



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION 50th Anniversary



APRIL - JUNE 2014

COMMEMORATION NEWSLETTER

Upcoming partner events throughout the United States:

June 27: American Gold Star Mothers Convention Lancaster, Pa.

June 28: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Washington, D.C.

June 28: Special Guerrilla Unit Open House Manitowoc, Wis.

July 2: Vietnam War Helicopter Pilots Association Convention Louisville, Ky.

For more events and further details, visit: www.VietnamWar50th.com/events

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS YOU

DoD Office of Commemorations
Director

Claude "Mick" Kicklighter
Lt. Gen., U.S. Army (Ret.)

Strategic Communications

MJ Jadick
Victor Lopez
Capt. Valerie Palacios, U.S. Army
Amanda Negrón

Contact us at:
1101 Wilson Blvd, Ste., 810
Arlington, VA 22209

1-877-387-9951
www.VietnamWar50th.com



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Pictured: The 2014 Finale featured military bands, dancers, singers, color guards and drill teams at the International Tattoo at the Norfolk Scope Arena. This is an annual event exhibiting military bands and performers from around the world. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Adam Austin)

The 2014 Virginia International Tattoo Salutes Vietnam Veterans

A Commemorative Partner with The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, the Virginia International Tattoo dedicated its 2014 performance season to honoring and thanking Vietnam veterans, their families and international allies.

Presented annually in Norfolk, Virginia, the Virginia International Tattoo is an exhibition of marching bands, massed pipes and drums, drill teams, gymnasts, Scottish dancers, choirs and more. Each year, a cast of over 850 artists from several countries creates an unforgettable spectacle under one roof for four breathtaking per-

formances. The Virginia International Tattoo is the largest show of its kind in the United States.

The U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Band performed "Purple Haze" alongside Kimo Williams, Vietnam Veteran and cofounder of the Lt. Dan Band. Several songs of the Vietnam War era were performed to create a nostalgic experience.

This year's production celebrated American freedom and patriotism, educated the youth, and demonstrated the importance of honoring those who served our Nation.

Each year's tattoo is different, with new groups from different countries, new themes of honor and patriotism, and state of the art technical effects.

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Georgia Pays Tribute to Vietnam War Medal of Honor Recipients

The north wing of the Georgia State Capitol was an appropriate ornate backdrop for Gov. Nathan Deal's proclamation declaring March 29, 2014, as Vietnam Veterans Day in Georgia. With scores of attendees, The State of Georgia Department of Veterans Services helped a grateful nation to thank and honor America's Vietnam Veterans and their families. To date, an estimated 254,000 Georgia residents – approximately one-third of the state's total veteran population – are Vietnam War veterans.

The theme of the ceremony, which fell on National Medal of Honor Day, was a tribute to Georgia's Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipients. The State of Georgia Department of Veterans Services recognized each of the state's 12 native sons, who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War at the Vietnam Veterans Day Walk of Heroes recognition event. Among those native sons honoring fellow veterans was Con-



Congressional Medal of Honor recipient James E. Livingston (Major General, United States Marine Corps, Retired) was among fellow veterans paying tribute to Vietnam Veterans. Photos courtesy of Kent D. Johnson

gressional Medal of Honor recipient James E. Livingston (Major General, United States Marine Corps, Retired) and Claude M. Kicklighter (Lieuten-

ant General, Retired, U.S. Army), Director of the Department of Defense Office of Commemorations.



Veterans, family members and state officials attend a ceremony honoring Medal of Honor recipients from the Vietnam War at the Georgia Capitol Tuesday, March 25, 2014. Twelve Georgian veterans of the Vietnam War possess the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is the highest military accolade this nation awards its warriors.

Also in attendance, was Georgia native and Vietnam Veteran Tommy Clack, chairman of the board of the Walk of Heroes Veterans War Memorial. An honorable endeavor, the Walk of Heroes Memorial was envisioned as a place for reflection and healing. The Walk of Heroes Veterans War Memorial is developed around a 'visual and interactive' concept to cultivate a public understanding of the sacrifices made by veterans on the battlefields during and since the 20th century, and by their families whose sacrifices helped to protect and maintain the freedom enjoyed by Americans today. Further, it is among the scores of committed organizations to join a growing and wide-ranging list of Commemorative Partners supporting the efforts of the congressionally-chartered United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.

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National Association of Manufacturers honors Vietnam Veterans

Photo by David Bohrer/NAM

“Leading, Innovation, Creating Opportunity, and Pursuing Progress” is the motto of the nation’s largest industrial trade association, representing some 11,000 small and large manufacturing companies in every industrial sector and in all 50 states.

Not only the most productive in the world, far surpassing the worker productivity of any other major manufacturing economy, leading to higher wages and living standards, the National Association of Manufacturers’ (NAM) Board of Directors made another significant stride on March 7, 2014. They made a difference in the lives of Vietnam Veterans by becoming a Commemorative Partner with The United States of America Vietnam War, which is committed to honoring and recognizing the ser-



National Association of Manufacturers accept the Vietnam War Commemoration flag as they became a partner committed to honoring Vietnam Veterans and their loved ones. NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons says that being part of the commemoration is another way of giving back to the communities. Photo by David Bohrer / NAM

vice and sacrifices made by Vietnam Veterans and their families. According to NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons, Manufacturers can make a huge difference in what the Commemoration can accomplish. “We are integral parts of our communities, and this commemoration is yet another way manufactur-

ers can give back,” said Timmons. The membership of NAM support as a Commemorative Partner can help The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration touch hundreds of Vietnam Veterans so deserving of the thanks of a grateful nation for their distinguished service and sacrifice.

Commemoration Partners Blanket the US

The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans’ organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families. Commemorative Partners participate in the Commemoration by planning and conducting events and activities that recognize Vietnam Veterans and their families’ service, valor, and sacrifice.

It costs nothing to become a Commemorative Partner. To become an official Commemorative Partner, or-

ganizations submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding. Organizations can go to www.VietnamWar50th.com and then to the Commemorative Partner Program Web page for further information on how to apply.

Once an application is submitted, the approval process should take no longer than 30 business days. Partners are kept informed through electronic notifications.

Once approved as a Commemorative Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit composed of materials for developing and implementing their programs.

Commemorative Partners receive a commemorative flag, Commemorative Partner certificate and other materials, and authorization to use The

United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner seal for approved purposes.

Currently there are more than 5,900 partners.

- For online application forms: http://www.VietnamWar50th.com/commemorative_partners/online_application_forms
- To download printer-friendly application forms: http://www.VietnamWar50th.com/commemorative_partners/application_forms
- For questions regarding the program, e-mail: WHS.VNWar50th_CPP@mail.mil
- To speak to someone during regular business hours, call 1-877-387-9951.

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Monument Dedication at Texas Capitol Honoring Vietnam Veterans Draws Thousands

Forty-one years to the day after the last American combat troops left Vietnam and nine years after the effort began, the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument was officially dedicated in a 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 29, 2014 ceremony at the Texas State Capitol.

The Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument was approved in 2005 by the 79th Legislature to honor Texans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam and to remember those who died. The monument was designed by artist Duke Sundt. Finishing artists Clint Howard and Jake Jakovich sculpted the final details. It was produced at the Deep in the Heart Art Foundry in Bastrop. The centerpiece of the monument is five infantry figures. They are surrounded by panels depicting women who served, air power,



The Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument is a "living monument" that includes an online educational archive of veteran stories, photos and videos to preserve the history of Texans in the Vietnam War as an educational resource. For more information about the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument visit: www.tcvvm.org

blue water navy, brown water navy, and artillery and helicopter forces. Another panel honors the people and military of South Vietnam.

Texas State Senator Leticia Van de Putte introduced the memorial tribute and Ms. Karoni Forrester, representing the 3,417 Texas families of service members who died in Vietnam served as the Mistress of Ceremonies. Ms. Forrester's father is missing in action. A variety of musical selections were presented by The United States Army 36th Infantry Band and the Texas Children's Choir. A Joint Base San Antonio Joint Force Color Guard and Native American veterans of the Lone Star Hethuska Society also participated.

"The dedication of the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument will be a long overdue 'welcome home' for a generation of veterans

who served during a divisive time in our nation," said Robert Floyd, chair of the monument committee. "This monument will stand forever in honor of Texans who served with courage, skill and dignity, some at the cost of their lives."

Vietnam Veterans who volunteered to serve on the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument Committee raised the necessary \$2.2 million and managed the monument production. More than 600 individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations donated to build the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument. The monument is the first on the Capitol grounds to depict the cultural diversity of Texas, as each infantry figure represents a different ethnic group. It is also the first to include a mobile tour to educate visitors about the monument and the war.



Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from Memorial High School, San Antonio, Texas participated in the dedication representing the 53 casualties sustained by the Edgewood Independent School District, the highest number of casualties of any school district in the U.S.

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