

# Vietnam War Commemoration "SITREP" – 2015, Issue 14

\* Special Edition \* – Monday, November 9

## Dear Commemorative Partners,

We bring you this special edition of our SITREP to complement last week's issue, which specifically focused on ways to make your commemorative events even more *Vietnam veteran-centric*.

As promised, this SITREP contains an outline of how CPs across the nation have successfully presented the [Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin](#) to individual Vietnam veterans attending their events.

As a reminder, this lapel pin is reserved for all U.S. veterans who served on active duty from 1 November 1955 to 15 May 1975, regardless of location.



Photo by Raul Rubiera / Fayetteville Observer



One proven, effective means is to point out the *symbolism of the lapel pin* elements (see our [Fact Sheet](#)). Point to each element as say something like, “the Eagle's head represents courage, honor and service; the 6 stars ... the allies who served and sacrificed together; the stripes and blue color represent our nation's flag; and the nation's thanks is embossed on the back.” Then, affix the lapel pin to the



Photo by Raul Rubiera / Fayetteville Observer

recipient's collar and with a firm handshake, while looking directly in their eyes, say something similar to this: *“On behalf of our nation, I am privileged to present you this lasting memento of the nation's thanks. Thank you for your service and for the sacrifices you and your family made for all of*

*us.”* This type of personal presentation can occur prior to, during or even after your event. The most successful CPs incorporate this presentation as their centerpiece—even if to a limited, representative sampling of Vietnam veterans in attendance. We also ask that you offer each veteran the plastic lapel pin box, but be sure to encourage them to wear the lapel pin daily. Finally, we recommend you provide each Vietnam veteran with a copy of the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Fact Sheet. These suggestions, combined with your hometown touch, will surely provide every pinning ceremony the dignity and respect it deserves!

Sincerely, *The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff*