



VA Veterans Day Parade Fact Sheet

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VA Veterans Day Parade Celebrity Grand Marshal Connie Stevens

Singer, actress and long time supporter of veterans Connie Stevens will be the Celebrity Grand Marshal for the 2008 VA Veterans Day Parade in Phoenix, Arizona.

Connie Stevens has swept the world with a star quality that cannot be missed. She is an actress, a singer, a producer, director, a businesswoman, a mother, a new grandmother, and a philanthropist. Her impact in all these areas has been felt worldwide.

Ms. Stevens has managed to remain a timeless beauty and a classically popular all-around entertainer garnishing rave reviews worldwide. She has performed at the White House for three presidents and heads of state and has entertained kings and queens all over the world. On Broadway, she was Neil Simon's Star Spangled Girl. She is a television icon of the 1960s, and has starred in 20 major motion pictures.

Meeting a new challenge, Ms. Stevens produced and directed "A Healing," an award-winning documentary about her three-week journey throughout Vietnam with 100 women who had served in that war. She has also now completed her first major motion picture debut as a director of the film "Saving Grace B. Jones", soon to be released.

She recently joined a distinguished board of senators and businessmen who support The National Guard's Youth Challenge Program which provides housing, education, and computer skills to high-risk youth in 32 states. She has provided over 90 college scholarships for Native American Youth and she has her own living center in Jackson Hole, Wyoming for handicapped young people.

The Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center, which is part of the Phoenix VA Health Care System, has been serving veterans in Maricopa County since 1951. We currently have 130 inpatient beds for medical and surgical patients, 80 beds for nursing home patients and 48 inpatient beds for mental health patients. We are honored to serve our veterans who have paid the price for us to enjoy our freedoms.

She received the 2000 Humanitarian Award, and has been honored for her work and talent by the County of Los Angeles, the Shriners, Child Help USA, Mother of the Year Foundation, NIAF Honors, Icon of the Year in California, the Sons of Italy Foundation, the USO, and the Highest Civilian Honor from the Armed Forces for having worked tirelessly for Veteran causes for three decades.

Her musical artistry began when she first sang in a group called The Three Debs at age 16. She then went on to record as a solo artist on the Warner Brothers label. Connie Stevens was the first artist signed on the newly formed Warner Brothers Records. She recorded two mega-hits in the early sixties, "Kookie Kookie (Lend Me Your Comb)", a duet with Ed, "Kookie" Burns, one of the stars of the TV series "77 Sunset Strip", and the number one record in the country in 1961, "Sixteen Reasons".

She says of veterans, "They are my favorite Americans," and she demonstrates that support having toured with Bob Hope around the world, at every major base, numerous hospitals and military venues. She gives of her time whenever needed - from Korea to Vietnam to the Middle East.

We are honored to have Ms. Connie Stevens as the 2008 VA Veterans Day Parade Celebrity Grand Marshal.

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