



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### WELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OFFICIALLY WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS AT PINNING CEREMONY

WELD COUNTY, CO – Yesterday, the Weld County Board of Commissioners (along with the Weld County Department of Veterans Services) officially welcomed home and honored Vietnam veterans with a pinning ceremony. The ceremony recognized these veterans in light of Veteran's Day, but also intended to offer them the welcome back they did not receive upon their return from the war. Over 20 veterans attended, each was individually recognized and thanked by all five commissioners, and each received both county and federal proclamations of appreciation and pins.



**Twenty-five Vietnam Veterans and their families were recognized and honored by the Board of Commissioners.**

Weld County partnered with the federal Vietnam War Commemoration program for this event, a program which will be in effect from 2012-2025. This lengthy commemoration is in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War, and is intended to pay tribute to the veterans who served from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. The program relies on partners like Weld County to bring commemoration events to towns across the country and to honor and thank as many veterans as possible. Veterans attending these events receive federal recognition in the form of a lapel pin and proclamation of appreciation.

Said Commissioner Chair Mike Freeman. "It is a privilege to officially welcome home our Vietnam veterans," "My fellow commissioners and I are extremely moved to be given this honor, and to personally thank these veterans."

The veterans honored include: Raymond Patch, Gene Burke, Korwin Johnson, Jerry Snyder, Frank Garcia, Ed Rossi, Wayne Scott Doyle, Bruce B. White, Thomas Feldhouse, Adolpho Garcia Diaz, Lyle Achzinger, Ron Britton, Rodney Cole, Gary Peters, Larry VanEgdom, Robert McLaughlin, Stanley Graffis, Bill Sullivan, Jack Zimbelman, George Tendick, Gary A. Cyr, Sr., Stan Cass, Cecily Cass, John Natividad, Robb Cassidy, Harry Golden, Fred Criger, Michel Blum, Art Nolin, and George Kreilling. In some cases, family members accepted pins and proclamations of appreciation in place of those who were not able to attend.

"We are proud of the efforts made by our Veterans Services team to bring this event to Weld," said Barbara Kirkmeyer, commissioner coordinator for the Department of Veterans Services. "Recognizing our military heroes has and will always be one of our most sacred and important duties."

The Weld County Board of Commissioners will hold another Vietnam veteran pinning ceremony in the spring, to honor veterans who were unable to attend this week's event. For more information, or to find out more about our Department of Veterans Services, go to: <http://www.co.weld.co.us/Departments/VeteransServices/>

To learn more about this Commemoration program, please visit [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com).

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