

Michigan's Vietnam veterans honored in Keith Famie documentary



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It felt like an emotional homecoming at the Fox Theatre on Friday night before the debut of “Our Vietnam Generation,” director Keith Famie’s documentary tribute to Michiganders who served in the war.

With a crowd of thousands expected for the screening and related events, the lobby of the Fox was packed with veterans and supporters exchanging handshakes and hugs. Outside, the 126 Army Band of the Michigan National Guard played songs as attendees arrived.



Gary Monger, 60, of Royal Oak looks for names of friends on the Michigan Vietnam Veterans traveling memorial during the movie premiere of "Our Vietnam Generation" held at the Fox Theater in Detroit on Friday. / KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/DFP

For many, this was a night that felt long overdue given the conflicted feelings that embroiled the nation during the Vietnam era.



Video clips from Our Vietnam Generation: Video clips from a documentary about Michigan's Vietnam Generation by Keith Famie of Visionalist Entertainment Productions.

“This is something that’s been a long time coming,” said Gary Monger, 60, of Royal Oak, a Vietnam veteran who retired from the military in July.

In the 110-minute film, local chef-turned-filmmaker Famie interviewed men and women who served during the conflict and others who lived through that turbulent era.

A slightly shorter version of “Our Vietnam Generation” will air at 9 p.m. Feb. 21 on WTVS-TV (Channel 56).

“I think about Vietnam my whole life – every day. This is a special event,” said an emotional John Prudhomme, 64, of Clawson, who received a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam in 1968.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110128/ENT/110128056/1204/Business0102/Michigan-s-Vietnam-veterans-honored-Keith-Famie-documentary?odyssey=nav%7Chead>