



Times staff photo by BERT HODGE

Vietnam vet and Media Councilman Bob McMahon announces plans for Hero Day II at a press conference yesterday. Among the officials on hand for the announcement were U.S. Rep. Curt Weldon, left, and Delco Chamber of Commerce President Jack Holefelder.

Party!

Hero Day II parade and rally plans unveiled

By **JOE HART**

Of the Times Staff

MEDIA — Delaware County's Vietnam veterans are planning "the mother of all parades" to welcome home veterans of the Persian Gulf war.

Veterans, leaders of business and labor, county officials and U.S. Rep. Curt Weldon (R-7) announced the May 4 bash at a press conference yesterday at the county Chamber of Commerce.

"If you thought the Hero Day celebration in Media was big, you ain't seen nothing yet," Weldon vowed, saying he's hoping to lure Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and entertainer Bob Hope to the event.

Definitely signed on to speak is former Pittsburgh Steeler and decorated Vietnam vet Rocky Bleier, said parade organizer Bob McMahon, a Media Borough councilman.

McMahon and Weldon said the parade will fill two purposes: honor the Gulf soldiers and remember the troops who came home from Vietnam to indifference if not outright hostility.

"Society in general wants a chance to honor both groups ... I think you're going to see an outpouring of feeling from the people of the Philadelphia area and Delaware County honoring both groups," said Weldon.

"It really doesn't clear the books, but it goes a long way toward healing the wounds," said McMahon, a Vietnam vet himself.

Unlike the Hero Day rally on Feb. 9, McMahon said, tentative plans for Hero Day II do not include closing Baltimore Pike for two parades converging on the county seat from the Springfield and Granite Run malls.

Instead, McMahon is planning to have marchers converge at Rose Tree Park for the walk to the county courthouse.

He hopes to raise \$20,000 to offset the cost of the event by holding an April 29 fund raising dinner and golf tournament at the Spring Haven County Club.

Chamber President Jack Holefelder said his organization will pursue businesses and corporations to make contributions.

Groups who want information about the event should call 565-5030.