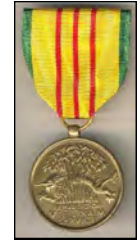




# The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration



THIRD QUARTER 1 JULY 2011  
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.



## Retired Army Lieutenant General Claude M. "Mick" Kicklighter to oversee the DoD Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration Program

The Department of Defense announced on 5 July 2011 that Retired Army Lieutenant General Claude M. "Mick" Kicklighter will serve as Director, DoD Commemorations to oversee the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration Program. He served 35 years in the U.S. Army and retired in 1991 as a lieutenant general. LTG Kicklighter had two tours of duty in Vietnam: from Feb 66– Feb 67 with the 1st Logistical Command; from Aug 70– Aug 71 as Assistant Chief of Staff (G-4) for the 101st Airborne Division. He has commanded at all levels through Division Command, he served as the Commander, US Army Pacific; Commander, 25th Infantry Division; and the Commander of the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command. He also served as the Director of the Army Staff. General Kicklighter's military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star Medal. Since retiring from active military service, LTG Kicklighter has continued to serve the Nation in a number of senior positions with the Departments of Defense, State, and Veteran Affairs. He has received the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Eisenhower Liberation Medal, Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, and a two-time recipient of the DoD Medal for Distinguished Public Service. Most recently, he served as the Director of the Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security at George Mason University. Importantly, General Kicklighter served as the Executive Director of the United States of America 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee. During the 1991- 1995 commemoration period, the committee planned and hosted events that honored the veterans, their families, and those who served on the home front; and the committee encouraged the study of the history of this period. Further, General Kicklighter provided oversight for the writing of the plan for the Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War.

### *U.S. Vietnam War Commemoration*

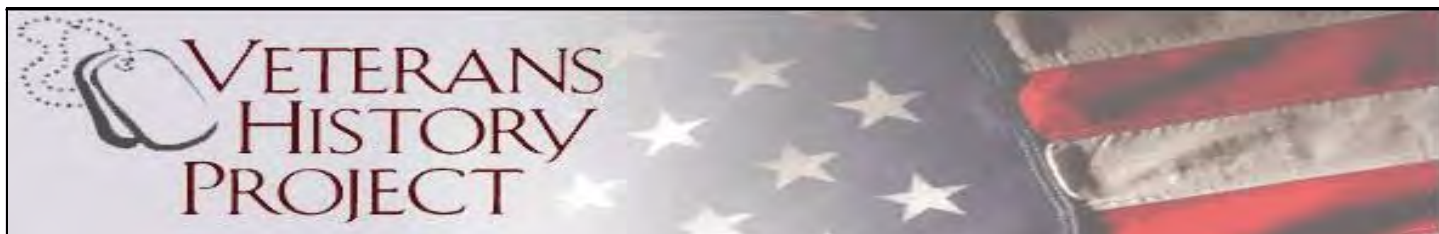
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## MUSEUM, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ARCHIVES AND PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES WORKING GROUP and AUTHORS/HISTORIANS MEETING CO-HOSTED BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Two meetings were held; the first was with over 75 Museums, Educational Institutions and Presidential libraries on 26 May at the Navy Memorial. A discussion was held on how these institutions can partner with us on commemorative events and activities. A second meeting was co-hosted by the Library of Congress with over 60 Authors and Historians who have contributed to writing about the Vietnam War, many of the attendees were Vietnam Veterans.



*Stories can be told through...*

A collage of various historical materials including a portrait of a man in a military cap, a map, a photograph of three women, a drawing of a soldier, a handwritten letter, and a postcard.

**Personal Narratives**  
audio and video-taped interviews, written memoirs

**Correspondence**  
letters, postcards, v-mail personal diaries

**Visual materials**  
photographs, drawings, scrapbooks

**The Project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from the following wars:**

World War I (1914-1920)

World War II (1939-1946)

Korean War (1950-1955)

**Vietnam War (1961-1975)**

Persian Gulf War (1990-1995)

Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the

realities of war. In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories. The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000. The authorizing legislation (Public Law 106-380), sponsored by Representatives Ron Kind, Amo Houghton, and Steny Hoyer in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senators Max Cleland and Chuck Hagel in the U.S. Senate, received unanimous support and was signed into law by President William Jefferson Clinton on October 27, 2000. For More Information go to their website: <http://www.loc.gov/vets>

**Web Site Launched** The new commemoration web site was launched on May 2, 2011. The site now offers more program and historical information. Visitors can view the Interactive Timeline, the Photo and Video Galleries, Commemoration Newsletters, Event Calendar, relevant Links section, and the beginnings of the Education Program. Additional sections will be released as the program progresses, including the Commemorative Partner Program application process and partner portals, and the online donation functionality. We encourage everyone to visit the web site and sign up to receive the quarterly newsletters and special notification emails. **Photos and Video Requests** :The Commemoration is also requesting Vietnam War related photo and video contributions to be added to the web site Galleries. Please share your memories with other veterans and visitors. If you have photos or videos to share, please include the name of the person or organization to be credited for the contribution, and any captions or details about the picture or video if possible. Send all digital files via email to [mktg\\_vnwar50th@wso.whs.mil](mailto:mktg_vnwar50th@wso.whs.mil) or discs to our mailing address.

# Partner Veterans Organizations

## VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS



### **MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART**

Chartered by Act of Congress For Combat Wounded Veterans in 1958, The Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. Although our membership is restricted to the combat wounded, we support all veterans and their families with a myriad of nation-wide programs by Chapters and National Service Officers.

For more information go to their website : <http://www.purpleheart.org>



### **VETERANS WRITING PROJECT**

VWP is a series of seminars and workshops. At each seminar we present an element of craft like structure, dialogue or point of view. Participants also submit their writing to the groups for review and comment by all members of the workshop. Our seminar leaders are veterans or family members who are also successful writers. There are also writers and teachers who work in memoir, history, journalism, fiction, poetry, playwriting and screen writing who support us, so whatever form our participants want to write, we can help.

For more information go to their website: <http://veteranswriting.org>



### **101st Airborne Association**

The Association was created by Screaming Eagle veterans for Screaming Eagle veterans over sixty years ago. It now is approaching 10,000 members. All those who have worn the most recognized division insignia in the world are welcome and encouraged to join the Association, regardless of where or when you served. The Association mission: To maintain the camaraderie and preserve the memory of those who served; perpetuating the SCREAMING EAGLE heritage and traditions for future generations; while supporting our veterans and the current Eagles as the 101st Airborne Division continues its [Rendezvous with Destiny](#). The Association has annual reunions rotated throughout different parts of the country as well as annual Week of the Eagle participation at Ft Campbell. These activities provide great opportunities to meet with old friends and to make new ones. They also provide opportunities for unit reunions, which the Association wholeheartedly supports. If you are planning a unit reunion, consider having it in conjunction with an Association event, as many units are doing now.

For more information go to their website: <http://www.screamingeagle.org>

### **UPCOMING NATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

6– 9 Aug	Disabled American Veterans (New Orleans, LA)
17-20 Aug	Vietnam Veterans of America (Reno, NV)
16-21 Aug	101st Airborne Division Association (Lexington, KY)
27 Aug–1 Sep	American Legion (Minneapolis, MN)
27 Aug–1 Sep	Veterans of Foreign Wars



## Every Day Is POW-MIA Recognition for Families

By Thom Wilborn (Reprinted from DAV Magazine by permission of the author)



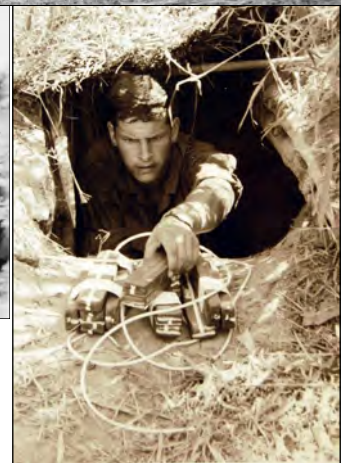
*Deanna Klenda holds her brother Dean's portrait, decorations and his folded American flag.*

The taxi parks in the darkness near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Deanna Klenda steps out carrying a bouquet of wheat and a personal note to her brother Dean. She begins what she describes as the long walk to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. There on the second panel is the name: Maj. Dean A. Klenda. It's a journey she has made every year for 23 years. Tears flow as Deanna tells her story of the special day of remembrance for her missing brother, even though she thinks of him daily. She places the bouquet of wheat from their family farm in Marion, Kan., at the base of the panel inscribed with Dean's name. "That is where I really have contact with him," she said. "The neat part of it is while I stand there quietly, there is always someone, no matter what time of night, who comes over to put an arm around me and ask if I need a hug. One time a little girl came over and said, 'Lady, do you need a hug?' It really tore my heart out." Maj. Klenda was the pilot of an F-105 Thunderchief shot down over then North Vietnam on Sept. 17, 1965. He was last seen ejecting from his aircraft. Nothing of him has been found despite three excavations near the crash site. Jo Anne Shirley of Dalton, Ga., remembers her brother, Maj. Bobby M. Jones, most on his birthday. "It's his day," she said. "But I remember him every day." Jones, a flight surgeon, was aboard an F-4 Phantom that disappeared from radar as it approached Da Nang Air Base in Vietnam on Nov. 28, 1972. He is still missing. "My biggest motivation is that someday my brother and I will meet face-to-face again. I want him to know I did all I could for him. I want him to be proud of me." National League of POW/MIA Families Executive Director Ann Mills Griffiths remembers her brother U.S. Navy Reserve Lt. Cdr. Jim Mills, on special occasions like Memorial Day, Veterans Day, POW/MIA Recognition Day, and his birthday. "Those are the kind of days that you automatically think about him and what if he was here," she said. "I can't afford to think about him all the time," said Griffiths. "My interest is for everybody else. If I focused on my brother it would affect the accountability of everyone else." Lt. Cdr. Mills disappeared in an F-4 Phantom while on a night low-level bombing mission on Sept. 21, 1966. For over 40 years, there's been no word on what happened to him. Dean Klenda, Bobby Jones and Jim Mills are among the 1,802 missing from the Vietnam War. Their sisters are among the thousands of siblings, parents and children who yearn for closure to the loss of their loved ones. For some, closure has come. For others, members of the Department of Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) will continue the search. This was true for Terri Knudsen, whose uncle, Walter S. "Daisy" Knudsen, was lost during World War II, but his remains were recovered 60 years later. "He was never forgotten by the family," she said. "He was a huge void in our lives. His birthday was the day we remembered him more than any other." "The pain and abandonment the MIA families feel cannot be easily healed," said National Adjutant Arthur H. Wilson. "They live each day with hope that diminishes little by little over decades. They hope and dream, and in some cases the remains of their loved ones are found. But it is the families of those who are never found that will continue to suffer." On Sept. 15, the nation will commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day in honor of the thousands of Americans who were prisoners of war or who remain missing. For the families of those missing it is an important day in which the service and sacrifices of POWs and MIAs are acknowledged and remembered. But each family has a personal day—a day in which their loved ones are remembered in a special way. "While Memorial Day and Veterans Day honor all of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, this observance specifically honors those Americans who were or who are prisoners of war or missing in action," said Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of DPMO Robert J. Newberry. "I believe it also helps remind our nation about those who remain missing and helps ensure that they are not forgotten." "These families watched one day as their loved one left and never returned," said DAV Interim POW/MIA Committee Chairman William B. Taylor. "They think about their loss constantly. It's a great void inside which you cannot fill."

Deanna lives only 30 yards from a creek where she and her brother used to fish. "He left his legacy around the farm," she said. "I still have a void in my life." After her brother disappeared, Deanna volunteered at the Oak-

land, Calif., Naval Hospital. “That helped me fill the void of Dean’s loss for many years,” she said. She also became a flight attendant for World Airways, which took millions of American service members to Vietnam, and then home again. “I always wondered ‘what if he showed up and got on my plane?’” she said. “When I was flying over Vietnam, I thought, ‘He’s down there somewhere.’” The members of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) will return to Vietnam to scour the “somewhere” for Maj. Klenda’s remains. “They have new evidence,” she said. “He stays alive because there are people looking for him. Every year my hopes go up again. If they bring even a piece of bone home that would be enough because we would know he would be home. It would bring closure. I’d have him very near to me.” JPAC teams will also be searching for Maj. Jones. “I haven’t abandoned hope, but I’m realistic,” said Shirley. “I think our goal is to account for Bobby. I have seen many miracles in the 34 years we’ve been involved with this. I won’t rule out that I will never get an answer, but I have become very realistic about what the chances are.” Bobby Jones was two years older than his sister Jo Anne. “We were very close,” she said. “At first you think they will find him. That didn’t happen. In my opinion, he’s still serving.” “I feel we have an obligation to bring them all home,” she said. “Having a MIA in a family gives you an appreciation of the sacrifices being made today for our freedom. It’s what makes us free.” “I say every day is POW-MIA Day for me!” she said.

**PHOTOS RECENTLY FOUND AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES BY OUR RESEARCHERS**



**Captions From L to R:**

**Photographer SGT C.H. Gardner**—”Da Nang Harbor... Crewmen fight to keep their balance and stay aboard the destroyer USS Turner Joy.”

**Photographer SP/4 Jeff Hinman**—”Hornet choppers from the 116th Assault Helicopter Company set down to pick up the Bravo Company Warriors of the 25th Divisions 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry who are ready for a lift back to Fire Support Base Pershing.”

**Photographer SGT Bill Oberholzer**—Regional Forces troops and 25th Division GIs from the 4th Battalion (Mechanized), 23rd Infantry worked together to eliminate 88 North Vietnamese Army Soldiers in a day long battle north of Go Dau Ha.

**Photographer PFC Ray Byrne**—A dozen sticks of C-4 explosive were determined by 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Staff Sergeant William Riley, to be required to demolish this well constructed enemy bunker found by the 25th Division’s

**Photographer SP/4 Phil Jackson**—”First Lieutenant Sue Cramer, who was an Army Nurse sings to men of Charlie Company 2d Wolfhounds, 25th Infantry Division, at Patrol Base Kotre.”

**Poetry excerpts from:**

“Who Knew?... Reflections on Vietnam” by: J. Holley Watts

**Who Knew...**

you'd earn the Silver Star  
trading your life for a man you couldn't save and a medal you'd never see.

The men said you were their hero because your life was enlightening,  
your sense of humor wicked and your dedication unwavering.

They were so proud of you and as far as they were concerned  
it should have been the Medal of Honor.

With all their hearts they love you still  
but even that can't bring you back.

—dedicated to Harry “Doc” Bowman and the men with him. 1st Marine Division, 3/5, Mike Company

**Thua Thien Province at Hai Van Pass**

**Who Knew...**

How brutal they were in battle.

The Marines said they wanted only them by their side when it was really bad  
...and this was really bad.

Our visit to the hospital was more difficult because there were so many wounded.

The lights were turned down low and their beds were closer together than usual  
to accommodate their numbers on the wards.

All we could do was move carefully between them,  
squeeze a hand or touch the arm of those  
conscious enough to know we were there.

We said, *Thank You* over and over.

Those who could nodded in return.

I wanted to say more,  
to tell them how much we appreciated their sacrifice, how grateful we were  
...but I didn't speak Korean

—dedicated to the ROKs (Republic of Korea Marines)

**DaNang, 1967**