



LYNNE ABRAHAM
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
1421 ARCH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

NEWS RELEASE

Date: May 22, 2005
Contact: Cathie Abookire / 215-686-8711
Director of Communications

Jim McCloskey, Race Organizer
215-696-4424

Mr. Bill Crean, Chairman

PHILADELPHIA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL SOCIETY

**District Attorney Lynne Abraham to Keynote the 19th
Annual 10-K Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Race scheduled for May 22nd at 8:30 a.m.**

WHAT: 19TH Annual 10-K Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial Race
WHEN: SUNDAY May 22, 2005 8:30am
WHERE: Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Columbus Blvd. and Spruce St.
WHO: 500 pre-registered runners; 500 more expected

District Attorney Lynne Abraham will deliver the keynote address to start the 19th annual Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial Race. This year's race emphasizes the pledge and continuing commitment of all of our military personnel: **"Service Above Self."**

The race, which is sponsored by the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial Society, benefits the surviving families of the Vietnam – and more recent conflicts – and the children at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

This year's race is dedicated to Sgt. Bryan Freeman, 31, who was killed in a sniper attack on Monday November 8, 2004 in Baghdad, Iraq. Sgt. Freeman's death represents the sacrifices of all local military in Iraq, and the race represents the sacrifices of all military personnel and their families.

At the time of his death, Sgt. Freeman was attached to 'A' Company, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, Warrick, Rhode Island. He graduated from Rancocas Valley Regional High School in 1991, where he was not only a great wrestler but also a

mentor to countless children in the New Jersey school system. Members of the Freeman family, including Sgt. Freeman's father, Bryan Sr., are expected to attend the race.

Prior to the start of the race, the 416th Civil Affairs Battalion (Norristown, PA) and the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion (Ft. Dix, NJ) will be recognized by the Memorial Society. Both units are Philadelphia area Reserve Units.

The Vietnam Vets had no one waiting at the airports, no yellow ribbons, or parades, but they do recognize the significance of "the soldier, flag and country". Because of that, the Philadelphia Vietnam Vets will be recognizing all Philadelphia vets who have returned from Iraq. The Vietnam Vets want to extend their "Band of Brothers" as they have for World War II, Korea, for Desert Storm I, Bosnia, Afghanistan--- all veterans in appreciation of *Service Above Self*.

Philadelphia can be proud of this memorial event as it represents a true sense of the spirit of 1776. The Vietnam Veterans have never forgotten ... and will never let the memory of fallen comrades fade!