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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1404

November 5, 2007

Mike Jackson
President
American Veterans Institute
P.O. Box 85
Tipp City, Ohio 45371

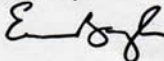
Dear Mr. Jackson:

I am writing to express my support of American Veterans Institute's efforts to launch Operation Welcome Home to recognize and celebrate the contributions of America's brave Vietnam-era veterans. I am proud to be able to say that next year's event is scheduled to be held in Northeast Indiana with the help of the area host cities of Auburn, Angola and Fort Wayne.

The story of the veterans' return from Vietnam is a tragic one in which varying American thoughts and ideas clashed, leaving American soldiers as some of the victims of misunderstanding in spite of their valorous service to their country. It is my understanding that Operation Welcome Home will seek to rectify that reality to the best of its ability, while illustrating that Vietnam-era veterans are valuable, active members of their communities. Further, many of them have risen above challenges of the era to seize opportunities for valuable education and to maintain good health. The celebration of these veterans' is long overdue and sets an example for how all American veterans should be welcomed home.

Therefore, I am proud to applaud American Veterans Institute its effort to hold Operation Welcome Home in Indiana. Please feel free to contact me if I can ever be of assistance. I can be reached via my Fort Wayne office at E. Ross Adair Federal Building, 1300 South Harrison Street, Suite 3161, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802. Also, please do not hesitate to contact my Northeast Regional Director, Brent Wake, at (260) 426-3151.

Sincerely,



Evan Bayh
United States Senator