

# AMERICA'S HEROES

## Honoring America's Defenders

(NAPSA)—A unique program gives Americans a chance to honor Army veterans of all generations who have worked to keep the U.S. free.

Launched in 2005 by the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff as a way to say “thank you” to the men and women who serve and have served, the Freedom Team Salute program has honored more than 1 million heroes to date; but there are millions more to be reached.

Bill Beck, a Vietnam War veteran, was the 1-millionth Freedom Team Salute honoree. Beck accepted the commemorative plaque on behalf of his comrades who didn't make it back from Vietnam and those who returned but whose service was unappreciated. In Beck's words, “Freedom Team Salute helps ensure that no veteran will ever again be forgotten.”

To get the word out, Freedom Team Salute is partnering with Veterans Services organizations such as the American Legion. On Veterans Day this year, Legionnaires nationwide will reach out to Army veterans in their communities to present them with Army lapel pins and Freedom Team Salute commendations.

### Nominating A Veteran

People can nominate a veteran by visiting [www.FreedomTeamSalute.com](http://www.FreedomTeamSalute.com) and entering the veteran's name.

The commendation package



**Bill Beck, a Vietnam veteran, reflects upon his Army service after being named the Freedom Team Salute 1-millionth honoree.**

includes an Army lapel pin, an Army decal, a certificate and letter of appreciation, both signed by the Army Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Army.

But more than that, says Ronald James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, the veteran will know he or she has received the thanks of a nation served.

“Freedom Team Salute serves as the centerpiece of the essential and enduring bond between our U.S. Army and every American who lives in appreciation of the price of freedom,” James explains. “Each citizen has the responsibility to acknowledge the sacrifice we ask of soldiers to ensure our way of life.”

The program is Army funded and is provided at no cost to recipients. For more information or to honor an Army veteran, visit [www.FreedomTeamSalute.com](http://www.FreedomTeamSalute.com).