



# THE PLAIN DEALER

## **Ceremonies remember end of Vietnam War**

**Vets, local Vietnamese to mark 31st anniversary**

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Plain Dealer Reporter

The free will gather in Cleveland this weekend to remember the brave.

Sunday marks 31 years since the end of the Vietnam War. Vietnam veterans and the Vietnamese community will mark it with ceremonies in church and on Mall A.

Sunday is also the Fourth Annual Rally for the Troops in Iraq, expected to draw 5,000 motorcyclists from across Ohio and surrounding states to Public Square.

Names of the 108 Ohioans killed in Iraq will be read at noon, about an hour after the first convoys of motorcycles arrive.

The United Service Organizations, a nonprofit group that sends packages to troops and helps their families here, organized the rally and will accept donations. Tower City will offer free parking.

Retired Lt. Col. Steve Lynch will speak. Country singer Trent Willmon will perform.

There will be food and entertainment from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Cleveland Harley-Davidson dealership, Lorain Avenue at West 145th Street.

Vietnam War remembrances begin at 6 p.m. Saturday at St. Helena Catholic Church, 1367 West 65th St., off Detroit Avenue. Communists took over South Vietnam April 30, 1975.

Le Nguyen of Cleveland said the ceremony will honor American and South Vietnamese soldiers and the churches, agencies and Clevelanders who aided the refugees. Vietnamese food will be served.

On Sunday, beginning at 4 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Plaza (Mall A) at East Third Street and Rockwell Avenue, the names of the 418 soldiers from Cuyahoga County killed in Vietnam will be read.

Speakers will include local Vietnamese and U.S. Army veterans, and retired Lt. Col. Joseph Meissner.

More information is available at [usocleveland.org](http://usocleveland.org) and [jvcooc.org](http://jvcooc.org).

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