six tours), Operation Iraqi Freedom (three tours) and Operation Unified Protector (Libya).

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (2 OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (5 OLC), Navy Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Good Conduct Medal (5th Award), Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal (w/Star), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and numerous others.
Secretary George W. Owings III, USMC

George Owings is the Secretary for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs under Governor Hogan’s leadership. Owings began his service to his country in 1964, when he joined the Marine Corps. Having spent his freshman year at the University of Maryland in College Park and faced with the possibility of the draft, he volunteered for the Marine Corps in November of that year. He arrived in Da Nang, RVN in November, 1965. After two additional extended tours, in February, 1968, he left Vietnam as a Sergeant.

After seventeen years in the House of Delegates, ten years of which were as the Majority Whip, Owings left the House to join the Ehrlich Administration as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in 2004. Governor Ehrlich’s decision for selection was based on Owings’ record as an advocate for veterans in Maryland and his willingness to serve his constituents.

Veteran issues are apolitical to Secretary Owings, and after the 2006 election he was asked to remain on the job for the new administration’s first legislative session. He agreed to do so and retired in June of 2007, ending another chapter in distinguished service to his state and its veterans.

Jan C. Scruggs, USA

Jan Scruggs is the founder and president emeritus of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. In 1979, Scruggs conceived the idea of building the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., as a tribute to all who served during one of the longest wars in American history. Today, it is among the most visited memorials in the nation’s capital.

Scruggs was a wounded and decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, having served in the 199th Light Infantry Brigade of the U.S. Army. He felt a memorial would serve as a healing device for a different kind of wound—that inflicted on our national psyche by the long and controversial Asian war. Scruggs’ mission to remember those who sacrificed in Vietnam continues on with the campaign to build the Education Center at The Wall. The Education Center will show the photos and tell the stories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War, as well as celebrate the values embodied by American service members in all of our nation’s wars.

A national speaker and author, Scruggs has written articles on a wide range of topics, including the Civil War and the battle of Gettysburg. He has appeared on 60 Minutes, Nightline, Good Morning America and the Today show as well as C-SPAN, CNN and FOX. He has written opinion articles for The Washington Post, USA Today, The New York Times, The Washington Times and other national and regional publications.
Major General Linda L. Singh

Major General Linda L. Singh was appointed as the 29th Adjutant General of Maryland, effective January 21, 2015. She is a senior advisor to the governor and is responsible for the readiness, administration and training of more than 6,700 members of the Military Department, with an annual budget of more than $314 million.

General Singh’s military career spans more than 30 years of service in both the enlisted and officer ranks. She has served in staff and command assignments at every level, including deployed assignments in Kosovo and a combat tour in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Her military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal and many more. General Singh is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College, where she received a master’s degree in Strategic Studies. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Columbia Union College, a master’s degree in Business Administration, Military Management from Touro International University and a master’s certificate in Six Sigma from Villanova University. She is a graduate of the United States Northern Command Joint Task Force Commander’s course and is a fellow from the International Women’s Leadership program at Harvard University/INSEAD.

Command Sergeant Major Toese Tia, Jr., USA

Command Sergeant Major Toese Tia, Jr. assumed responsibility as the Command Sergeant Major for the United States Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground on July 14, 2016. Prior to that, he served as the Command Sergeant Major United States Army Materiel Support Command-Korea.

Command Sergeant Major Tia is a native of American Samoa. His military career began at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in 1989, and since then he has served in every enlisted leadership position from Team Leader to Command Sergeant Major. He has numerous combat tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal (3rd award), Meritorious Service Medal (5th Award), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal (6th Award), Army Achievement Medal (10th Award) and numerous others. He is also a member of the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and a recipient of the coveted Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe and the General Brehon B. Somervell Medal of Excellence. His military and professional education include The Primary, Basic, and Advance Noncommissioned Officer’s Course, Air Assault School, Airborne School, Jump Master School, Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course, Drill Sergeant School, Ranger School and The United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. He is currently pursuing a degree in Business Management from Excelsior College.
Even before hospice, there’s Gilchrist.

You may know Gilchrist for the compassionate care we provide to people near the end of life. But we offer so much more than hospice. Today’s Gilchrist provides quality medical care, counseling and support at every stage of serious illness. From elder medical care to grief counseling to volunteer assistance and more, we provide clear information and loving care, so people can live life to the fullest, on their own terms.

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Join Gilchrist in serving those who have served:

Through veteran to veteran outreach and other initiatives, Gilchrist’s We Honor Veterans program strives to meet the unique needs of veterans at the end of life and thank them for their sacrifice and service. Won’t you join Gilchrist in helping bring peace, comfort and joy to your fellow veterans? Here are a few of the ways veterans can volunteer to help:

**Vet to Vet Outreach** – Veterans and active duty military volunteers provide companionship and friendship to veterans with serious illness. When it comes to reviewing one’s military experience at the end of life, nothing can compare to the trust and camaraderie of someone who understands the military experience.

**Salute to Service Tributes** – A veteran volunteer, accompanied at times by active duty military or the ROTC from local colleges, visits the home of a seriously ill or dying veteran and their family to pay them tribute for their service. The tribute is a meaningful and heartfelt ceremony that includes giving the veteran a certificate of appreciation, a pin, a thank you card from a student and a handmade patriotic quilt. The ceremony culminates with a final salute.

**Operation Gratitude** – Veteran volunteers visit local elementary, middle and high school students to read to them and share their stories about service to our country. In return, the children make cards of gratitude that we give to veterans during our tributes and at our events on Veterans Day and Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. Operation Gratitude is our way of engaging younger generations to honor and pay tribute to our veterans.

**Veterans History Project** – Veteran volunteers accompany students to interview our veteran patients about their military service and submit the written or recorded work to the Library of Congress. The submission is also given as a gift to the veteran and their family.
Gilchrist is a nationally recognized, nonprofit leader in serious illness and end-of-life care. With elder medical care, counseling and hospice, we help people at every stage of serious illness live life to the fullest and make informed choices about their care. Since 1994, the organization has served thousands of individuals throughout Central Maryland—in homes, in skilled nursing and residential care communities, and at our three inpatient hospice centers in Towson, Howard County and Baltimore. Gilchrist is accredited by CHAP (Community Health Accreditation Partner), and is a recipient of the prestigious Circle of Life award from the American Hospital Association.

To learn more about Gilchrist, visit gilchristcares.org.