



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Memorial Bench to be Dedicated in Honor of National Guard Unit Mobilized during Vietnam War

New Bedford, Massachusetts- On **Sunday, June 5 at 3:00 PM**, the public is invited to join City officials and members of the Richard F. Howland Chapter of the National Guard Field Artillery Veterans Organization at the National Guard Square in New Bedford (where North Street and Route 6 intersect, across from Buttonwood Park) for the dedication of a memorial bench in honor of the members of the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion 211th Field Artillery—the only such unit in the state to be mobilized during the Vietnam War.

The unit was mobilized on May 13, 1968 as the United States was ramping up for the buildup of troops in South Vietnam. More than 580 soldiers from the New Bedford area left New Bedford bound for Ft. Benning, Georgia to serve 24 months of active duty. Subsequently, 55% of those soldiers were called to various Army units in Vietnam.

The granite bench comes from the state of Vermont, and was prepared by Tootell Monuments of New Bedford. It features an inscription and artwork associated with the battalion including crossed cannons for field artillery; the unit insignia (Indian Head); and the state patch of the Massachusetts National Guard.

The dedication will be held at 3PM. Following the dedication ceremony, light refreshments will be available at the Fort Taber Military Museum located at 1001C Rodney French Blvd. in the south end.

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