



A Veteran's Retreat July 31 - August 2, 2009 Center for Creative Learning, Milwaukee, WI

When veterans get home they bring back important stories to tell, of adventures and pain, of fear and courage, of lessons learned. But often friends and family do not want to listen or were uncomfortable talking about war. So, if veterans are going to open up

at all, they might seek out another veteran to talk with. Unfortunately, when veterans talk together of the war, attempts at sharing the grief and pain often slip into a "That ain't nothing" or "Top this one" exchange of war stories. So finding closure through telling one's story is difficult to achieve and the deeper truths remain untold; the deeper pain remain unprocessed.

Eventually, many veterans lock up their authentic stories deep inside their "inner vault" and stop talking. Does this describe your experience?

It's time for veterans' stories to be heard. **The Journey** offers a safe place where veterans and civilians want to hear you. They offer you empathy for your painful journey and total support for your healing.

Some veterans return home feeling unappreciated and hide their service from others, for them the **Vets Journey Home** is an honorable homecoming experience.

It's time to come home - in a good way - and, all the way.

The Vet's Journey Home invites veterans to come all the way home and find out that they are not alone. There are many who care about you, who are willing to walk point, be at your side, and cover your back. This time, you'll be coming home together with other veterans, and welcomed with respect and honor.

All combat zone veterans from any era are urged to consider attending. The Vet's Journey Home is also recommended for in-country and offshore non-combat veterans. Additionally, Both men and women vets may attend the Vet's Journey Home.

"I am a veteran. I served in Vietnam as a Marine Officer, and I thought my own healing was complete. But, in a workshop so focused on combat trauma, I unexpectedly found I still carried deep wounds from the war. I allowed myself to be "Welcomed Home" that weekend, and I surrendered to deeper healing for myself." - Rich Tosi

For more details, see the reverse side of this flyer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Patricia Clason at 414-374-5433 or patricia@lightly.com

TIMES: 7pm to 11pm on Friday evening, 9am until 10pm on Saturday and 9am until 6pm Sunday, with a celebration ceremony at 4 pm. Participants go home in the evenings.

COST: The program is **free** to veterans, supported by private donors through the Starfish Foundation.

LOCATION: Center for Creative Learning, Milwaukee - address below

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Patricia Clason at 414-374-5433 or patricia@lightly.com

WHAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE SAID:

Thank you so much for the caring, excellence and skill that you bring to the weekend. I particularly appreciated your abundant creativity in designing on the spot the methods that seem to work best for each individual and the respect that you showed the participants in letting them choose how to proceed. I invite you to suggest that anyone considering the weekend can call me to hear from someone who has been through the weekend. Phil Laut, Vietnam Veteran, Author, Consultant, Cincinnati, OH

The results for the Vet are profound. A sense of peace, completion, self-forgiveness or letting go have been reported, as well as a new found ability to look forward to their futures without the burden of a crippling past. The course also supports the Vets in this aspect by providing them with strategies for making changes in the present. ***I know of no other veterans program currently in existence which addresses their issues at this level of commitment to healing, with these kinds of results. For this reason, I wholly endorse the weekend and sincerely hope it receives all the support necessary to ensure its continued growth.***

Diane Perris, M.S. Center for Counseling & Psychological Services, Madison, WI

The staff of the weekend have a wonderful gift for being able to see what a Veteran needs to work on in order to return all the way home from the war. Because of their loving assistance, I was able to receive the welcome home that I deserved and laid several ghosts to rest. ***I recommend this course without reservation, and would also encourage those who are not Vietnam vets to support these weekends financially.*** Al Fletcher, Vietnam Veteran Alcohol/Drug Counselor, VA Hospital, Indianapolis, IN

It is my opinion that the weekend becomes an opportunity for veterans to confront an area of their life where they are experiencing an impasse... so that they can create meaningful life experiences and begin to regain a missing quality of life. ***The weekend offers an answer to the gap in program services to veterans and creates an environment where they can feel safe about expressing fear, anger, pain, grief and sorrow, along with their need to be loved and accepted by the world around them.*** I hope that the opportunities to provide this service will continue and that veteran organizations will be willing to give sacrificially to this program and therefore contribute to its many avenues of healing. Gwen Shorter, Executive Director, Vets House, Inc. Madison, WI

Center for Creative Learning, LLC

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