



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



## QUOTABLE QUOTES

From President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.'s [2022 Presidential Proclamation](#):

*Every service member of the Vietnam generation should know that their sacrifices mattered and that their service made a difference. To the families, caregivers, and survivors of the more than 58,000 service members whose names are memorialized in the black granite, we pledge to never forget the eternal sacrifice of your loved ones and what you have sacrificed for the Nation. To the families of the over 1,500 service members who remain missing and unaccounted for, know that our Nation's efforts to bring them home will never stop.*

From 45th U.S. President Donald Trump's [2017 Presidential Proclamation](#):

*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 The Honorable Ashton Carter's (25th Secretary of Defense) [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 .... 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.*



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## QUOTABLE QUOTES (cont)

From **The Honorable Richard Armitage's** (Vietnam veteran, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State) **February 24, 2014** [Oral History Interview](#) (18:07-18:35)

*The former Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew one day said publicly to me that 'you and your fellow veterans should feel quite proud. You may not have accomplished your objectives in Vietnam, but you accomplished your objectives in Southeast Asia. Because the rest of us—Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore—were poised for a communist juggernaut, and you gave them the time—your sacrifice gave them the time—to develop beyond the reach of the communists.'*

**Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Michael Brazelton's** (four-time Silver Star recipient, 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 **Mr. Roger Jordheim's** (Vietnam veteran, Phoenix Program Advisor '70-'71) **October 12, 2021 email to VWC following his Oral History Interview posting:**

*The feedback I received from people I don't even know was overwhelming .... It would be an overstatement to say that you've changed my life, but I think it's fair to say that you've changed the perception of how I'm viewed by my family and friends ... for the better.*

From **Mr. Denny Whitmeyer's** (Vietnam veteran) [Spectrum News 1 interview](#) following the **October 2021 Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight** regarding his return following the Vietnam War compared to his "Welcome Home" today:

*I changed my military clothes on an airplane into civilian clothes because there was [sic] problems in the airports. Today, I must have bumped fists, shook hands with 1,000 people.*

From **Ms. Diane Carlson Evans'** (Vietnam veteran nurse, Vietnam Women's Memorial founder, author) [April 29, 2021 article in "The Reflector"](#):

*We don't heal alone and we don't survive alone.*



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From **Lt. Gen. Flem B. “Donnie” Walker’s** (Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command) [May 3, 2021 “Redstone Rocket” article](#):

*Vietnam veterans built the foundations of today’s military .... In fact, 11 of the last 13 Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were Vietnam veterans .... And I will tell you, there is not a General Officer or Command Sergeant Major in today’s Army who doesn’t point to a Vietnam-era veteran as their mentor and role model.*