



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2021 – Issue 5

Friday, June 11

Dear Commemorative Partners,

As summer approaches, we celebrate several key dates in June: Flag Day, Army Heritage Month and the 246th birthday of the [United States Army!](#)

First, **June 14 is Flag Day!** It is the day the Second Continental Congress resolved to adopt *The Stars & Stripes* as our Nation’s official flag in 1777. Most know the story of American lawyer Francis Scott Key being inspired to pen the famous poem *Defence of Fort McHenry* after watching the 25-hour bombardment of the fort from the deck of a British warship, and witnessing our flag still flying over the fort as the fog and smoke cleared the morning of September 14, 1814. This poem would later be set to music, and in 1931 this composition was declared by Congress our official national anthem.



Though rarely heard, all four verses of [The Star-Spangled Banner](#) are powerful, and we encourage everyone to seek them out! All end with our flag waving “*O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*” This year, consider commemorating **Flag Day** by prominently displaying our Nation’s colors, and taking time to remember and honor those who solemnly committed their lives to “... *support and defend the Constitution of the United States,*” especially our Vietnam veterans!

Second, **June is Army Heritage Month!** For this reason, we pay tribute to the courage and sacrifices of the men and women who served and continue to serve this Nation as soldiers, especially those who served during the Vietnam War period, November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. More specifically, **June 14** is the [246th birthday of the United States Army](#): the day in 1775 that the Second Continental Congress authorized the first regular U.S. fighting force, the Continental Army.

As we think about the Army’s contribution to our Nation, several noteworthy facts about our soldiers who served during the Vietnam War period stand out:

- [174 soldiers](#) received the **Medal of Honor** for their gallantry; **34** are **living** in America and abroad today.
- Of the **58,281** names on the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial \(The Wall\)](#), **65.6%** were in the Army.
- [512 soldiers](#) are counted among the **1,584** who remain missing and **unaccounted for** from the War.
- Over **351,000 Purple Heart Medals** were awarded to Vietnam veterans; **three remarkable soldiers each received eight**: Medal of Honor Recipients 1st Lieutenant Robert Lewis Howard, Staff Sergeant Joe Ronnie Hooper, and Special Forces Soldier William “Billy” Waugh.

Finally, we invite you to watch these Army video tributes: a [short teaser](#) introducing this 11-minute [video vignette](#) featuring Army Vietnam veterans telling their iconic stories, followed by a brief [Army Birthday Salute!](#) Join with us as we celebrate the remarkable, select group of men and women who served and continue to serve in the **U.S. Army**, especially our Vietnam veterans. **HOOAH!**

~ *The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff* ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!