



For Immediate Release
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Press Release

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Flag Day Festival to Honor Military Veterans and Families; Fun-filled Day to Include Food, Games, and Live Entertainment

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA), along with the Vet Centers of Worcester and Boston, Veterans Services of Worcester, Veterans Outreach Center Metrowest, and Vietnam Veterans for the Community will be holding a Flag Day Festival at Green Hill Park in Worcester, on Saturday, June 14, to honor military veterans and their families. Veterans from all wars and branches of the service and their loved ones are invited to enjoy a fun-filled day of celebration and relaxation.

There will be food and entertainment for the entire family, including live music, clowns, face-painting, a bounce castle, and more. The popular Irish band "Songs for Ceilidh" will blend traditional Celtic classics and Cape Breton originals. Add to that the rock music of "Uncle Billie's Smokehouse" and entertainment by local magician Scott Dezrah Blinn and the stage is set for a "foot-stomping, rip-roaring good time."

"We want to first and foremost celebrate those who have given and sacrificed so much for our country," says Arlene Korab, Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association. "We also want them to have a good time with friends and family; they deserve it."

More than 20 resource tables will provide information on everything from employment and education to brain injury, support services, and suicide prevention. There will also be opportunities to learn about yoga, massage, and acupuncture.

William Newell, a former Marine Sergeant who served in Vietnam and a member of BIA-MA's Board of Directors, will lead the opening ceremony during which a Color Guard will post the Colors prior to playing the National Anthem. Col. Cheryl Poppe, Reintegration Coordinator for the Massachusetts Army National Guard, will deliver a welcoming address, and Worcester Blue Star Mothers Lissa Haynes (of Spencer) and Stacey Hamel (of Oxford) will lay a wreath on the Vietnam Memorial. State Representative Anne Gobi, 5th Worcester District, and other dignitaries will attend.

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) is a private, non-profit organization that provides support services to brain injury survivors and their families, offers programs to prevent brain injuries, and educates the public on the risks of acquiring brain injury and its impact. The association advocates for funding for support services for survivors. Since 2006, the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts has been involved in a federal grant to reach out to soldiers returning from war with brain injuries and their families. The pilot project is designed to serve as a model for the nation.

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