



**MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**VIETNAM VETERANS DAY**



**NORTHEAST OHIO**

**INVITATION TO COMMEMORATE AND SHARE A LEGACY**

Equal Honor For All in partnership with Cuyahoga County, Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial Inc., Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County and hosted by the City of Garfield Heights and Mayor Vic Collova, invite Vietnam War and its era Veterans as well as all eras Veterans, their families, our fellow citizens and those who served alongside our troops from throughout the world and their families to commemorate and celebrate North East Ohio's March 29<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Day.

***Friday March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 6:15 p.m. Social / 7:00 p.m. Program***  
*(some refreshments will be provided)*

**Guest Speaker**

***Lt. General Robert W. Wagner (U.S. Army Retired)***

**Location**

***City of Garfield Heights Civic Center***  
*5407 Turney Road Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125*

March 29<sup>th</sup> is a very special date for Vietnam Veterans and the nation. It is the day in 1973 when the last American combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam, and with the support of Congress in 1974 the first Vietnam Veterans Day was proclaimed by Presidential order, and again in 2012 was proclaimed Vietnam Veterans Day by Presidential order. It is important that those who served with Honor, Dignity and Valor during the Vietnam War and Era and their families can finally experience the nation's and citizens' appreciation and respect for a job well done.

This year we also commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Sadly there has never been a closure for those who served in country and during that Era nor for their families nor our nation. Establishing a national March 29<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Day in perpetuity will deliver, to those who were indelibly touched by the Vietnam War and its consequences, the earned respect and gratitude and ultimately the healing as well as closure. Declaring this special day will also uplift the spirits of our current generation of our nation's defenders, knowing that theirs and their families' sacrifice and service will not be forgotten. It will also deliver the opportunity for our whole nation to reflect and heal.

**Please RSVP for refreshments: [EVENTBRITE](#) or (216) 456-2220 with name, e-mail/telephone, number of attendees**

**FREE EVENT – Register through [Eventbrite](#) - <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5942832171>**



March 29<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Day  
c/o Equal Honor For All P.O. Box 32070 Cleveland, OH 44132-0070 Tel./Fax (216) 456-2220  
E-mail: [info@equalhonor.org](mailto:info@equalhonor.org) [www.equalhonor.org](http://www.equalhonor.org)

## VIETNAM WAR ERA

### STATISTICS FOR INDIVIDUALS IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY VIETNAM VETERANS

**7.6 million** - Number of Vietnam-era veterans in 2009. Thirty-five percent of all living veterans served during this time (1964-1975). Source: 2009 American Community Survey

[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?\\_program=ACS&\\_submenuId=&\\_lang=en&\\_ts=](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuId=&_lang=en&_ts=)

Information below obtained from

<http://www.nationalvietnamveteransfoundation.org/statistics.htm>

- \* 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975).
  - \* 8,744,000 GIs were on active duty during the war (Aug 5, 1964-March 28,1973).
  - \* 2,709,918 Americans served in Vietnam, this number represents 9.7% of their generation.
- \* 3,403,100 (Including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the broader Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters).
- \* 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan. 1,1965 - March 28, 1973). Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.
- \* Of the 2.6 million, between 1-1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.
  - \* 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.
  - \* Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1968).

### **CASUALTIES:**

Cuyahoga County lost 418 sons, memorialized at Cleveland's "Fountain of Eternal Life" on Mall "A"

The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.

Hostile deaths: 47,378

Non-hostile deaths: 10,800

Total: 58,267 (Includes men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for the changing total.

8 nurses died -- 1 was KIA.

61% of the men killed were 21 or younger.

11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.

Of those killed, 17,539 were married.

Average age of men killed: 23.1 years

Total Deaths: 23.11 years

Enlisted: 50,274 22.37 years

Officers: 6,598 28.43 years

Warrants: 1,276 24.73 years

E1: 525 20.34 years

11B MOS: 18,465 22.55 years

Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.

The oldest man killed was 62 years old.

Highest state death rate: West Virginia - 84.1% (national average 58.9% for every 100,000 males in 1970).



### **WOUNDED, AGENT ORANGE, AND POW/MIA:**

Wounded: 303,704 -- 153,329 hospitalized + 150,375 injured requiring no hospital care.  
Severely disabled: 75,000, -- 23,214: 100% disabled; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.  
Amputation or crippling wounds to lower extremities 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than Korea.  
Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII.

\*\*\*\* Unknown number of returnees who died from exposure to **Agent Orange** \*\*\*\*

Missing in Action: 2,338

POWs: 766 (114 died in captivity)

As of January 15, 2004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

### **DRAFTEES VS. VOLUNTEERS:**

25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. (66% of U.S. armed forces members were drafted during WWII).

Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam.

Reservists killed: 5,977

National Guard: 6,140 served: 101 died.

Total draftees (1965 - 73): 1,728,344.

Actually served in Vietnam: 38% Marine Corps Draft: 42,633.

Last man drafted: June 30, 1973.

### **RACE AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND:**

88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian; 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races.

86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics);

12.5% (7,241) were black; 1.2% belonged to other races.

170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of total) died there.

70% of enlisted men killed were of North-west European descent.

86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were black; 1.1% belonged to other races.

14.6% (1,530) of non-combat deaths were among blacks.

34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat arms.

Overall, blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when the percentage of blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population.

Religion of Dead: Protestant -- 64.4%; Catholic -- 28.9%; other/none -- 6.7%

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS:**

Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.

Vietnam veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent.

76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle/working class backgrounds.

Three-fourths had family incomes above the poverty level; 50% were from middle income backgrounds.

Some 23% of Vietnam vets had fathers with professional, managerial or technical occupations.

79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered the military service. 63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WWII vets had completed high school upon separation.

Deaths by region per 100,000 of population: South - 31%, West -29.9%; Midwest - 28.4%; Northeast - 23.5%.

### **DRUG USAGE & CRIME:**

There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group. (Source: Veterans Administration Study)  
Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison - only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.  
85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

### **WINNING & LOSING:**

82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will.  
Nearly 75% of the public agrees it was a failure of political will, not of arms.

### **HONORABLE SERVICE:**

97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged.  
91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their country.  
74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome.  
87% of the public now holds Vietnam veterans in high esteem.

### **INTERESTING CENSUS STATISTICS & THOSE TO CLAIM TO HAVE "Been There":**

1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995 (census figures).

During that same Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country was:  
9,492,958.

As of the current Census taken during August, 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam Veteran population estimate is:  
1,002,511. This is hard to believe, losing nearly 711,000 between '95 and '00. That's 390 per day.

During this Census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country is: 13,853,027.  
By this census, **FOUR OUT OF FIVE WHO CLAIM TO BE Vietnam vets are not.**



MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>  
**VIETNAM VETERANS DAY**  
USA



COALITION OF STATES COUNCIL

May 1, 2011



**\* PROPOSED NATIONAL LEGISLATION \***

On behalf of the citizens of our great nation, the United States of America, and on behalf of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress and the President of United States, this legislation is enacted to be an expression of eternal gratitude and respect to those who served during the Vietnam War Era and to be commemorated as **Vietnam Veterans Day** on the **29<sup>th</sup> of March** of each year in perpetuity.

This Official Day of Recognition will serve as a vivid reminder that:

On March 29, 1973, the last 2,500 troops were withdrawn from South Vietnam thus ending military involvement in what is now the longest war in our country's history, and

March 29, 1974 was declared Vietnam Veterans Day by Presidential order with the support of Congress, and

March 29, 2012 was declared Vietnam Veterans Day by Presidential order with the support of Congress, and

58,195 honorable and brave souls who fought and died during the Vietnam War, ones who are missing, and those who died since from the consequences of that war, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

The men and women who served with dedication, honor, and pride during the Vietnam War, both in country and in support of those in harm's way as well as those protecting our freedoms at home and throughout other parts of the world at that time, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

The families whose loved ones gave their lives for our country during the Vietnam War, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and



The families of those men and women who came home with the physical and emotional wounds of the Vietnam War and committed to a lifetime of care and support for their loved one, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

The fellow citizens who stood by and supported, the families of the fallen as well as the Vietnam veterans who returned and their families without reservation and with loving care and respect, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

The professionals and volunteers who committed themselves to the loving care and healing of the bodily and emotionally wounded from the Vietnam War at home, and have already the utmost gratitude of those they cared for and of their families, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

The men and women of our Allies who served with dedication, honor, and pride alongside our Nation's defenders during the Vietnam War, both in country and in support of those in harm's way as well as those protecting our freedoms and throughout other parts of the world at that time, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

This expression of gratitude and respect to the Vietnam Veterans and their families will also give hope and assurance, to current and future generations of our Nation's Defenders and their respective families, that their sacrifice and service will not be forgotten and deserving of a distinct recognition of the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

And this expression of gratitude and respect for the honorable sacrifice and service by the Vietnam Veterans and past as well as current and future generations of our nation's defenders and their respective families, needs to remain in the hearts and thoughts of our fellow citizens forever, passed on from generation to generation.