



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA **VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION**



Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!

Key Messages:

- Join us on **March 29**, the **5th Anniversary of National Vietnam War Veterans Day**, as Americans unite to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.
- More than **3.2 million** who served between **November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975**, and their families, have been publicly thanked by friends and neighbors during nearly **22 thousand** ceremonies hosted by our dedicated Commemorative Partners ... **but there is still more to do!**
- We lose **nearly 600 Vietnam veterans every day** ... many residing in care facilities. Help us honor these brave men and women who served and sacrificed before our opportunity vanishes!

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: **45th U.S. President Donald J. Trump; 44th U.S. President Barack Obama; 56 States, Commonwealths, 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 four distinct subcategories of Vietnam veterans and their families.

Legacy Products: A downloadable **Teachers' Toolkit** provides comprehensive assistance for the classroom when discussing this Commemoration. Also, **17** different

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[multi-poster series](#) are available, as well as [Service-specific “patch” posters](#). Further, a museum-quality **Pentagon Vietnam War Exhibit**, recipient of a 2017 John Wesley Powell Prize, can be visited as part of the [Pentagon Tours](#), and will soon be available to view virtually. Finally, [Vietnam Veteran Oral Histories](#) are being captured on video and will be shared with the Library of Congress.

Leadership: Director of Administration & Management and the Commemoration Executive Agent – **The Honorable [Michael B. Donley](#)**; Commemoration Director – retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. [Peter M. Aylward](#).

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

[Quotable Quotes:](#)

From 45th U.S. President Donald Trump’s [2017 Presidential Proclamation](#):

Throughout this Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, and every March 29 thereafter, we will honor all those who answered our Nation's call to duty. We vow to never again confuse personal disapproval of war with prejudice against those who honorably wear the uniform of our Armed Forces. With conviction, our Nation pledges our enduring respect, our continuing care, and our everlasting commitment to all Vietnam veterans.

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:](#) #ThankVietnamVets, #SeeThemThankThem

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