Media & Public Info Kit

Contents

1. Call to Action / "Tag" Lines
2. Key Messages
3. Presidential Proclamations
4. National Vietnam War Veterans Day, 29 March
5. Important Supporting Facts
6. Background
7. Quotable Quotes (POTUS, SD, former POW)
8. Clarification of Terminology
9. TABs

1. Call to Action / Tag Line

Join the Nation … thank a Vietnam veteran!

(Additional – Commemorative Partners only):
Proud partner with The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration!

2. Key Messages

- Across the Nation, Americans continue uniting to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

- *(as of Dec 2018)* Our Commemorative Partners have helped communities publicly and individually thank **2.3 million** Vietnam veterans and their families during more than **15 thousand** ceremonies.

- *(as of Dec 2018)* More than **11 thousand** local, state and national organizations have partnered with us to assist the Nation in honoring **6.4 million** living Vietnam veterans and the **9 million** families of those who served. Visit vietnamwar50th.com to discover how you can join us in this noble mission.

3. Presidential Proclamations

2017 Proclamation: Commemoration runs through Veterans Day 2025. **(TAB A)**
2012 Proclamation: Launched Commemoration. **(TAB B)**

4. National Vietnam War Veterans Day

On March 28, 2017, the president signed into law The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-15), designating **every March 29** as **National Vietnam War Veterans Day**. **(TAB C)**

National Vietnam War Veterans Day joins six other military-centric national holidays codified in Title 4 of the United States Code §6 (i.e., Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Navy Day, Veterans Day).

March 29 was chosen to be celebrated in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day Military Assistance Command Vietnam was deactivated.

5. Important Supporting Facts

Commemoration Objectives:

The Commemoration's primary objective, as penned by Congress, is to thank and honor our Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation, with distinct recognition of former prisoners of war and families of those still listed as missing in action.

Congress also articulated four additional objectives for the Commemoration: to highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war; pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens; highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war; and recognize contributions by our Allies. **(TAB D)**

Who We Honor:

The Commemoration recognizes 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.

We make no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve and none could self-determine where they were stationed.

Inclusive Dates:

November 1, 1955 was selected to coincide with the official designation of Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam (MAAG-V); May 15, 1975 marks the end of the battle precipitated by the seizure of the SS Mayaguez.

Additional Background: U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950s, grew incrementally through the early 1960s and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965. The last U.S. personnel were evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975.

Commemorative Partners:

Commemorative Partners are local, state and national organizations, businesses, corporations and governmental agencies that have committed to conducting two commemorative events or activities annually over a 3-year period in cities and towns all across America. Our partners publicly thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families on behalf of the Nation. **(TAB E)**

Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin:

As a lasting memento of the Nation's gratitude, the Commemoration designed a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin for Commemorative Partners to publicly present to each veteran who served during the Vietnam War period.

Living United States veterans 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 location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

The symbolism attached to these lapel pins is significant. The **Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Fact Sheet** explains each of the incorporated elements. **(TAB F)**

Certificate of Honor Program:

The Commemoration created a Certificate of Honor Program to recognize four distinct subcategories of Vietnam veterans and their families: (1) former, living American military POWs from the Vietnam War as listed by the Department of

Defense; (2) immediate family members of American military personnel listed as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War by the Department of Defense; (3) immediate family members of a veteran who is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington,, D.C.; and (4) surviving spouses (at the time of death) of veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location.

The **Certificate of Honor Fact Sheet** provides program details and explains how Commemorative Partners can secure certificates and accompanying lapel pins for presentation to eligible recipients. **(TAB G)**

Vietnam Veteran Oral Histories:

The Commemoration is collecting oral history interviews on video of Vietnam veterans and their families. As we interview Vietnam veterans, we are able to leverage their vast network of fellow veterans to interview and capture a wide breadth of experiences – all Services, ranks, specialties and viewpoints – that reflect personal thoughts and opinions about all aspects of the war. Eventually, this collection of interviews will be shared, unedited, with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. In the future, we plan to make these interviews available on the Commemoration website.

Pentagon Vietnam War Exhibit (3rd Floor, A-Ring, corridors 3-2):

In collaboration with the OSD Historical Office, OSD Graphics and the Services' History Offices, the Commemoration developed and established a museum-quality exhibit in the Pentagon. The Society for History in the Federal Government recognized this exhibit with its **2017 John Wesley Powell Prize for outstanding achievement** in the field of historic exhibits and interpretive products.

The Vietnam War Exhibit showcases the following:

a. Timeline of significant events (September 1945-April 1975).
b. Thematic representation of service member duties and military operations.
c. Test panel from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, along with samples of the 400 thousand items left at "The Wall" throughout the past 3 decades by 4 million annual visitors.

d. Crew cabs of two Huey Helicopters representing a MEDEVAC and "Slick."
e. Interactive map of the Republic of Vietnam.
f. Searchable video index of Medal of Honor recipients of the Vietnam War.
g. Large four-panel video screen depicting the "daily life" of service members.
h. "TV '68" monitor depicting videos, news broadcasts, commercials that were seen by the home front in 1968.

This exhibit can be toured by the public as part of the larger Pentagon Tours program. For reservations, please visit https://pentagontours.osd.mil/Tours/.

Legacy Products:

Eight different **multi-poster series** are freely available for download and use, as well as **Service-specific "patch" posters**. Also, a **Teachers' Toolkit** provides comprehensive assistance for the classroom when discussing this Commemoration.

Commemoration Leadership:

Mr. **Sajeel Ahmed**, acting Director of Administration in the Office of the Deputy Chief Management Officer, and acting Director of Washington Headquarters Services, is the Executive Agent for The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.

Retired Army Major General **James (Jim) T. Jackson** is the director of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, and as such leads day-to- day operations. **(TAB H)**

6. Commemoration Background

- In 2007, the 110th Congress incorporated language in H.R. 4986 authorizing the secretary of defense to conduct a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.
- H.R. 4986 was signed into law as the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 by President George W. Bush on January 28, 2008.

- Section 598 (**Public Law 110-181**) of the 2008 NDAA specifically addresses Commemoration activities. **(TAB I)**
- According to the **Department of Veterans Affairs**, 9 million Americans served during the Vietnam War period and approximately 6.4 million are living as of January 2019.
- An inaugural ceremony was held at The Vietnam Veterans Memorial ("The Wall") in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012.

7. 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 44th U.S. 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."

From Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan's comments regarding the first anniversary of National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29, 2018:

"Today is an opportunity to honor all Vietnam veterans who served, and to recognize the families that stood alongside them."

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."

From former Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter's comments at the December 20, 2017 Pentagon Vietnam War Exhibition Ribbon Cutting:

"… these exhibits have also sought to ensure we continue to remember the lessons our military has learned along the way - many hard-won, some difficult to swallow … And of course, our fine and faithful tour guides will help walk - literally and figuratively - some 100,000 visitors through it each year … And they'll be reminded of the lessons we learned along the way … lessons on how our country must treat our warriors and our veterans, and the shame of how returning Vietnam veterans were treated - lessons that should continue, must continue to guide us in our work."

Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Clarence R. "Dick" Anderegg's (Vietnam veteran; retired Director of Air Force History and Museums Policies and Programs, Headquarters Air Force; and Vietnam War Commemoration Federal Advisory Committee member) **observations during a March 2017 tour of the exhibit:**

"As Air Force Historian, I spent many years seeing historical displays around the world. This is simply the best I've ever seen."

8. Clarification of Terminology

A) "Vietnam War period" or "period of the Vietnam War" vs "Vietnam era"

- The phrase "Vietnam War period" is used to define the Commemoration's inclusive dates as our nation recognizes 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. No distinction is made between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. November 1, 1955 was selected to coincide with the official designation of Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam (MAAG-V); May 15, 1975 marks the end of the last official battle of the Vietnam War, which was precipitated by the seizure of the SS Mayaguez.

- We do NOT use "Vietnam era" in recognition of U.S. law (38 USC § 101, Definitions, line 29), which for purposes of benefits defines the "Vietnam era" as being (a) February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period) or (b) August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975 (for veterans who served outside the Republic of Vietnam during that period).

B) "Vietnam veteran" vs "Vietnam-era veteran"

- In association with (A) above, the Commemoration uses the term "Vietnam veteran" to describe those 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.

- We do NOT use the phrase "Vietnam-era veteran."

C) "Congressionally authorized" vs "congressionally mandated"

- The Commemoration appropriately uses "congressionally authorized" as § 598 (Public Law 110-181) of the 2008 NDAA specifically addresses Commemoration activities and states "(a) COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War."

- We do NOT use "congressionally mandated" when referring to the establishment of the Commemoration.

D) "Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin" or "lapel pin" vs "pin"

- The Commemoration uses the full term "Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin" or its shortened moniker "lapel pin" to help listeners and/or readers understand the weight of importance and symbolism represented in each element of this "lasting memento of the nation's thanks" presented to all Vietnam veterans.

- We AVOID the use of the simpler term "pin" when referring to the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin.

E) "Official Seal" vs "Commemorative Partner Seal" vs "Logo"

- The Commemoration has two seals that are protected by law: one is our official seal, which is authorized for use only by the Commemoration on official material (e.g., website, printed material). The Commemorative Partner (CP) Seal is similar to, yet distinctively different from, the official seal and contains a banner under the seal that reads "COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER."

- Our partners are authorized to use the CP Seal; they are NOT authorized to use our official seal.

- We do NOT use the term "logo."

TAB A

COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Today, I lead our Nation in somber reflection as we continue the 13-year Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War that began in 2012. We salute our brave Vietnam veterans who, in service to our Nation and in defense of liberty, fought gallantly against the spread of communism and defended the freedom of the Vietnamese people.

Fifty years ago, in 1967, nearly 500,000 American troops served in South Vietnam, along with approximately 850,000 troops of our allies. Today, during Veterans and Military Families Month and as the Federal Government observes Veterans Day, I am in Vietnam alongside business and political leaders to advance the interests of America, and to promote peace and stability in this region and around the world. I cherish this opportunity to recall, with humility, the sacrifices our veterans made for our freedom and our Nation's strength.

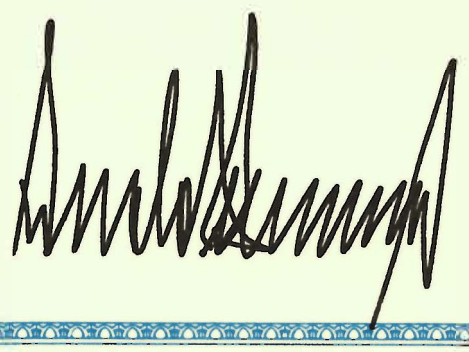
During this Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, we embrace our responsibility to help our Vietnam veterans and their families heal from the heavy toll of war. We remember the more than 58,000 whose names are memorialized on a black granite wall in our Nation's capital for having borne the heaviest cost of war. We also pay tribute to the brave patriots who suffered as prisoners of war, and we stand steadfast in our commitment not to rest until we account for the 1,253 heroes who have not yet returned to American soil.

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.

We applaud the thousands of local, State, and national organizations, businesses, and governmental entities that have already partnered with the Federal Government in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Because of their remarkable leadership and dedication, countless Vietnam veterans and their families have been personally and publicly thanked and honored in ceremonies in towns and cities throughout our country. During my Administration, I promise to continue coordinated efforts to recognize all veterans of the Vietnam War for their service and sacrifice, and to provide them with the heartfelt acknowledgement and gratitude that they and their families so richly deserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby confirm the commitment of this Nation to the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, which began on Memorial Day, 2012 and will continue through Veterans Day, 2025. I call upon all Americans to offer each of our Vietnam veterans and their families a thank you on behalf of the Nation, both privately and during public ceremonies and programs across our country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.



TAB B

COMMEMORATION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

As we observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we reflect with solemn reverence upon the valor of a generation that served with honor. We pay tribute to the more than 3 million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved. From Ia Drang to Khe Sanh, from Hue to Saigon and countless villages in between, they pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans. Through more than a decade of combat, over air, land, and sea, these proud Americans upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces.

As a grateful Nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots—their names etched in black granite—who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know. We draw inspiration from the heroes who suffered unspeakably as prisoners of war, yet who returned home with their heads held high. We pledge to keep faith with those who were wounded and still carry the scars of war, seen and unseen. With more than 1,600 of our service members still among the missing, we pledge as a Nation to do everything in our power to bring these patriots home. In the reflection of The Wall, we see the military family members and veterans who carry a pain that may never fade. May they find peace in knowing their loved ones endure, not only in medals and memories, but in the hearts of all Americans, who are forever grateful for their service, valor, and sacrifice.

In recognition of a chapter in our Nation's history that must never be forgotten, let us renew our sacred commitment to those who answered our country's call in Vietnam and those who awaited their safe return. Beginning on Memorial Day 2012, the Federal Government will partner with local governments, private organizations, and communities across America to participate in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War—a 13-year program to honor and give thanks to a generation of proud Americans who saw our country through one of the most challenging missions we have ever faced. While no words will ever be fully worthy of their service, nor any honor truly befitting their sacrifice, let us remember that it is never too late to pay tribute to the men and women who answered the call of duty with courage and valor. Let us renew our commitment to the fullest possible accounting for those who have not returned.

Throughout this Commemoration, let us strive to live up to their example by showing our Vietnam veterans, their families, and all who have served the fullest respect and support of a grateful Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 28, 2012, through November 11, 2025, as the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families, and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

TAB C

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

On March 28, 2017, President Donald J. Trump, signed into law The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating **every March 29** as ***National Vietnam War Veterans Day***.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day joins six other military-centric national holidays codified in Title 4 of the United States Code §6 (i.e., Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Navy Day, Veterans Day).

March 29 was chosen to be celebrated in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day Military Assistance Command Vietnam was deactivated.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration honors all United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from ***November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975***, regardless of location.

November 1, 1955 was selected to coincide with the official designation of Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam (MAAG-V); ***May 15, 1975*** marks the end of the battle precipitated by the seizure of the SS Mayaguez.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that today there are ***6.4 million living Vietnam veterans and 9 million families of those who served*** during this time frame. We make no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve and none could self-determine where they would serve.

Additional Background: U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950s, grew incrementally through the early 1960s and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965. The last U.S. personnel were evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975.

This national commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by the President to thank and honor our Nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY (cont)

In 2007, the 110th Congress incorporated language in House of Representatives (H.R.) 4986 authorizing the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

H.R. 4986 was signed into law as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2008 by President George W. Bush on January 28, 2008.

44th U.S. President Barack Obama officially inaugurated this Commemoration at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012.

Section 598 (Public Law 110-181) of the 2008 NDAA specifically addresses Commemoration activities.

Congress outlined a total of five objectives for this U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration, with the primary objective being to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation, with distinct recognition of former prisoners of war and families of those still listed as missing in action. The four remaining objectives highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war; pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens; highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war; and recognize contributions by our Allies.

By Presidential Proclamation, The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration will continue through Veterans Day, November 11, 2025.

S. 305

One Hundred Fifteenth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday, the third day of January, two thousand and seventeen

An Act

To amend title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. DISPLAY OF FLAG ON NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY.

Section 6(d) of title 4, United States Code, is amended by inserting "National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29;" after "third Monday in February;".

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

TAB D

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Join the Nation … Thank a Vietnam Veteran!

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181 § 598) empowers the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program on behalf of the nation that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. This law also authorizes the Secretary to coordinate, support and facilitate federal, state and local government commemorative programs and activities. To that end, "The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration" was formed.

By presidential proclamation on May 25, 2012, the Commemoration extends from Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025. Congress articulated five objectives for this Commemoration:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war, or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 9 million Americans served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of the Vietnam War; approximately 7 million are living today. To reach these large numbers, the Commemoration has enlisted the assistance of many thousands of Commemorative Partner organizations at the local, state and national levels to conduct hometown- centric events and activities that thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families in their local communities.

Join the nation, become a Commemorative Partner and thank a Vietnam veteran today! Apply online at www.vietnamwar50th.com, where visitors can find more information and enjoy photos, videos and compelling Commemoration stories.

Published: August 2016

TAB E

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Commemorative Partner Program

The Commemorative Partner Program is an organizationally based, hometown-centric, veteran-focused program designed for federal, state and local organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families where they live and work. It is the primary vehicle by which our nation thanks and honors our Vietnam veterans and their families. Commemorative Partners participate by planning and conducting events or activities that recognize Vietnam veterans and their families' service and sacrifice. Commemorative Partners must commit to conducting two events or activities each year for a three-year period.

Commemorative events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war, the losses suffered by many and the sacrifices of all who served. Events or activities should meet one or more of the congressionally articulated objectives (below) of the program, and as a minimum, with an emphasis on the first:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

It costs nothing to become a Commemorative Partner. Organizations simply submit a completed application and Statement of Understanding (SOU). To obtain an application, organizations can visit www.vietnamwar50th.com, then click on the Commemorative Partner Program tab for further information on how to apply. Once a completed application and SOU are submitted, the approval process should take no longer than 30 days. Partners are kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved, organizations will receive a starter kit consisting of a Commemoration flag, Commemorative Partner certificate, and other materials. Additionally, they will have authorization to use The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner seal for approved purposes and access to the Commemorative Partner Portal to order additional materials for events.

- For questions regarding the application process: whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil
- For online application forms:
  www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners/online_application_forms
- To download printer-friendly application forms:
  www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners/application_forms

TAB F

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

"A Lasting Memento of the Nation's Thanks!"

Front

Back

Purpose: To recognize, thank and honor United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

Eligibility: Living United States veterans 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 location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

Presentation: These lapel pins will be presented in a dignified manner to each Vietnam veteran during public events held in their communities by Commemorative Partners. Accompanying remarks should reflect the nation's thanks for their service and sacrifice. In the rare instance when an honoree cannot attend a public event, the pin may be presented during a private ceremony.

Symbolism:

- **Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned with distinction on numerous military insignia.
- **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.
- **Laurel Wreath** – A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.
- **Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.
- **Stars** - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.
- **Message** - "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. Also, the official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative, and this lapel pin is the nation's lasting memento of thanks.

Published: August 2016

TAB G

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Certificate of Honor Program

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration established the Commemorative Partner Program, an organizationally-based, hometown-centric initiative to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring Vietnam veterans and their families where they live. As part of the Commemorative Partner Program, Certificates of Honor have been designed to honor and give special recognition to four categories of veterans and their families.

Certificates of Honor are available for our Commemorative Partners to present along with accompanying lapel pins for the following groups:

Former, Living American Military POW

The Former POW certificate and lapel pin are for former, living American military POWs from the Vietnam War as listed by the Department of Defense. If the former POW is deceased, the lapel pin may be presented to the surviving spouse.

Unaccounted For

The Unaccounted For certificate and lapel pin are for the immediate family members (parents, spouse, siblings and children) of American military personnel listed as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War by the Department of Defense.

In Memory Of

The In Memory Of certificate and lapel pin are for the immediate family members (parents, spouse, siblings and children) of a veteran who is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse

The Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse certificate and lapel pin are for the surviving spouse at the time of death of a veteran who served in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location.

Certificates are requested through Commemorative Partners on the Commemorative Partner Portal on the website listed below. For further questions, email whs.vnwar50th_cpp_coh@mail.mil or call 877-387-9951.

Published: September 2016

www.vietnamwar50th.com

TAB H

Major General James T. Jackson
U.S. Army (Retired)
Director, The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Major General James T. Jackson, U.S. Army (Retired), serves as the Director of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. This national effort was instituted by the U.S. Government under the auspices of the Department of Defense to do what should have been done 50 years ago: thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

MG Jackson initially joined the Commemoration staff in 2012 as a senior advisor. In this capacity, the General helped develop partnerships with federal, state and local communities, veterans' groups and other nongovernmental organizations. Today, over 11,000 Commemorative Partners across the country are committed to assisting the nation in recognizing our 6.4 million living Vietnam veterans and the 9 million families of those who served from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975.

MG Jackson's military career began in 1971, as an Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) graduate from Kent State University. Serving in the Army for 32 years, his assignments took him around the world, including postings with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington; the Republic of Korea; and as an Army ROTC instructor at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. MG Jackson also commanded a wide variety of U.S. Army units, including the 1st Battalion 505th Parachute Infantry at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the 3rd Ranger Battalion and 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia; and the U.S. Army's Military District of Washington.

Upon retirement from the U.S. Army, MG Jackson worked as a senior executive in the public sector for two different companies and participated in a three-month deployment in Iraq to support the Coalition Provisional Authority. After serving for eight years, he retired from the public sector.

TAB I

Defense Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 1989).

(c) COVERED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "covered member of the Armed Forces" includes the following:

(1) Any member of a regular component of the Armed Forces who has served in Iraq or Afghanistan since October 2001.

(2) Any member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan since October 2001.

SEC. 598. PROGRAM TO COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR. 10 USC 113 note.

(a) COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. In conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War.

(b) SCHEDULE.—The Secretary of Defense shall determine the schedule of major events and priority of efforts for the commemorative program in order to ensure achievement of the objectives specified in subsection (c).

(c) COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES.—The commemorative program may include activities and ceremonies to achieve the following objectives:

(1) To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

(2) To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.

(3) To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

(4) To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

(5) To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

(d) NAMES AND SYMBOLS.—The Secretary of Defense shall have the sole and exclusive right to use the name "The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration", and such seal, emblems, and badges incorporating such name as the Secretary may lawfully adopt. Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede rights that are established or vested before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) COMMEMORATIVE FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.—If the Secretary establishes the commemorative program under subsection (a), the Secretary the Treasury shall establish in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the "Department

of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration Fund" (in this section referred to as the "Fund"). The Fund shall be administered by the Secretary of Defense.

Regulations.

(2) USE OF FUND.—The Secretary shall use the assets of the Fund only for the purpose of conducting the commemorative program and shall prescribe such regulations regarding the use of the Fund as the Secretary considers to be necessary.

(3) DEPOSITS.—There shall be deposited into the Fund—

(A) amounts appropriated to the Fund;

(B) proceeds derived from the Secretary's use of the exclusive rights described in subsection (d);

(C) donations made in support of the commemorative program by private and corporate donors; and

(D) funds transferred to the Fund by the Secretary from funds appropriated for fiscal year 2008 and subsequent years for the Department of Defense.

(4) AVAILABILITY.—Subject to subsection (g)(2), amounts deposited under paragraph (3) shall constitute the assets of the Fund and remain available until expended.

(5) BUDGET REQUEST.—The Secretary of Defense may establish a separate budget line for the commemorative program. In the budget justification materials submitted by the Secretary in support of the budget of the President for any fiscal year for which the Secretary establishes the separate budget line, the Secretary shall—

(A) identify and explain any amounts expended for the commemorative program in the fiscal year preceding the budget request;

(B) identify and explain the amounts being requested to support the commemorative program for the fiscal year of the budget request; and

(C) present a summary of the fiscal status of the Fund.

(f) ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense may accept from any person voluntary services to be provided in furtherance of the commemorative program. The Secretary of Defense shall prohibit the solicitation of any voluntary services if the nature or circumstances of such solicitation would compromise the integrity or the appearance of integrity of any program of the Department of Defense or of any individual involved in the program.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT OF INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.—The Secretary may provide for reimbursement of incidental expenses incurred by a person providing voluntary services under this subsection. The Secretary shall determine which expenses are eligible for reimbursement under this paragraph.

(g) FINAL REPORT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the end of the commemorative program, if established by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing an accounting of—

(A) all of the funds deposited into and expended from the Fund;

(B) any other funds expended under this section; and

(C) any unobligated funds remaining in the Fund.

(2) TREATMENT OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Unobligated amounts remaining in the Fund as of the end of the commemorative period specified in subsection (b) shall be held in the Fund until transferred by law.

(h) LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.—Total expenditures from the Fund, using amounts appropriated to the Department of Defense, may not exceed $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 or for any subsequent fiscal year to carry out the commemorative program.

(i) FUNDING.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 301(5) for Defense-wide activities, $1,000,000 shall be available for deposit in the Fund for fiscal year 2008 if the Fund is established under subsection (e).