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MICHIGAN'S VIETNAM GENERATION TO BE RECOGNIZED IN UPCOMING DOCUMENTARY

*Director/Producer Keith Famie to direct the camera lens on
the oft-overlooked service of Vietnam veterans*

WIXOM, Mich. — They fought on a battlefield as brutal as any other and more deadly than most wars in the history of the United States. The only difference: these veterans fought at a time when the United States was deeply divided on one of the most opposed wars in history, the Vietnam War. To give these veterans a voice, Director/Producer Keith Famie, of Visionalist Entertainment Productions, has announced he is filming *Our Vietnam Generation*, scheduled to debut in late 2010.

The documentary will focus on struggles experienced by Michigan Vietnam veterans who received a much different homecoming than other generations, set to the backdrop of the culture at a time marked by music, drugs, ideals of love and political upheaval. Depicted will be some veterans who were able to become successful business and community leaders and others who still suffer from haunting memories or wounds. Further, the documentary will shed light on the families of these veterans, including those who still hold yearly vigils in hopes the remains of missing POWs will still be found.

“Ever since we began working on our documentary, *Detroit: Our Greatest Generation*, which focused on our World War II veterans, the most frequently posed question was, ‘What about our Vietnam vets?’” said Famie. “These men and women, mostly now past 60 years old, still have deeply rooted feelings about their Vietnam experience, including how society viewed them when they returned.”

Featured in *Our Vietnam Generation* is a journey back in time for veteran Marine Pfc. Mark Spooner and his daughter Cpt. Jennifer Spooner, an Iraq veteran Marine, as they traveled to Vietnam. The father/daughter expedition retraced Mark’s footsteps through his tour of duty on Hills 41 and 37 during the TET offensive and countless firefights in the Vietnam countryside 40 years ago in an emotional confrontation of an era most would like to forget.

The next several months of production for *Our Vietnam Generation*, Famie's eighth human interest documentary, will involve countless personal interviews and events, such as the flight of two Huey Choppers from the group Huey 369 over the Detroit River, which will serve as the dramatic opening sequence of the film. Hundreds of Vietnam veterans will be present for the event and photographed together for a commemorative piece acknowledging their services.

Several special bike rallies with Rolling Thunder and Patriot Guard will be featured in the documentary, as well. All will culminate in a special media celebration premiere for the Vietnam veterans in December, followed by the television premiere on WDIV-TV in Detroit.

The leading title sponsor for last year's successful documentary, *Detroit: Our Greatest Generation*, American House founder Bob Gillette, has committed to support *Our Vietnam Generation* as one of the title presenting sponsors.

"It was a different kind of battle these people were fighting," said Gillette. "The people fighting in Vietnam were not given the 'hero's welcome' when they returned home like our World War II veterans. This film is our opportunity to do now what we should have done then."

The Vietnam production was equally inspirational as Mark and Jennifer visited Hanoi's Children's Village to deliver *Operation: Exchange of Hearts*, a special book of artwork created by the children of Detroit Medical Center. In exchange, Mark and Jennifer picked up a book of drawings from the Hanoi children to deliver back to the DMC.

Part of the documentary is the one-on-one interview with American Ambassador to Vietnam, Michael Michalak, who happens to be from Rochester, Mich.

The documentary team also gained full access to film at the Hoa Lo Prison "Hanoi Hilton" POW camp where Senator John McCain was once held.

One of the most emotional wrenching visits involved the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), a United States military branch that relentlessly searches for missing soldiers, both from the United States and from U.S. allies.

Supporting the film so far are Keith King, National Public Affairs Chair of the Vietnam Veterans of America, American House Senior Living Residences, Terry Desmond of A.J. Desmond Funeral Homes, Joe Vicari of Andiamo Restaurant Group Inc., DS Properties, Lakeshore Engineering Services, WDIV-TV, News/Talk WJR 760, HOUR Magazine, Digital Image Studios, Gallagher-Kaiser, Vietnam Battlefield Tours, Knot Just A Bar, The Medical Team, Advanced Care and Disabled American Veterans.

For more information and updates on *Our Vietnam Generation*, visit www.ourvietnamgeneration.com

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