

Vietnam War Commemoration "SITREP"

2017 – Issue 11



"Join the nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!"

Tuesday, December 19

Dear Commemorative Partners,

Thank you for your incredible dedication to honor America's Vietnam veterans!

Across the nation, communities large and small have been *inspired by your steadfast commitment and leadership*. Your hosting of more than 11,000 commemorative events has enabled Americans to *publicly and individually recognize 1.8 million Vietnam veterans and their families ... remarkable!*

At the genesis of this Commemoration, our early leadership *resolved to honor all U.S. veterans who served on active duty from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location*. This resolve has not changed ... it will continue to guide our efforts as we move forward.

There is no doubt that everyone who served during these difficult years knows the difference between service "in country," "in theatre" and as a "Vietnam-era" veteran. More importantly, each of these patriots knows that after they raised their hand, *swearing "... to support and defend the Constitution ..."* not one of them could self-determine where they were stationed. Regardless of where they served, these warriors were all "painted with the same brush" by American citizens who could not separate their distaste for the war from the warriors they sent to fight it. Thankfully, that mindset no longer exists in America. The bottom line ... *anyone who served during this period of time is worthy of the nation's gratitude and thanks!*



Retired Army Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, director of the Vietnam War Commemoration, presents a lapel pin to a Vietnam veteran at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, NM. (Jon Austria/The Daily Times)



Above & Beyond!



11,000+ Commemorative Partners

- Hosted **11,482** events from 2012-2017
- Inspired **millions** of Americans to thank & honor **1.8 million** Vietnam veterans & families

Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates we are *losing 506* Vietnam veterans *daily* and that by the end of 2017 only 6.6 million will be living of the original 9 million who served during this period. Clearly, our time is limited to reach those that have not been thanked and honored, so I encourage each of you to *continue this noble pursuit!*

To order Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins and other free materials for your commemorative events, **contact us** and remember to share the number of veterans and families you reach during your events. We're here to help so call (877) 387-9951 or email whs.vnwar50th@mail.mil.

Please accept my personal thanks for your efforts and warm wishes for a joyous holiday season!

Jim Jackson, Director