

We Honor Veterans Newsletter



April 2025 Special Edition



Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans 2025 Celebration

Gilchrist's annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration is a day to honor and thank the men and women in our community who served during the Vietnam War. This Welcome Home celebration honors the veterans in our care as well as all of the veterans and their loved ones in our community. 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 state and our country.

This year the event was held on March 30, 2025. There were close to 800 participants. Here are a few comments from those attending:

- Recognizing that the Vietnam Veterans were never respected as they should have been. But you all fixed that and we are grateful for it.
- Hearing the stories of veterans, recognition of Vietnam Veterans, mental health focus, recognizing all branches of service, the speakers, resources, and music. It is healing to my husband, and I hope it was for other Vietnam Veterans.

- The program is very moving. It truly makes my husband (Vietnam Vet) feel like he is really being Welcomed Home. We brought our Grandsons, and they were touched by the program and the Vets they met. Thank you so much!
- I just love the general patriotism of the event. You guys take such care to honor every single person there.

Below are just a few photos taken during this very successful event. To see more photos, go to:

[Welcome Home Celebration 2025 Photo Gallery | Gilchrist](#)

Plans are underway for the 2026 celebration. Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 22, 2026. Hope to see you there.



Masters of Ceremonies and Vietnam War Veterans Lt. Colonel George G. Forrest, USA (Ret.) (left) and Colonel John C. Astle, USMC (Ret.)



Catherine Hamel, President of Gilchrist, welcoming home Vietnam Veterans



Governor Larry Hogan describing signing the bill establishing Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Maryland



Saluting all Vietnam Veterans



Keynote Speaker Captain Charlie Plumb, Naval Academy Graduate, Vietnam Veteran and POW



Command Sergeant Major Richard C. Moore, Garrison Commander of Fort George G. Meade, talking with a Vietnam Veteran



Military branch representatives saluting during the United States Armed Forces Medley





Montford Point and Vietnam Veteran Marines







The driving force behind the Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Celebration - Gilchrist staff Kim McDonnell (left) and Diane Sancilio

Uniform Smiles

A sailor in a bar leans over to the guy next to him and asks, "hey, do you want to hear a Marine joke?"

The guy responds, "well, before you tell that joke, you should know that I'm 6-feet tall, I weigh 200 pounds, and I'm a Marine."

"The guy sitting next to me," he continues, "is 6' 2", weighs 250 pounds, and he's also a Marine. Now, you still wanna tell me that joke?"

The sailor says, "nah, I don't want to have to explain it more than twice."

Please Share

If you enjoyed reading this edition, please forward a copy to other veterans that you know so that they can also enjoy the newsletter. If you are reading a shared copy and would like to receive your own copy of future editions, please send an email with your request to kmcdonnell@gilchristcares.org.

Looking For a Few Good Volunteers

Would you like to be a Gilchrist volunteer? We are always looking for volunteers – especially those who have military experience. Our military veteran volunteers are involved in Salute to Service Tributes for veterans under hospice care, visiting public schools to talk about military service, meeting with veterans to talk about their military service, supporting our annual Welcome Home event for Vietnam Veterans, and many other activities.

If you would like to learn how to become a volunteer, contact Gilchrist at kmcdonnell@gilchristcares.org.

Gilchrist Cares

You may know Gilchrist best for the care we provide people near the end of life. But we offer so much more than hospice. Today's Gilchrist extends services to individuals with serious illness who need our care and support well in advance of hospice care. We also provide counseling and support before and after the loss of a loved one. Please visit the Gilchrist website to learn more.

[Gilchrist providing care at every stage of serious illness \(gilchristcares.org\)](http://gilchristcares.org)

We Want Your Input

If you have suggestions for content you would like to see in future issues of the Gilchrist We Honor Veterans Newsletter, please contact us at kmcdonnell@gilchristcares.org.



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