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Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Concert

A Homeless Veteran Tribute & Performance by the New Directions Choir

LOS ANGELES, CA - Vietnam veterans will be honored at a *Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day (WHVVD) Concert and Service* slated for Wednesday, March 30. The evening features a performance by the [New Directions Choir](#) in the SkyRose Chapel beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Rose Hills, 3888 Workman Mill Rd., Whittier, 90601. Admission for veterans and the entire community is free. The event is sponsored by [Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary](#).

“There could not be a more appropriate group to perform this concert,” notes Toni Reinis, executive director of [New Directions Inc.](#) “We are so proud of these very talented men and women, and we know that America is too, judging by the response to their appearance last summer on *America’s Got Talent* on NBC television.”

George Hill, founder and director of New Directions Choir, will give the keynote address. Mr. Hill will focus on his experiences as a homeless veteran and how the New Directions program helped him change his life. Today he is a fulltime employee of the Greater Los Angeles V.A. Medical Center, responsible for IT systems used by the nursing staff. He is also a student, a husband, a role model and an ambassador whose life and appearances change perceptions of homelessness. Other speakers include Commissioner Bob Archuleta of the Los Angeles County Advisory Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs, which represents approximately one million veterans throughout the county, and José G. Ramos, Chairman and Founder of [WHVVD](#).

Following the concert, a special ceremony will be held to honor and call attention to the thousands of homeless veterans in the U.S., many whose remains are unclaimed at their death and are interred in pauper’s graves.

“We are proud to present this concert and service as a way of saying ‘thank you and welcome home’ to the thousands of Vietnam veterans who served our country,” said Bruce Lazenby, executive director of business development, Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary. “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day is an opportunity for Americans to come together as a nation and speak with single voice to show our appreciation and, finally, give Vietnam Veterans their long overdue welcome home.”

About Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

In 2000, José Ramos began a grass roots campaign to establish Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, embarking on a bicycle ride from Whittier, Calif. to Washington, D.C. to gather

support and momentum for the effort. His tireless campaign and the hard work of a great deal of supporters resulted in the U.S. Congress and Senate passing resolutions making March 30th as national Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in 2007. In September 2009, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Bill AB717 into law, establishing March 30 as California's annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

About the New Directions Choir & New Directions, Inc.

“Through singing, and spreading our message, we hope to let other veterans who are still out there know that there is another way,” says Choir Director George Hill, who spent ten years living in and around L.A.'s MacArthur Park.

The New Directions Choir is the voice of New Directions, representing – collectively – over 60 years of homelessness. From the mean streets of Los Angeles, each member comes to New Directions with troubled pasts, but unique talents. Singing soulful cappella renditions of doo-wop, soul, traditional gospel and popular music, the Choir is a symbol of transformation and hope. In addition to their turn on America's Got Talent, the Choir has been featured on the NBC Nightly News, E! Entertainment Television and has performed at over 100 venues and events.

Since 1992, New Directions, Inc. (NDI) has provided comprehensive services for thousands of veterans in Los Angeles County. Founded by two formerly homeless Vietnam veterans, John Keaveney and Larry Williams, along with Executive Director Toni Reinis, the agency operates five residential facilities and serves hundreds of veterans each year. For more information, visit <http://www.NDVets.org>

About Rose Hills

Founded in 1914, Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary has since grown to be the largest memorial park in the world. It is a full-service memorial facility with a modern mortuary, flower shop, reception center, and premiere cemetery property to serve the community in both pre-need and at-need situations. It serves 10,000 families a year. Rose Hills is located in Whittier, California, with approximately 1,400 acres of property for current use or future development and is considered to be the largest single-operated cemetery in the world. Although it is purposely secluded, Rose Hills is only minutes away from any point in the greater Los Angeles or Orange County area, and offers a full range of funeral services to meet the memorialization needs of Southern California families.

Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary, #FD970, is a proud Dignity Memorial provider in Whittier, Calif. The Dignity Memorial network of more than 1,800 funeral, cremation and cemetery service providers is North America's most trusted resource for funeral and memorialization services. Dignity Memorial providers offer an unmatched combination of products and locations serving families with care, integrity, respect and service excellence. For more information, visit www.rosehills.com.

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