



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration



Join the nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!

Key Messages:

- Across the nation, Americans are uniting to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.
- Our Commemorative Partners have helped communities publicly and individually thank nearly **2 million** Vietnam veterans and their families during **11 thousand** ceremonies.
- More than **11 thousand** local, state and national organizations have partnered with us to assist the nation in honoring our **6.6 million** living Vietnam veterans and the **9 million** families of those who served.

Five Commemoration Objectives: Our primary focus – to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the nation.

2017 Presidential Proclamation: Commemoration extends to Veterans Day 2025.

2012 Presidential Proclamation: Launched Commemoration.

National Vietnam Veterans Day: Annually on March 29th.

We Honor: All who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of **November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975**, regardless of duty location; and their families.

Commemorative Partners: Local, state and national organizations, businesses, corporations, sports franchises and governmental agencies committed to publicly thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families on behalf of the nation.

Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin: For living Vietnam veterans only, this lapel pin is a “lasting memento of the nation's gratitude.”

Certificate of Honor Program: Certificates and lapel pins are available for our partners to recognize four distinct subcategories of Vietnam veterans and their families.

Legacy Products: Five different **multi-poster series** are available for download, as well as **Service-specific “patch” posters**. Also, a museum-quality Pentagon Vietnam War Exhibit, **recipient of a 2017 John Wesley Powell Prize**, can be toured as part of the **Pentagon Tours**. Finally, **Vietnam Veteran Oral Histories** are being captured on video, showcasing a wide breadth of experiences – all Services, ranks, specialties and viewpoints – that reflect personal thoughts and opinions about all aspects of the war.



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Leadership: [Mr. Michael L. Rhodes](#) and [MG James T. Jackson, USA \(Retired\)](#).

[Clarification of Terminology](#) used by the Vietnam War Commemoration.

[Quotable Quotes:](#)

From President Donald Trump's [2017 Presidential Proclamation](#):

"To ensure the sacrifices of the 9 million heroes who served during this difficult chapter of our country's history are remembered for generations to come, I signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating March 29 of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Throughout this Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, and every March 29 thereafter, we will honor all those who answered our Nation's call to duty. We vow to never again confuse personal disapproval of war with prejudice against those who honorably wear the uniform of our Armed Forces. With conviction, our Nation pledges our enduring respect, our continuing care, and our everlasting commitment to all Vietnam veterans."

From former President Barack Obama's [remarks at the 2012 Inaugural Ceremony](#):

"And one of the most painful chapters in our history was Vietnam – most particularly, how we treated our troops who served there. You were often blamed for a war you didn't start, when you should have been commended for serving your country with valor. You were sometimes blamed for misdeeds of a few, when the honorable service of the many should have been praised. You came home and sometimes were denigrated, when you should have been celebrated. It was a national shame, a disgrace that should have never happened. And that's why here today we resolve that it will not happen again."

Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Michael Brazelton's (four-time Silver Star recipient and former Vietnam War POW) [reflections at the July 8, 2015 Congressional Ceremony](#) on the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin:

"I have had a number of medals pinned on me in my day and this is certainly the highest ranking and the most honors I have received for any pinning ceremony. Even though it might just be a lapel pin to a lot of people, this is like a medal to the Vietnam veterans."