



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2023 – Issue 13

Monday, September 18

Dear Commemorative Partners,



Medal of Honor Presentation to Vietnam veteran, retired U.S. Army Captain Larry L. Taylor.

On Tuesday, September 5, President [Joseph R. Biden, Jr.](#) presented our Nation’s highest award for valor to Vietnam veteran, retired U.S. Army Captain [Larry L. Taylor](#) of Signal Mountain, Tennessee. The [Medal of Honor](#) was awarded to Taylor at [The White House](#) for his courageous and selfless actions in saving the lives of four of his comrades-in-arms on June 18, 1968. The following day, The Department of Defense inducted Taylor into the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes during a ceremony in Arlington, Virginia, with Secretary of Defense [Lloyd J. Austin III](#) proclaiming: *“May we all draw inspiration from the resolve and the courage of this American hero.”*

Our staff was also privileged to present Taylor with a [Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin](#) for his service to our country during this ceremonial week in Washington, D.C. At right, VWC Staff members Mr. Chuck Crosby and U.S. Army Lt. Col. James “Jimmy” Tom, stand alongside Taylor (far right), and his comrade—retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant James M. “Mike” Holden—displaying a local newspaper heralding Taylor.



From left to right, Mr. Chuck Crosby, U.S. Army Lt. Col. James Tom, retired U.S. Army Staff Sergeant James M. Holden, and Medal of Honor recipient, retired U.S. Army Captain Larry L. Taylor.

[Watch](#) Taylor’s citation video, [read more](#) about his incredible AH1-G Cobra attack helicopter rescue 55 years ago, and take in some of the festivities from the week, including President Biden’s [remarks](#), and [The White House](#) and [Hall of Heroes Induction](#) ceremonies.



Tankers were essential in allowing heavy fighter-bombers to reach North Vietnamese targets and return. (USAF)

Speaking of heroes in the air, today we hail the 76th anniversary of our [United States Air Force](#) (USAF), and [celebrate](#) the dedicated service of these airmen, both past and present, *especially our Vietnam veterans*.

During Vietnam, various contribution efforts by the Air Force included the use of tankers as well as missiles. You can read more about [Tankers at War](#) (at left), as well as engagement tactics used during a showdown [April 12, 1966](#) with a Soviet-built North Vietnamese MiG-21 fighter. In addition, all this month we highlight both the sacrifice and service of our USAF men and women, as we pay tribute to four fallen airmen via *This Week in History* featurettes: [Lieutenant Colonel Billie J. Williams](#), [Major Dean A. Klenda](#), [Major Robert F. Ronca](#), and [Captain Kenneth E. Walker](#); and showcase 14 Air Force Vietnam veterans’ [Oral History Interviews](#).

To all of our stalwart United States Air Force servicemembers, thank you for your service. We salute you!

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

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!