



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



*Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!*

## Key Messages:

- **3.9 million** who served between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, and their families, have been publicly thanked by friends and neighbors during more than **27 thousand** ceremonies hosted by our Commemorative Partners ... **but there is still more to do!**
- Vietnam veterans deserve to know their service mattered. They deserve to know you care. The Nation owes them our deepest gratitude.

**Authority to Operate:** Authorized by Congress, established under the secretary of defense and launched by the president in 2012, **Section 598 ([Public Law 110-181](#))** of the **2008 NDAA** specifically addresses Commemoration activities.

**National Vietnam War Veterans Day:** Every March 29; this prominent day joins six other military-centric national observances codified in [Title 4 of the United States Code §6](#).

**Five Commemoration Objectives:** Our primary focus – to thank and honor U.S. Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation.

**Proclamations:** President [Joseph R. Biden, Jr.](#); The Honorable [Donald J. Trump](#); The Honorable [Barack Obama](#); [56 States, Territories & the District of Columbia](#).

**We Honor:** All who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time from [November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975](#), regardless of duty location, and their families.

**Commemorative Partners:** Local, state and national organizations, businesses, sports franchises and governmental agencies committed to the noble mission of the Commemoration.

**Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin:** Presented to living U.S. Vietnam veterans by Commemorative Partners, this lapel pin is a “lasting memento of the Nation's thanks.”

**Certificate of Honor Program:** Certificates and lapel pins are available for our partners to recognize three distinct subcategories of Vietnam veterans and their families.

**Legacy Products:** Our [Teachers' Toolkit](#) provides robust classroom assistance when discussing this Commemoration. **23 [multi-panel poster series](#)** are available, as well as [Service-specific “patch” posters](#). Also, our award-winning, museum-quality **Pentagon Vietnam War Exhibit** can be visited as part of the [Pentagon Tours](#) or [virtually](#). Finally, [Vietnam Veteran Oral Histories](#) are being filmed and shared with the Library of Congress.

**Leadership:** Executive Agent – The Honorable [Regina Meiners](#), Director, Washington Headquarters Services; Director – U.S. Army Maj. Gen. [Edward J. Chrystal, Jr.](#)

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[Clarification of Terminology](#) used by the Vietnam War Commemoration.

## [Quotable Quotes:](#)

From **President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.'s [2022 Presidential Proclamation](#):**

*Every service member of the Vietnam generation should know that their sacrifices mattered and that their service made a difference. To the families, caregivers, and survivors of the more than 58,000 service members whose names are memorialized in the black granite, we pledge to never forget the eternal sacrifice of your loved ones and what you have sacrificed for the Nation. To the families of the over 1,500 service members who remain missing and unaccounted for, know that our Nation's efforts to bring them home will never stop.*

From **44th U.S. President Barack Obama's [remarks at the 2012 Inaugural Ceremony](#):**

*And one of the most painful chapters in our history was Vietnam – most particularly, how we treated our troops who served there. You were often blamed for a war you didn't start, when you should have been commended for serving your country with valor. You were sometimes blamed for misdeeds of a few, when the honorable service of the many should have been praised. You came home and sometimes were denigrated, when you should have been celebrated. It was a national shame, a disgrace that should have never happened. And that's why here today we resolve that it will not happen again.*

**Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Michael Brazelton's** (four-time Silver Star recipient and former Vietnam War POW) [reflections at the July 8, 2015 Congressional Ceremony](#) on the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin:

*I have had a number of medals pinned on me in my day and this is certainly the highest ranking and the most honors I have received for any pinning ceremony. Even though it might just be a lapel pin to a lot of people, this is like a medal to the Vietnam veterans.*

**[Social Media & Hashtags:](#)** #VietnamVeteransDay, #ThankVietnamVets, #VietnamVets, #SeeThemThankThem  
Engage with us on social media at <http://linktr.ee/VNWar50th>

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