



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2025 – Issue 2 Special Edition: 2024 in Review

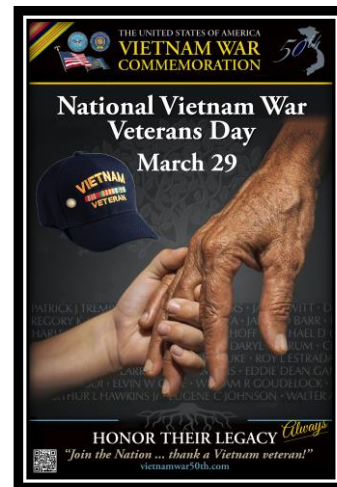
Monday, February 3

Dear Commemorative Partners,

*Who kept the faith and fought the fight; the glory theirs, the duty ours.
~ Wallace Bruce ~*

Our hearts are overflowing with emotion as we release our last “Year in Review” SITREP. *A few announcements first:*

- With the **change of administration**, we thank the outgoing 28th Secretary of Defense, [Lloyd J. Austin III](#), and salute his service to our Nation, military, veterans and the American people. Read about Austin’s January 17 [farewell](#), and departing message to our U.S. Armed Forces. On Saturday, January 25, the Honorable [Pete Hegseth](#) was [sworn in](#) as the new chief of the Pentagon. Read more on his [arrival and priorities](#) as he leads the Defense Department.
- We are in the **home stretch!** You should have received our Wind-Down update in [Issue 14](#), followed by the Director’s Message in [Issue 15](#). Please read our [new announcement](#), and view the [video](#) from U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Ed Chrystal, Jr. for our gratitude and a **call to action**.
- **March 15** is swiftly approaching! **Submit your event requests** in our [Partner portal](#) for any remaining full support requests (materials, booths and/or speaker), as we wrap up support by March 31.
- As of **April 1**, our writ-large event support capabilities will be reduced to conducting internally-planned close-out events. However, on a first-come, first-served basis, we will also **accept speaking requests**. Email us at whs.vnwar50th@mail.mil using “Speaking Request” in the subject line, and include the **5Ws** in the body of your email: 1) **Who:** Name of Organization; 2) **What:** Event Title/theme; 3) **When:** Day/Time; 4) **Where:** Location (Name and Address of Venue); and 5) **Why:** Purpose of Event.
- Finally, introducing our **brand new** March 29, [National Vietnam War Veterans Day \(NVWVD\) poster!](#) Enjoy this hi-res version (above right), along with myriad other [NVWVD](#) resources highlighted in [Issue 1](#).



March 29 Poster

Year in Review



What a year! In 2024, we added **252** new Commemorative Partners. In addition, due to **your amazing efforts**, you inspired Americans to thank and honor **300 thousand** Vietnam veterans and their families during nearly **1,500** events. In total, **4.1 million** were recognized in more than **28 thousand** events across the country since 2012...well done!

Top social media coverage—was a [post](#) on “X” (previously Twitter) from our 46th U.S. President, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. In honor of National Vietnam War Veterans Day, he saluted “*all those who served and defended our Constitution during the Vietnam War.*” The short video tribute (above) garnered **2.3 million views**, with an overall reach of **37 million!**

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!



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In January, you joined together from Arizona to our Nation’s Capitol, to give honor where honor was due. From a Phoenix Veterans Affairs Healthcare Recognition Ceremony (at left), to [*A Celebration of Character and Courage*](#) ceremony and reception in Washington, D.C., we saluted the service, valor and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans, their families, and those who remain missing.



In February, the [Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association](#) (AVVBA) was added as one of our 61 new *Honorary Partners* of the year. These [partners](#) are organizations made up solely of those who **bore the battle** or those who **bore the loss** of the Vietnam War. VWC Director Chrystal and History and Legacy



Chief Mark Franklin presented the distinction and are shown with the AVVBA at left. Further, *National Society Daughters of the American Revolution* (DAR) have been collaborating with us and their 2,148 Commemorative Partner chapters the past two years to confer this distinction on all *Vietnam Veterans of America* (VVA) organizations—those who **bore the battle**—and to thank and honor the veterans in each of their 47 state councils and 605 chapters in our 50 states, the District of Columbia and Guam. In addition to VVA state councils and chapters being

bestowed this distinction, DAR members have been presenting [Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins](#) (VVLVP) to VVA members who have never received one, and all VVA members are given a warm “*Welcome Home*” and the humble thanks of a grateful Nation. To date, *all 61 ceremonies* have been completed. Catch all the [ceremony photos](#) via our website.

In *March*, we observed [National Vietnam War Veterans Day](#) along with the rest of the Nation, where more than *100 thousand* Vietnam veterans were thanked and honored during nearly *500* events! Our annual national Joint Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (at right) was



[recorded](#), and included coverage from NBC, ABC, Stars and Stripes and DoD’s Defense Media Activity. Also in time for March 29, a new [Screening Package](#) of our *Welcome Home* honor concert was introduced for watch parties everywhere. Screenings are becoming *increasingly* popular, and included in the package are the Screening Guide, VVLVP Presentation Addendum, Broadcast-quality streaming version, download options and flyer (at left). If you have yet to see this *Emmy-nominated* production, *download it now* ([HD 720p](#), [SD 540p](#), [SD 360p](#), and [SD 240p](#) versions) so you can enjoy long after our doors close and website is offline.

In *June*, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs co-hosted a [Mall of America](#) three-day event where our Director participated alongside the State’s Governor and a U.S. Senator in a recognition ceremony (at right). *Hundreds* of Vietnam veterans were thanked and honored, and much of our staff was on-site and also participated in other activities such as [Oral History Interviews](#) and [Welcome Home screenings](#) where the concert was shown in multiple theaters with *standing-room only!*



Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!

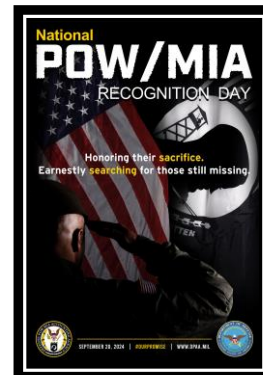


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During the summer, U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran and award-winning *CBS News Pentagon Correspondent*, Mr. David Martin was presented a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin for his service. Special Assistant to the Director, U.S. Army Col. Pat Cramer rendered the honor (at left) in our Pentagon Vietnam War Exhibit.

In September, we observed *National POW/MIA Recognition Day* and paid tribute to those held prisoners and returned, those still missing, and to the families still awaiting news of their loved ones. The [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency](#) (DPAA)'s new poster was highlighted in [Issue 10](#) (at right), as they tirelessly pursue their mission of providing the fullest possible accounting for all missing personnel to their families and the Nation. Last year, the *identification of five* previously missing Vietnam War military service members *was announced*: U.S. Air Force pilot, Major [John C. G. Kerr](#), U.S. Air Force Sergeant [David S. Price](#), U.S. Marine Corps Captain [Ronald W. Forrester](#), U.S. Navy Reserve pilot, Lieutenant Commander [Larry R. Kilpatrick](#), and U.S. Army Warrant Officer [Albert R. Trudeau](#).



Last *Autumn*, in collaboration with [Arlington National Cemetery](#) (ANC), we hosted a public *tram tour* (at left), featuring five Vietnam War veteran *grave site visits*; the *Vietnam Helicopter Association Memorial* and the [Tomb of the Unknown Soldier](#). It was a powerful impact on all who attended. Catch ANC's [tour blog post](#) as well as their [video](#) for excellent summaries of the tour.

November and *December* captured numerous veteran recognitions for [Veterans Day](#), and we wrapped up our Commemorative Partner (CP) application program. A final partner welcomed—was U.S. and Canada-based senior living community organization *Sunrise Senior Living*—who is seeking to thank and honor Vietnam veterans in all of their *270+ communities* through ceremonies and [Welcome Home screenings](#) in the days and years to come. *Thank you*, and a hearty congratulations *to all of our Partners* throughout 2024!



Finally, our last two *videos* were released: the short [Join the Nation](#) for use in perpetuity, and our [Director's final message](#) with a call to *carry on the torch*.

As we engage the remaining months of 2025, *stay tuned* as we prepare for [National Vietnam War Veterans Day](#). Remember to *submit your event requests* for materials as soon as possible, but by *March 15* to ensure you have what you need. We also have myriad [digital resources](#) available for your program and event inclusion as the day draws near. Though our SITREPs are winding down, we will continue through the end of March, releasing our final SITREPs following National Vietnam War Veterans Day and the weeks that follow. Our work will soon be turned over to you *and all Americans*, as you engage the country to [Join the Nation and thank a Vietnam veteran!](#)

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

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!