



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
**VIETNAM WAR
COMMEMORATION**



QUOTABLE QUOTES

From 45th U.S. 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."



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QUOTABLE QUOTES (cont)

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 the Honorable 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."