



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

50th

“SITREP” 2021 – Issue 8

Wednesday, September 1

Dear Commemorative Partners,

September 17 is National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Every third Friday in September, we remember the hardships endured by Americans captured during war, the loss of those still missing and unaccounted for, and the continuing grief borne by more than **81 thousand families** awaiting news of their loved ones. The [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency](#) (DPAA) reports that **1,584** of that number (1,556 military, 28 civilian) are from the **Vietnam War**.



Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen H. Hicks (second from left) helped unveil the 2021 poster for *National POW/MIA Recognition Day* at the Pentagon, July 27, 2021.
(Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Jack Sanders, DOD)

As you gather to commemorate this day, consider ordering free copies of DPAA's [2021 National POW/MIA Recognition Day poster](#) for your dignified events. This

year's poster, entitled *America's Commitment, Globally Fulfilled* (shown above) was [unveiled recently at the Pentagon](#). During the ceremony, Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen H. Hicks stated, "Working closely with partner nations, the Department of Defense is firmly committed to the fullest possible accounting for those U.S. personnel who remain missing. ... We owe nothing less to the families who continue to wait for answers about the losses of their loved ones."



Gold Star Families Memorial Monument
(photo courtesy of Woody Williams Foundation)

Another important national observation in September was established **85 years ago** when Congress resolved that the last Sunday in the month would be set aside to honor America's **Gold Star Mothers**. Ever since, it has been observed annually by presidential proclamation. In 2012, this day was expanded and renamed as *Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day*, which this year will be observed on **September 26**. In addition, earlier this year Congress instituted another Gold Star recognition day, this time for children. [Senate Resolution 328](#) designated **August 1, 2021** as *Gold Star Children's Day*, which honored the sacrifices and hardships of the children of fallen service members. The [Gold Star Families Memorial Monument](#) pictured above, which honors all Gold Star designees, has been or is in the progress of being installed in all 50 states and one U.S. territory.

We hope you will **invest time** during both of these **significant national observances** to *remember and honor the monumental sacrifices endured by these families*. Finally, we invite you to view and share with your friends and loved ones these video tributes we prepared in honor of [Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day](#) and [National POW/MIA Recognition Day](#). **Thank you!**

~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!

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