



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse Lapel Pin Presentation Guidelines



Certificate and Lapel Pin Presentation

- 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.
- When presenting a Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse Certificate and Lapel Pin:
 - **Present each Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse with the accompanying certificate. (The certificate is available to be downloaded on the Commemorative Partner Portal by partner organizations)**
 - **Read the certificate once to the audience.**
 - **Shake the recipient's hand.**
 - **Ask them if they would like you to pin the lapel pin over their heart OR you may hand the lapel pin to them.**
 - **Thank them for their sacrifice and their spouse's service to our nation with the words "On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for your sacrifice and your loved one's service."**



Certificate and Lapel Pin Eligibility

- 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 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 of service.**
- If you encounter a Surviving Spouse who **does not meet the above criteria**, or who has **already received their lapel pin and certificate**, please thank them for their sacrifice and for their spouse's service but do not present them with a lapel pin and certificate.
- **Please do not present Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse Lapel Pins or certificates to other family members (parents, siblings, children, etc.) or friends of deceased veterans.** Please do thank these people for their sacrifice and for their loved one's service and present a family member button or supporter button to them.

Additional Notes

If any attendees have questions or concerns about Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse eligibility or the Vietnam War Commemoration, please provide them with a brochure and advise them to visit the Commemoration's website at www.vietnamwar50th.com or call the Commemoration's office at 877-387-9951.