



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMÉMORATION



“SITREP” 2024 – Issue 6

Monday, May 6

Dear Commemorative Partners,

On April 29, decorated U.S. Army Ranger, Vietnam veteran and the last living Korean War Medal of Honor recipient was [laid in honor](#) at the U.S. Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C. Retired United States Army Colonel [Ralph Puckett, Jr.](#), was formally honored by our Nation’s leaders last Monday, beginning with a distinguished observance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, followed by an official procession to the U.S. Capitol and the [Lying in Honor](#) ceremony. Known for his [be proud, but never satisfied](#) mentality, his service and legacy is now forever enshrined in the halls of history. View the [ceremony](#), and discover more about Puckett’s life from his [Oral History Interview](#).



Retired U.S. Army Col. Ralph Puckett, Jr.’s Lying in Honor ceremony at the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, April 29, 2024.

Approaching [Memorial Day](#), the familiar phrase *Freedom is Not Free* is engraved in many of our Nation’s memorials and remains deeply inscribed in the hearts of those who understand the profound cost of liberty.



As we *pay tribute* to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and recognize our Gold Star families, *remember also the families* who continue awaiting news of their loved one ... they are [not forgotten](#). The [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency](#) (DPAA) persists tirelessly in their mission of providing the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and to the Nation. In fact, DPAA just announced last week the identification of another Vietnam War service member, reducing the number who remain missing from the Vietnam War to 1,548. [Read more](#) about this noteworthy discovery and the service of U.S. Air Force pilot, Major [John Creighton Gillespie Kerr](#).

As you gather for *Memorial Day* and host or attend commemorative events that thank and honor our Vietnam veterans and their families, a couple of housekeeping items. *First*, as referenced in [Issue 3](#), the *shipping* of our [educational posters](#) will be discontinued as of June 1, so submit your orders *this month* for any desired hard copy editions (online versions will still be available for printing). *Second*, as mentioned in [Issue 2](#), *next month* we will be bringing you updates for the remainder of the year’s operations and materials available, as we begin to make our preparations for the Commemoration’s close on Veterans Day, 2025.



Finally, we remember all of our service members who sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today. In the words of 33rd U.S. President Harry S. Truman ... *Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.*

~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!