

CAMP ZAMA, JAPAN 12 MAY 2015

VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION CEREMONY



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- ▶ CEREMONY INTRODUCTION – Mr. Richard H. Feagler
- ▶ INVOCATION – Chaplain (LTC) Thomas J. McCort
- ▶ POSTING OF COLORS – Joint Color Guard
- ▶ NATIONAL ANTHEMS – US and Japan
- ▶ UNCASING OF VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION FLAG
- ▶ COMMANDING GENERAL REMARKS – MG James C. Boozer, Sr.
- ▶ GUEST SPEAKER REMARKS – CSM(R) James E. Slade
- ▶ VIETNAM VETERAN RECOGNITION – USAG Japan Command Team & VFW
- ▶ PLAYING OF TAPS
- ▶ RETIRING OF COLORS



CSM (Ret)

JAMES E. SLADE

CSM Slade was born in Stewart, Iowa as Jimmy Dorsey. Much of his early childhood was spent in foster homes and an orphanage until at age 7, when Mr. Slade was adopted by Ralph and Evelyn Slade. Mr. Slade grew up on a farm in Red Mesa, a small town thirty miles out of Durango, Colorado.

CSM Slade served as a church missionary in England for two years and three months after his return to the United States; he was drafted into the U.S. Army. Less than a year later, he was in the jungles of Vietnam. In Vietnam, CSM Slade served on a five-man Ranger team called LRRPs (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol). Their assignments included gathering military intelligence, setting ambushes, snatching POWs, and locating the Viet Cong. In a one year tour, most LRRPs participate in about 26 missions. CSM Slade went on 42 missions and was in firefights with the enemy in 36 of those missions.

CSM Slade was on active duty and in the Utah Army National Guard for 30 years, retiring as a Brigade Command Sergeant Major. His military career has been dedicated to serving and assisting the Soldiers that he has been responsible for. CSM Slade was the Utah State Coordinator for the Military Funeral Honor's Program for four years and was the President of the Enlisted Association of Utah. He served on the National Enlisted Association Board of Appropriations, meeting with Congressmen on Military personnel issues.

CSM Slade awards and decorations consist of a total of 27 medals and ribbons, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service (2), Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal, Combat Infantry Badge (CIB), and Parachute Badge.

After returning from Vietnam, CSM Slade received a Business Degree in Sales and Retailing from Weber State College. He has owned three different businesses and has held positions of President, CEO, Vice President, Sales Manager, National Sales Manager, and International Sales Manager.

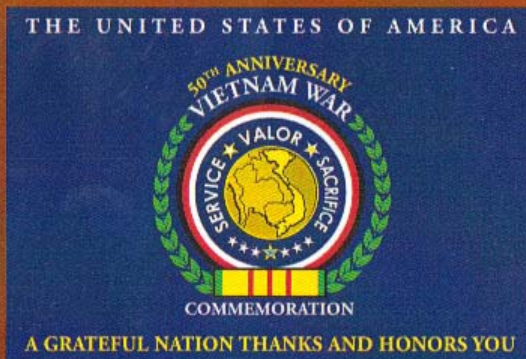
In 1989, CSM Slade raised \$420,000 to build the Utah Vietnam Memorial. This beautiful, stirring memorial can be visited on the Utah Capitol grounds just west of the State Capitol Building.

CSM Slade is a life member of the Ranger Regiment Association, life member of the Disable American Vets (DAV), life member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, and member of the American Legion. CSM Slade is heavily involved in state and national politics.

CSM Slade has been married to Pam Slade for 45 years and has four children and 17 grandchildren.

CSM Slade has a strong love for his God and his Country. His devotion is demonstrated by the American Flag that proudly flies 24/7 in his front yard.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION FLAG:

"The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration" is the official title given to the Department of Defense program in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. The traditional use of the color gold to signify a 50th Anniversary was chosen for the phrase "50th Anniversary" and symbolizes the specific mission of the Department of Defense program as outlined in the Congressional language "to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War."

A representation of the Vietnam Service Medal (ribbon) rests below the inner rings.

The red, white, and blue inner rings represent the flag of the United States of America and recognize all Americans, both military and civilian, who served or contributed to the Vietnam War effort

The outer black ring serves as a reminder of those who were killed in action, held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War. The black ring surrounds the red, white and blue rings to call attention to their sacrifices, the sacrifices of their families, and the defense of our nation's freedom.

Within the blue ring are the words "Service, Valor and Sacrifice"; virtues demonstrated by our veterans during the Vietnam War. The gold-rimmed white star located between the words "Service" and "Valor" represents hope for the families of those veterans for which there has not been a full accounting. The blue-rimmed gold star located between the words "Valor" and "Sacrifice" represents the families of those veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the war. The blue star at the bottom of the inner blue ring represents the families of all veterans and symbolizes their support from home

At the bottom of the inner blue ring are six white stars, three on each side of the blue star. These six white stars symbolize the contributions and sacrifices made by the United States and its Allies, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Thailand.

The center circle contains a map of Vietnam in black outline relief, signifying both the country and the Vietnamese veterans who stood with our veterans. The subdued outlines of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and surrounding waters represent the area of operation where U.S. Armed Forces served.

The green laurel wreath signifies honor for all who served.

The phrase "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is the personal message to each veteran, civilian, family member, and all who served and sacrificed during the Vietnam War

The seal's blue background is the same color as the canton in the United States Flag. When placed next to the flags of World War II and the Korean War Commemoration Flags, the Vietnam War Commemoration Flag will signify the Vietnam Veterans taking their rightful place among generations of U.S. veterans

