

VIDEO

FADE IN

Stock footage of U.S. military helicopters involved in a mission in Vietnam. Slowly superimpose the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the point that the helicopters appear to be reflecting in it. Slow dissolve to a corporate helicopter landing in an urban setting. An executive with a brief case in hand gets off and begins to walk. Dissolve to head and shoulder shot of Adrian Cronauer.

AUDIO

FADE IN

Sound of helicopters slowly under.

Good morning Hometown USA! This is Adrian Cronauer. Many of you associate my name with Robin Williams' portrayal of me in the Academy Award-winning movie "Good Morning Vietnam." Like many of the nearly 10 million Americans who served our nation in uniform during the Vietnam era, and the nearly 3 million who served in Southeast Asia, I returned to America and resumed my life and career objectives. Still, with the measure of success that I've been blessed with, I continued to feel alienated in some respects from the communities I lived in. Not since the Civil War, has this nation philosophically and ideologically been torn apart. Unfortunately, the disdain over the policies of the war was dumped on the brave teenage Americans who served their country in uniform every bit as bravely as soldiers who served in other military actions.

The healing began with the dedication of the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, but across the nation, Americans are still estranged and the veterans have still not been welcomed back to their hometowns.

It is important that we as Americans excise the scar tissue of Vietnam, learn from our history, and stop confusing the policies of the war with the brave young

Americans who served. It's time to have a healing in all communities which gave sons and daughters to the war. Operation Hometown USA is an opportunity for citizens, civic groups, local governments, and veterans to come together in a national day of binding and reconciliation. Let's work together to make Memorial Day 1992, Operation Hometown USA Day as well, by rebonding all the citizens of our communities and, in doing so, make a unified historical statement on the character and strengths of the American people.

For more information on how your community can become involved in Operation Hometown USA, please call or write

Voice over

A project of the Vietnam Veterans Institute and Americans for Vietnam Veterans.