



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2024 – Issue 13

Monday, November 4

Dear Commemorative Partners,



This [Veterans Day](#), we *salute all those* who have donned the uniform and served in the United States Armed Forces. Our Nation owes you a debt of gratitude. We offer a humble thank you for your service and to your families for their sacrifice. In addition, on *November 10*, we give a big *Oo-rah* and salute our *Marines* in honor of the 249th birthday of the [United States Marines Corps](#). Thank you for your service, and enjoy this [birthday tribute!](#)

Several weeks ago, alongside [Arlington National Cemetery](#) (ANC), we hosted a public *tram tour* to honor Vietnam veterans. The September 27 expedition filled up quickly, and participants’ feedback affirmed it was a resounding success! Highlights featured five [grave site visits](#) of Vietnam War veterans representing the various service branches of our U.S. Armed Forces: The 65th Secretary of State, U.S. Army General Colin L. Powell; The 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Alfred M. Gray, Jr.; Navy “Seawolves” Aviator, Commander Charles S. Sapp; Coast Guard Aviator, Lieutenant Jack C. Rittichier, who went missing during a 1968 flight mission (remains recovered in 2003); and Air Force Flight Engineer, Staff Sergeant Donald T. Dionne Sr., who perished in 1975 while ferrying orphans out of Saigon amidst Operation Baby Lift. Other notable stops included the *Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Monument and Memorial Tree* (at right), and the [Tomb of the Unknown Soldier](#). Guests traveled from near and far, including one 78 year-old Minnesota Vietnam veteran making the journey with his daughter *specifically for this tour*. Visibly moved early on, he was powerfully impacted at the conclusion when presented a [Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin](#) in recognition of his service. View ANC’s [tour blog post](#), and catch their [short video](#) for compelling summaries of the event.



As we wind down the year, remember *December 31* is the *final day* to become a [Commemorative Partner](#), *March 15, 2025* is the last day to [submit event requests](#) (DD2956), and *March 31*, the final day to host events with *support!*

Finally, as you conduct *Veterans Day* observances and other events, consider adding our *brand new 2-minute video*, [Join the Nation ...thank a Vietnam veteran](#) to your program! Enjoy this legacy piece via both the photo at left and title link above.

In the resounding words of Secretary of Defense, [Lloyd J. Austin III](#), “let’s all strive to be worthy of the valor and the patriotism shown by America’s veterans today and every day.”

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

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!