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Commissioners Honor Veterans Day, Participate in Columbus' Veterans Day Parade

Each November we honor the brave men and women who have taken up arms to secure, defend and maintain the principles upon which our Nation's freedoms were founded.

This Friday, our nation will once again pause in recognition of Veterans Day; a day to acknowledge America's men and women who have answered the call to duty throughout our nation's history. Currently, over 110,000 Veterans reside in central Ohio.

Commissioners will participate in the City of Columbus' Veterans Day Parade, which for the first time, specifically honors veterans who served during the conflict in Vietnam. The first American ground combat troops landed in South Vietnam during March 1965 and at the height of the Vietnam War over 500,000 Americans were deployed in combat.

"More than 26 million living veterans have served our nation in times of peace and war. Whether they entered the Armed Services as an enlistee or as a draftee, they responded to the call to duty and stood in harm's way to fight for our rights and freedoms," said Commissioner Marilyn Brown. "Our country did not recognize the service of many men and women who served during the Vietnam War. Today we correct that mistake by giving Vietnam Veterans special recognition on Veterans' Day."

"America's troops remain stationed at home and abroad, and, in that effort, they follow in the footsteps of so many Veterans who bravely served during Vietnam and the millions of men and women who, since our Nation's founding, have stood in harm's way to protect America and her freedoms," said Commissioner Paula Brooks. "America is strong today because of these Veterans and their bravery and sacrifices."

"Veterans have kept America strong and protected our way of life for more than two centuries," said Commissioner John O'Grady. "On Veterans Day we pause to reflect on the sacrifices of all of those who have served America, and we thank their families, too, for their sacrifices."

As part of the county's commitment to veterans and active duty personnel, Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution in August 2007 that established an Active Duty Employee Benefit. The resolution allows employees under the appointing authority of the Board of Commissioners who are called to Active Duty in the National Guard or Military Reserves for one year or more to be eligible for a benefit equaling five hundred dollars per child. This action

resulted in Franklin County being named a 5-Star Employer by the Ohio Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

For more information on Columbus' Veterans Day Parade, residents can log on to <http://www.milvets.org/vetparade.htm>