

[<<Back](#)



"Landing Zone Lambeau" to Finally Welcome Vietnam Vets Home

Updated: Aug 19, 2009 06:26 PM CDT

By [Jeff Alexander](#)

Nearly 35 years after the Vietnam War ended, plans are announced to officially welcome home Wisconsin's Vietnam veterans.

Local vets say they expect an emotional three days next spring at Lambeau Field.

More than 50 Vietnam veterans attended Wednesday's announcement at the Packers stadium. Many shared stories of rejection after coming home from their tour of duty.

"I got a cab, and when I went out to get in the cab the cab driver took off, so that was my thing right there and it's stuck with me all these years," Ken Beeman of Manitowoc said.

"The mood of the country at that time was such that many Vietnam veterans took off their uniforms when they were returning, some of them out of fear, some of them out of shame," veteran Don Jones said.

Of the 57,000 Wisconsin soldiers serving in Vietnam, more than 1,200 either died or went missing. For most of those fortunate enough to come home, healing never happened.

But next May, from the 21st through the 23rd, some of those wounds may finally heal.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and Wisconsin Public Television have partnered to host the welcome home event called "LZ Lambeau."

"'LZ' meaning the landing zone, a place of safety, a place where a hand reaches out to you," Veterans Affairs Secretary Ken Black explained.

- [Click here for the LZ Lambeau event web site](#)

"The event is an opportunity for everyone to learn about the men and women who went off to war, honor their service, and to officially say welcome home," event director Don Jones, a Vietnam veteran himself, said.

LZ Lambeau will include a motorcycle ride from La Crosse to Green Bay, a concert, the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall, and a Saturday night event inside Lambeau Field.

Local vets say they had lost hope something like this would ever happen.

"There's gonna be a lot of emotion from all of us, even from the community, the civilians," Mike Edwards, a veteran from De Pere, said.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2009 WorldNow and WBAY. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).