

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

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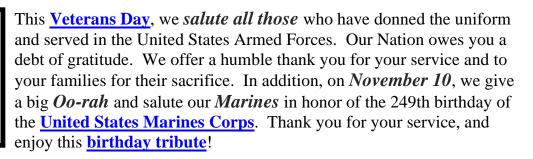
Monday, November 4

Dear Commemorative Partners,

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Honoring All

Who Served



Several weeks ago, alongside <u>Arlington National Cemetery</u> (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 <u>grave site visits</u> 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 <u>Tomb of the Unknown Soldier</u>. 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 <u>Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin</u> in recognition of his service. View ANC's <u>tour blog post</u>, and catch their <u>short video</u> for compelling summaries of the event.



As we wind down the year, remember *December 31* is the *final day* to become a <u>Commemorative Partner</u>, *March 15, 2025* is the last day to <u>submit event requests</u> (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*, <u>Join the Nation ...thank</u>

<u>a Vietnam veteran</u> 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, <u>Lloyd J. Austin III</u>, "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!

vietnamwar50th.com