



# The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

FOURTH QUARTER 2010 (OCTOBER-DECEMBER)  
COMMEMORATION NEWSLETTER

## PROGRAM 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.

## Vietnam War Commemoration

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorizes the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the anniversary of the Vietnam War. Specifically, "while 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."

## Latest Activities

We are hosting a meeting with over 200 Museums, Educational Institutions, and Presidential Libraries in Washington to discuss the program and commemorative opportunities. If you know of a Vietnam related museum or educational institution which should attend please let us know.

The meeting will be held at 9:00am on 20 October at the National Headquarters of the Red Cross. We thank the Red Cross for being so generous and allowing us to have two of our working group meetings at their fantastic facility.

## Vietnam War Commemoration Web Site is active!

The [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com) website is now live. The current version is a temporary placeholder that provides basic background information about the Commemoration and links to other related organizations. We are continuing development of the fully interactive website and anticipate a launch in February 2011. If you know of any related organization that would like to have their link added to our website, please have them send their URL, a brief description of their organization, and a logo image (if possible) to our office email address ([vnwar50th@wso.whs.mil](mailto:vnwar50th@wso.whs.mil)).

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**Soldiers of the U.S. Army 2/502 Strikers return from a Search and Destroy Mission in the Highlands of Vietnam in 1966.**  
Photo: DB Williams



## Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was initially conceived with one overriding purpose -- to bring long overdue honor and recognition to the men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in Vietnam. Because so many veterans met with ridicule and contempt upon returning home, it was hoped that the Memorial would be a place where that injustice could at long last be rectified. And, in great measure, it has been. Healings, restorations and reunions have all occurred there. The Wall has long spoken a silent but eloquent message for those who participated in the war as well as for all those whose lives were impacted by it. Today, the Memorial has transcended its role as a national symbol of reconciliation and stands as a living history lesson. The Memorial is unique in its ability to inspire exploration and reflection about this critical time in our nation's past, with a wiser eye toward the future. The more than 80,000 items that have been left at The Wall by visitors since its dedication in 1982 also offer a compelling picture of the Memorial's impact on society.

As the founders of The Wall, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund works to preserve the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to promote healing and to educate about the impact of the Vietnam War.

**WEB SITE:** <http://www.vvmf.org>



**The Battleship USS New Jersey during the Vietnam War, Public domain photo from [history.navy.mil](http://history.navy.mil)**

## Vietnam Veterans' Organizations



### VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code

**VVA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE** *"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."*

**GOALS** VVA's goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans.

**ORGANIZATION** Over 50,000 individual members, 46 state councils and 630 local chapters

**WEB SITE:** <http://www.vva.org>