



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION 50th Anniversary



JANUARY 2013

FIRST QUARTER 2013 COMMEMORATION NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year to our Vietnam Veterans, their families and loved ones, and to all our new Commemorative Partners.

Thank you for all your support!

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS YOU

**DoD Office of Commemorations
Director**

Mick Kicklighter
Lt. Gen. U.S. Army (Ret.)

Public Affairs Chief
U.S. Army Capt. Valerie Palacios

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A group of volunteers prepare to present wreaths during a Wreaths Across America ceremony held at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial. (Photo by HCTC Students)

Holiday Remembrance Wreaths Honor Vietnam's Heroes

As millions of Americans completed their holiday shopping, thousands of volunteers at national cemeteries from Maine to Hawaii placed wreaths at the gravesites of fallen heroes from Vietnam and every other conflict to honor their service and sacrifice. The Wreaths Across America organization became the latest Commemorative Partner as their annual convoy from Maine to Va. concluded at Arlington National Cemetery.

"We are so proud to have the opportunity to partner with this important Commemoration," said Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America. "The Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration, like Wreaths Across

America, is committed to teaching the next generation the importance of our freedom and the sacrifices made to ensure it."

The Wreaths Across America mission is to Remember, Honor and Teach. Each year in December hundreds of wreath-laying ceremonies are held at Arlington National Cemetery and national cemeteries throughout all 50 states. Wreaths Across America also organizes a week of events including international veteran's tributes, ceremonies at State Houses and a week-long "Veterans Parade," between Maine and Va., where they stop along the way to spread their message about the importance of remembering our fallen heroes, honoring those who serve, and teaching our children about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms.

www.wreathscrossamerica.org

2013 upcoming anniversary events:

- 15 January 1973 – President Nixon announced a suspension of offensive actions against North Vietnam.
- 27 January 1973 – Paris Peace Accords signed at the Majestic Hotel in Paris.
- 23-24 May 1973 – First Vietnam Prisoners of War return.

Inside:

- Lance Sijan's family carries on Medal of Honor Hero's Legacy
- New USS Enterprise will join the Fleet in 2025
- Alabama is first state to join Vietnam War Commemoration
- Walmart honors vets at 3,961 stores! See our Commemorative Partner List

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



Former Sen. Chuck Hagel visits the staff during his stop at The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration headquarters in Arlington, Va. Sen. Hagel is Chairman of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee.



Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel hosted a salute to Veterans Nov. 10 at Chicago's Vietnam Veterans Memorial as the city became a Commemorative Partner. The Pritzker Military Library and First Infantry Division Museum also became partners leading the way for the Chicago area which is home to tens of thousands of Vietnam Veterans and more than 30,000 Vietnamese-Americans.



Governor Robert Bentley pledges support for veterans and military families as Alabama becomes a Commemorative Partner. Bentley welcomed Vietnam Veterans and leaders from throughout Alabama as he accepted the flag of the Vietnam War Commemoration, becoming the first state to join this national effort.



More than 12,000 veterans came together in Norfolk, Va. Dec. 1 to bid farewell to USS Enterprise (CVN-65) which deployed to Yankee Station during the Vietnam War and recently returned from a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), completing 51 years of service. The legacy of USS Enterprise will live on as Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that CVN-80, the third ship of the Gerald Ford class of nuclear powered aircraft carriers will be named USS Enterprise and be commissioned in 2025. You can learn more by visiting the USS Enterprise's website: www.enterprise.navy.mil

Lance Sijan's family carries on Medal of Honor Hero's Legacy

Medal of Honor Recipient Lance Sijan's Family Sustains Legacy of Courage and Service

Nov. 7, 1967, a little over 45 years ago, a young U.S. Air Force pilot Capt. Lance Sijan met what would ultimately be his final journey as his plane went down over Vietnam. Without food or water he heroically evaded capture for six weeks, but on Christmas Day exhausted, he was taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese. He soon escaped but was recaptured. He died in captivity and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his courage and heroism. Today his family and a significant U.S. Air Force award keeps his legacy of service alive. Read more: <http://bit.ly/YcKIZM>



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

The Vietnam War Commemoration Welcomes our Commemorative Partners and we thank you for your strong support and the wonderful events you have held in the past months to thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans and their loved ones.

United Services Automobile Association joined as a Commemorative Partner, and so can your organization. We encourage communities, organizations, companies and military units across the nation to become Commemorative Partners and help a grateful nation thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans and their families.

Visit: www.VietnamWar50th.com/



Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman of the Board of The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia accepts the certificate and flag from Lt. Gen. Mick Kicklighter, USA (Ret), becoming a Commemorative Partner.



Mary Byer, President American Gold Star Mothers, and Barbara Benard, 1st Vice President American Gold Star Mothers, accept their flag from Maj. Gen. Peter Aylward, U.S. Army (Ret.) and Col. Yvonne Schilz, U.S. Air Force (Ret) Commemorative Partners Program Chief.



Jeanette Early, President of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., receives the commemoration flag from Maj. Gen. Peter Aylward, U.S. Army (Ret).



Lt. Gen. Kicklighter, USA (Ret) Director of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, presented a flag and certificate to Master Sgt. Rob Wilkins, (USAF., Ret.) and Mr. Roger Vance of Weider History Group's Vietnam Magazine.



Dr. Paul H. Herbert, Executive Director First Infantry Division Museum, accepted the commemoration flag from Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson U.S. Army (Ret), making the museum a Commemorative Partner.



Lt. Gen. William Caldwell, IV, Commanding General U.S. Army North, (right), hosted thousands of Vietnam Veterans at Fort Sam Houston over Veterans Day for a Welcome Home Ceremony and accepted a commemorative certificate becoming the first military unit to become a Commemorative Partner of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.



Richard (Sandy) Quinn, President of the Richard Nixon Foundation, (left), and former prisoner of war Everett Alvarez, Cmdr. U.S. Navy (Ret), accept the commemorative flag from Mick Kicklighter as the Nixon Foundation becomes the first presidential foundation to become a partner of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.



Mr. Richard Perez, President of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, accepts the flag and certificate designating the Chamber as a Commemorative Partner of the Vietnam War Commemoration.



Col. Joe Abodeely, USA (Ret) Dir of AZ Military Museum and Col. Joey Strickland, USA (Ret) Director of Arizona Veterans Affairs, hosted Arizona's 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Dinner for the year 2012.



Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, U.S. Army (Ret) USAA's Senior Vice President of Financial Foundations and Member Experience accepts the commemoration flag as USAA became a Commemorative Partner.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VIETNAM WAR
 COMMEMORATION

We are grateful for the support of our Commemorative Partners

At this time we are providing a commemoration flag and certificate, signed by the Secretary of Defense, to organizations that sign up for our Commemorative Partner Program. Your organization may sign up by going to www.VietnamWar50th.com and filling in the online application. Then, please print and sign the Statement of Understanding and email, fax or mail to our office for processing of your application.

Air Force Association
 Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company
 Alamo Chapter of AUSA
 Alexander Comers Veterans and Pearl Harbor Memorial
 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
 American Legion Auxiliary
 The American Legion Post 4
 American Legion Post 548
 American Legion Post 179
 American Legion Spirit of Freedom Post 76
 American Veterans Center
 AMVETS Headquarters
 AMVETS POST 44
 Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
 Arizona Military Museum
 Army Officer Wives Club of the Greater Washington Area (AOWCGWA)
 Army Survivor Outreach Services
 Army Women's Foundation
 Arthur Ansely VFW Post 4176
 Association of the United States Army
 Association of the United States Army - MG William F. Dean Chapter
 Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum
 Carlisle Barracks
 California Veterans Benefit Fund
 Chapter 959 Vietnam Veterans of America
 City of Chicago
 City of Lake Dallas
 City of Norco
 City of O'Fallon Veterans Commission
 Civil Air Patrol 75th Squadron
 Congressman Patrick Meehan (PA-07)
 CPL Fred Grant VFW Post 1481
 Department of Utah Veterans of Foreign Wars
 DirectViz Solutions, LLC.
 Disabled American Veterans Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1
 Dysart's Restaurant and Truckstop
 Edward P. Clark Post 107 American Legion
 Essex Agricultural Society
 Faith Baptist Church
 Faith Hospice of Lawton Ft. Sill
 First Division Museum at Cantigny
 Fort McCoy
 Freedom Alliance
 George Mason University
 George Mason University Army ROTC
 Gold Star Wives of America
 Greater Pennsylvania Military Preservation Association

Green Mountain Military Vehicle Club
 Hampton Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
 HONOR FOR ALL
 Iowa National Guard
 JFHQ-NV
 Kent Island American Legion Post 278
 Kittery Trading Post
 Kopperl Independent School District
 Labette Community College
 Ladies Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Post 1586
 Linthicum Veterans Memorial, Inc.
 Lou Reda Production
 Maine Bureau of Veterans Services
 Matthews - Crawford American Legion Post 131
 Memorial for All Veterans of the Brazos Valley, Inc
 MG Robert B. McCoy AUSA Ch. 5902
 Middletown High School AFJROTC
 Military Affairs Association
 Military Order of the Purple Heart #5355
 Missouri Veterans Home - Warrensburg
 Monmouth County Veteran Services Office
 Music Celebrations International
 Narraguagus High School
 National League of POW / MIA Families
 National Veterans Services Fund, Inc.
 Naval Historical Foundation
 New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation
 Orange County Archives
 Oregon Military Department
 Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation
 Pritzker Military Library
 Redstone Arsenal
 Richard J. Gross Post 8896 VFW
 Richard Nixon Foundation
 Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History
 Selective Service System
 Seneca County Veterans Services Commission
 Sgt. James F. Carty, D.S.C. VFW Post 1545
 Somerset
 Spring Lake Fire Department
 St George Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol
 State of Alabama
 Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars
 The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

The Miami Valley Military History Museum
 The National Vietnam War Museum
 The Stanley Park of Westfield, Inc.
 U.S. Army Transportation Corps Aviation Association (TCAA)
 United States Army North - Fort Sam Houston
 United States Military Academy
 United States Veterans Art Program
 United War Veterans Council
 USAA (United Services Automobile Association)
 Veterans History Project at Central CT State University
 Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress
 Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 2350
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Luneta Post 52
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6401
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2377 Glendale Heights, IL
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2369
 Veterans Park of Effingham County
 VFW Captain John E. Williams Memorial Post 11553
 VFW Post 142
 VFW Post 7288
 Vietnam Center and Archive, Texas Tech University
 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
 Vietnam Veterans of America
 Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 278
 Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 457
 Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 1067, Huntsville, AL
 Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 1044
 Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 458
 Vietnam Veterans of America Wisconsin State Council
 Vietnam Veterans of America-AZ State Council
 Vietnam Veterans of America Welcome Home Ch. 954
 Vinh Long Outlaws Association
 Virginia International Tattoo
 Walmart (3,691 stores)
 Waterville Elks
 Weider History Group
 Wells Junior High School
 William A. Carleton VFW Post 2513
 Wreaths Across America