



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2024 – Issue 9

Thursday, August 1

Dear Commemorative Partners,

On August 4, the [United States Coast Guard](#) (USCG) rings in **234** years of service to our Nation. Thank you for your service Coast Guard service members, and *happy birthday* USCG!



USCG Cutter *Rush* (WHEC-723) at sea.

In addition to the approximately *eight thousand* Coast Guard personnel who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, dozens of water vessels known as “cutters” were also assigned. The largest varied from 255 to 378 feet. *Rush* (WHEC-723) a 378-foot Hamilton class high endurance cutter, (at left), was named for our 8th U.S. Treasury Secretary, Richard Rush, and served as a naval gunfire support ship in the region, among other efforts. These sizable cutters supported multiple efforts, including amphibious assaults and the interdiction of enemy supply vessels. Vietnam veteran, retired U.S.

Coast Guard Vice Admiral James D. Hull deployed on *Rush* as part of his service. You can view his [Oral History Interview](#) as well as six other Coasties’ [interviews](#) on our website. In addition, discover more of the USCG’s contribution to the war efforts in our 3-part poster series [The Coast Guard in the Vietnam War](#), and enjoy our [U.S. Coast Guard Patch Poster](#) as we celebrate this storied service branch all this month!

Next, on August 7, we commemorate [Purple Heart Day](#) and take time to honor all of our Nation’s military service members who have been wounded or killed by enemy action. For our Purple Heart medal recipients, thank you for your selfless service and sacrifice. We owe you a debt of gratitude.



Purple Heart Medal

Towards the *end of September*, and in collaboration with [Arlington National Cemetery](#) (ANC), we invite you to join us



President Ronald Reagan presents the Medal of Honor on the Vietnam War Unknown casket, May 28, 1984.

as we embark on a public *Vietnam Trolley Tour*. This 90-minute experience will consist of significant and cherished locations within ANC, comprising five specific grave sites; the Vietnam Helicopter Association Memorial; the [Tomb of the Unknown Soldier](#); and the display room for an opportunity to witness rarely seen Vietnam War artifacts—including the [Medal of Honor](#) that 40th U.S. President [Ronald Reagan](#) bestowed upon the Vietnam War Unknown casket on Memorial Day, in 1984. Stay tuned to our social media platforms and upcoming SITREPs for the exact date and how to register to attend this *once-in-a-lifetime* tour.

Finally, to all of our *Coasties*, both past and present, and our *Purple Heart* medal recipients, we salute you.

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

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!