



## VIETNAM TRIBUTE: WEBY RADIO'S MISSION STATEMENT

WEBY Radio will honor Vietnam Veterans with a radio tribute to their service. The centerpiece of the program will be what every veteran of the Vietnam War remembers: AFVN Radio.

For the 3.4 million Americans who served in Vietnam and the surrounding theater during the war, AFVN (American Forces Vietnam Network) was the soundtrack of their lives while in Southeast Asia. AFVN newsmen, disc jockeys and program hosts brought the sound of home to Vietnam. American servicemen, servicewomen, civilian contractors, and even South Vietnamese citizens listened to AFVN for entertainment, music, news, and other important information. AFVN was heard everywhere: on bases, aboard ships, in cockpits, and in the fields of battle. AFVN, your hometown companion, was with our troops on demand 24 hours a day throughout the country. Wherever Americans were, AFVN accompanied them.

Hundreds of military personnel and civilians diligently served with AFVN on the air and behind the scenes to make it such an important element of the Vietnam experience. It is the radio station where Adrian Cronauer signed on with "Goooooooood Morning, Vietnam" (which was the basis for the film "Good Morning, Vietnam" starring Robin Williams). Standout, Pat Sajak (of "Wheel of Fortune" fame) also served at AFVN-Saigon in 1968 and 1969. In April 1975, AFVN-Saigon famously played Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" as a signal for the remaining Americans that the final evacuation of Saigon had begun. The relevance of the AFVN radio stations can never be understated. However, the purpose of this broadcast is to honor the troops.

Marine Corporal Harry Simons (later Sergeant Harry Simons), using the on-air call sign "Your Brother", was stationed at both AFVN-Saigon and AFVN-Danang from 1967 - 1969. He currently resides in Pensacola, Florida. Mr. Simons, a life-long broadcaster, recently provided WEBY with many hours of original studio recordings of his "Boss Radio" style rock and roll music programs from both stations that aired nearly 50 years ago for the purpose of sharing these cherished historical programs with his fellow veterans. WEBY is compiling these time-capsule recordings into a special week-long commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. We will take listeners back in time as we play the recordings and conduct interviews with veterans of the Vietnam War who will share their memories and experiences. The ten hour program will air in prime time over five days (October 26th - 30th) shortly before the 2015 Veterans Day Observation.

We will take listeners on a journey back in time as WEBY re-broadcasts the original programs that include the music, news, sports, commercials (public service announcements) and jingles. Further we will conduct interviews with many veterans of the Vietnam War who will share their memories and experiences.

Intense research is being conducted to accurately portray the history of AFVN and the war. WEBY is reaching out to Senator John McCain, Adrian Cronauer, Pat Sajak, Dick Orkin (creator of the immensely popular "Chickenman" radio series), and Scott Manning (a member of the production team for "Chickenman" in Chicago who introduced the series to AFVN while serving as a radio DJ in

Saigon). It is our desire to include these standout individuals through interviews and perhaps portions of their own AFVN program air checks into this special radio broadcast.

We will air an interview with Colonel Bud Day, (the most decorated U.S. service member since General Douglas MacArthur) by posthumously including an interview that was recorded in 2011. The program will also feature interviews with servicemen from all military branches who will recall tales of their service in Vietnam. Interviews with Mr. Simons will be interspersed throughout the broadcast as he shares the inside story of AFVN.

This broadcast will include the valuable contributions of the USO, Red Cross, and civilian contractors who all played an integral role in the war.

Of particular nostalgic interest as this program goes back in time are the AFVN newscasts which report in present tense such topics as former Vice-President Richard Nixon's campaign for the presidency against Hubert Humphrey, the upcoming Apollo missions to the Moon, and negotiations between the United Kingdom and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) concerning independence from colonial rule.

The AFVN sports reports give football results for the Los Angeles Rams (now the St. Louis Rams), the St. Louis Cardinals (now the Arizona Cardinals), and the Baltimore Colts (now the Indianapolis Colts). Major League Baseball coverage refers to the Washington Senators (now the Texas Rangers) and Mickey Mantle's announcement that he would retire from the New York Yankees. The broadcast features coverage of Arnold Palmer and Gary Player at the two-man team match play at the 1968 Piccadilly World Match Play Championship at Wentworth near London (now the Volvo World Match Play Championship). Additional sports reports cover the upcoming 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City.

This remarkable, one-of-a-kind broadcast will truly turn back the clock to the 1960s and 1970s as we honor the service of our Vietnam Veterans. Your assistance in creating this important tribute is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,



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