



**SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL TO PRESENT THEME OF
“AMERICA’S WAR STORIES”
IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 9-11, 2007**

**Original Specials to Include
Vietnam Veterans Memorial 25th Anniversary Portrait,
Tribute to Soldiers Aboard U.S.S. Enterprise,
Rare Look Back at WWII Kamikaze Pilots, and
Stories of Washington, D.C. Monuments**

Smithsonian Channel™, as part of its mission as America’s Storyteller, will devote the entire Veterans Day Weekend (**Friday, November 9 through Monday, November 11, 2007**) to themed original programming under the umbrella title, **AMERICA’S WAR STORIES**. In addition to exclusive documentaries, the Smithsonian Channel will feature interstitial interviews with war veterans as well as Smithsonian curators who are repositories of information about the history of American wars.

The centerpiece of the special programming is **Remembering Vietnam: The Wall at 25**, a stirring, surprising and emotional history of a national shrine devoted to remembrance and reflection. The famous “Wall” celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Remembering Vietnam: The Wall at 25 goes back in time to tell the story of the memorial through the eyes of those who conceived it, those who were instrumental in pushing it through bureaucratic and political resistance, those intimately involved with its 25-year history, and those it honors. Above all, the documentary tells the story of a place that is more than a memorial – it is a place where old wounds are healed.

Other original programs comprising the **AMERICA’S WAR STORIES** weekend include:

• **Day of the Kamikaze**

Japan’s Kamikaze bombings against U.S. and Allied forces during World War II lasted only four months, but claimed the lives of more than 7,000 Japanese soldiers and 5,000 Allied servicemen, while destroying or damaging over 400 U.S. and British ships. This documentary offers a sense of what it was like for the pilots and sailors involved in the suicide assaults, with unprecedented access to Allied veterans’ organizations and to surviving Japanese Kamikaze pilots. It draws on more than 3 hours of color film, and never-before-seen Japanese films of Kamikaze training and preparations for attack. Accompanied by a short film about the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum’s Kamikaze aircraft.

• **Carrier at War: U.S.S. Enterprise**

The U.S.S. Enterprise is a giant aircraft carrier, assigned to six-month tours of duty in the Middle East. Its pilots have seen heavy action in Afghanistan and Iraq, and now, finally, they’re returning home. The documentary deconstructs how a carrier works in wartime, presenting moving personal stories (including a female American fighter pilot who has flown numerous combat missions over Afghanistan) and real-time footage from missions. The film documents the awesome power of a ship with more than 400 jets taking off and landing on a 4.5 acre

deck, a population of 5,000, two nuclear reactors, four airplane hangars, missile defense quarters, and even a post office with its own zip code.

- **Washington Monuments**

Washington's memorials honor American heroes, recognize epic passages in history, celebrate victories and mourn a nation's losses. Presidential memorials, Arlington Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the Vietnam Veterans war memorial prove to be anthems in stone, steel, soil, and sky, marking our nation's evolution and recognizing the sacrifice and greatness of those who have honored and defended the United States of America.

ABOUT SMITHSONIAN NETWORKS:

Smithsonian Networks (SN) is a joint venture between Showtime Networks Inc. and the Smithsonian Institution. It was formed to create new channels that will showcase scientific, cultural and historical programming largely inspired by the assets of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex. The networks will feature original documentaries, short-subject explorations and innovative and groundbreaking programs highlighting America's historical, cultural and scientific heritage. Visit them on the internet at www.smithsonianchannel.com

#

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bonnie Winings
Barry Smith
SWPR Group
818-760-7131
BWinings@swprgroup.com
BSmith@swprgroup.com

Jackie loachim
Showtime Networks, Inc.
212-708-1220
Jackie.loachim@showtime.net

Michael Shepley
212-786-9064
shepleypr@aol.com