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NEWS RELEASE

Vietnam Veteran Memorial State Park Features Veterans' Stories for Veteran's Day Ceremony Nov. 11

ANGEL FIRE, N.M. – Vietnam Veteran's Memorial State Park will present three first-person stories of Vietnam veterans during its Veteran's Day ceremony Nov. 11, with guest speakers and music by the Cimarron High School band. This year's theme, *We Were There: Veterans Stories*, features veterans who will briefly share their individual experiences in Vietnam.

Speakers include Retired Lt. Col. Robert Harasick, who served in the 101st Airborne; his wife, Retired Lt. Col. Marilyn Harasick, who served as a nurse at the 85th Evacuation Hospital in Phu Bai; and Robert Ulibarri, who is the current president of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #318 in Albuquerque.

"We are going to hear from folks who were there and hear part of their stories," said Park Manager Tom Turnbull. "We welcome and honor any and all veterans who attend our services. Welcome Home!"

The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. in the amphitheater. Due to the ongoing construction of the park's visitor center, visitors are encouraged to dress in layers and be prepared for any weather conditions. The visitor center closed June 15 for an \$855,000 renovation and expansion project that includes new interpretive exhibits, a new veterans' research room, a conference room, a curation and storage space and a new gift shop. All other facilities at the park will remain open during the construction project, which is scheduled for completion by May 2010.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire was established in 1968 by Victor and Jeanne Westphall. The Memorial was formally transferred to New Mexico State Parks in 2005 and is the only state park in the United States dedicated solely as a Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Memorial provides veterans, and those who honor them, a refuge in which to reflect and heal. The 6,000 square foot visitor center and museum houses exhibits, videos and memorabilia. Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park is located in Angel Fire, 30 miles east of Taos on U.S. 64. For more information, call 575-377-2293 or visit www.nmparks.com.

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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