



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION 50th Anniversary



SEPTEMBER 2013

SUMMER 2013 COMMEMORATION NEWSLETTER

Take a look at what is going on throughout the nation:

Sept. 16-18: Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition

Sept. 17-22: Society of Air Force Nurses National Convention

Sept. 19: Georgia State Governor's Commemorative Flag and Certificate Presentation

Sept. 19-21: The Ride Home honoring all former Prisoners of War and remembering those still Missing in Action

More event details on page 3

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS YOU

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Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, recognized nine Vietnam Veterans who currently work in the Army G-4.

"Army G-4: Saluting Our Own" Vietnam Veterans at the Pentagon

Photo and Story By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30, 2013 – The afternoon in the Pentagon auditorium on Aug. 28 was a time for reflection on a war that spanned 10 years and cost the country the lives of more than 58,000 young men and women. It was also an occasion to honor and thank nine Vietnam War Veterans who'd served a total of 14 tours in-country and 225 years in uniform. Kicking off the Army's first event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the conflict, Army Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, deputy chief of staff for logistics, opened the ceremony recalling personal memories as well as his broader experiences as a young American citizen.

"I was a young Army brat and it was difficult for me to watch my dad come back after his third tour in Vietnam and not get treated appropriately, at least in my mind," Mason said. "I was just a pretty young guy at that time, but I could feel that it wasn't right. It struck me, and I knew if I ever had the opportunity to make that right I would do the best I could.

"Today, we are recognizing nine of our patriots and their families who stood up

to the test of their generation and their decade," he continued. "I think it's well overdue. Nothing is more important than pausing and reflecting on the sacrifices of what these great men and women did and those who gave their last full measure."

By Christmas of 1965, nearly 200,000 servicemembers were in Vietnam. At war's end, April 30, 1975, nearly three million Americans had been on the ground, in the air and on the rivers of Vietnam. More than 58,000 Americans lost their lives.

On Memorial Day 2012, a ceremony was held in Washington, D.C. to symbolize the beginning of our nation's attempt to right a wrong that occurred more than 50 years ago. It took place at one of the most sacred places on the National Mall - The Vietnam Veterans Memorial - known to most simply as "The Wall."

The goal is to get more than 10,000 corporations, civic groups as well as government and community organizations to join as partners and help sponsor hometown events to honor Vietnam Veterans, their families and those who were prisoners of war and missing in action.

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To date, 4,941 commemorative partners have signed on, including Army logistics, or G-4, which joined this spring.

Following Mason's remarks, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John F. Campbell thanked him and his team for leading the way to celebrate the contributions of Vietnam Veterans.

The son of an Air Force senior master sergeant, Campbell told of his years growing up on military bases around the world before attending West Point, and then re-

You may be a Commemorative Partner, now help by telling others how they can sign up

It costs nothing to become a Commemorative Partner! Many groups are already honoring veterans at such events as Memorial Day parades and Veterans Day activities. We ask Partners to simply consider specifically highlighting those who served during the Vietnam War Era! Truly, it is as simple as that!

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 as directed by Congress through Public Law Section 110-181 SEC.589.

You might consider having your office, church, or social organization become a partner. To find out more, visit: www.VietnamWar50th.com/commemorative_partners/.

Organizations need to submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding. The process takes no longer than 30 days.

Partners will be informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Commemorative Partner, the Commemoration Program

called his first interaction with Vietnam Veterans while a lieutenant in Germany.

"Both the battalion commanders were Vietnam Veterans ... all the platoon sergeants, all the first sergeants, all the company commanders were Vietnam Veterans," Campbell said. The vets, he said, instilled in him their hard-fought lessons learned from Vietnam and wanted to make sure the young lieutenants and soldiers wouldn't make the same mistakes they had.

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Claude "Mick" Kicklighter serves as director of the

will provide organizations with a starter kit composed of materials for developing and implementing their programs. Commemorative Partners must commit to conduct two events each year from 2015-2017.

The program began in October 2012, with the goal of attaining 5,000 partners by 2014. We are on track and currently have 4,941 Commemorative Partners signed up. We are asking for your help to recruit more communities and organizations all across the United States of America.

When you become a partner, we will add you to our list located on our website and possibly link to your organization's website. You can see a current

U.S. Vietnam War Commemoration. During the Pentagon event, he previewed the time line of plans for honoring Vietnam Veterans across the country over the next few years.

"Veterans of Valor," a 30-minute documentary with the nine honorees recalling humorous and somber anecdotes of their war experiences and interspersed with still photographs of themselves in Vietnam was also premiered.

If you missed this event, you can still watch it by going to: www.VietnamWar50th.com/videos.

list of our Commemorative Partners, visit: <http://bit.ly/14nrgxQ>.

If you have any other questions or require some assistance, please contact Thomas Graft at 703-697-4874, or email Thomas.O.Graft.ctr@mail.mil.



Mrs. Martha West, Kopperl Independent School District kindergarten teacher in Waco, Texas holds her school's Commemorative Partner flag. Mrs. West is joined by Alfred West, Special Forces Vietnam Veteran, and Congressman Bill Flores, U.S. Congressional District 17.

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Vietnam War News Correspondent Joe Galloway Records Vietnam Veteran's Experiences

"People don't understand that it takes courage to use the rifle, but sometimes it takes even more courage to be able to fight with just our minds and to not give in. We found that out living in that POW camp," said U.S. Army Pfc. David Harker, former Vietnam War POW.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration touches many aspects of Vietnam veterans' lives. More than nine million service members fought and sacrificed during America's involvement in the War. Their experiences are compelling, real and a part of American history. The VWC's History and Education Branch headed by Mark Franklin has partnered with renowned Vietnam War correspondent, Joe Galloway to help capture the Oral Histories of Vietnam Veterans. The H&E team is actively engaged developing a process to collect and produce a series of Vietnam Veteran oral histories.

These oral histories represent an opportunity to recognize the service of scores of Vietnam Veterans, tell meaningful stories of sig-

nificance, and help inform millions of Americans about the sacrifice endured and valor exhibited by so many.

The mission of the VWC is to assist our nation in thanking and honoring its Vietnam War Veterans and their families, the fallen, the wounded, those who were held as Prisoners of War,

tell the story about their service and that period of our nation's history.

Once launched, the Oral History Program will include all ranks, all services and all experiences to the extent possible. Upon completion these video oral histories will be made available for viewing on the Vietnam War Commemoration's

website and eventually distributed via DVDs to middle and high schools across the country for use in the classroom. The series of interviews will also be shared with the Library

of Congress Veterans History Project. Veterans interested in sharing their experiences and letting their historical voices be heard in support of the oral history project should stay tuned for upcoming announcements on how to participate.



Who better to tell the story of the Vietnam War, than the Vietnam Veterans themselves. The Vietnam Veteran's personal experiences are the stories that truly capture the legacy of the Vietnam Veteran.

and those still listed as unaccounted for. The mission of the H&E Branch is to provide the American public and school grades six through 12, with a clearer understanding and appreciation of the service, valor and sacrifice of our Vietnam War veterans and to

Events cont'd

Sept. 16-18: Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition
 Gaylord National Resort
 201 Waterfront Street
 National Harbor, MD 20745
 More: <http://bit.ly/18pgdki>

Sept. 17-22: Society of Air Force Nurses National Convention
 Doubletree Hilton Hotel
 363 Maine Mall Road
 Portland, ME 04106
 More: <http://bit.ly/13a98EL>

Sept. 19: Georgia State Governor's Commemorative Flag and Certificate Presentation
 Georgia State Capitol
 100 Washington Street
 Atlanta, GA 30334
 More: <http://bit.ly/1dDT7Ng>

Sept. 19-21: The Ride Home honoring all former Prisoners of War and remembering those still Missing in Action
 Storm Dome at Georgia Southwestern State University
 800 Georgia Southwestern State University Dr.
 Americus, GA 31709
 More: <http://bit.ly/14gS4zv>

Oct. 21-23: Association of the United States Army (AUSA Convention)
 Walter E. Washington Convention Center
 801 Mt. Vernon Pl NW
 Washington, DC 20001
 More: <http://ausameetings.org/annual/>

Nov. 9: The City of Auburn's Annual Veterans Day Parade
 Veterans Memorial Park
 411 E. St. NE
 Auburn, WA 98002
 More: <http://bit.ly/176aC3v>

Nov. 9-11: The Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation - 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Dedication of the VWM
 The Embassy Suites Downtown
 1250 22nd Street NW
 Washington, DC 20037
 More: <http://bit.ly/15Bno69>

Nov. 10: NYC Veterans Week- Band of Pride Concert
 Father Duffy Square
 Times Square Manhattan
 Manhattan, NY 10036
 More: <http://bit.ly/18B3Bpp>

Nov. 11: NYC Veterans Week- "Patriot Row" Street Fair and 94th Annual Veterans Day Parade
 Various locations throughout Manhattan
 More: <http://bit.ly/18B3Bpp>

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This Summer, more than 100 Commemorative Partners signed up - Daughters of the American Revolution and The State of Maryland are among them

- 30th Field Artillery Regimental Association
- AFROTC DET 643 Wright State University
- AFROTC Iowa State University
- Ah Dah Wa Gam, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
- American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Saddleback Valley Chapter
- American Legion California District 29
- American Legion Post 290 Dept of Ohio
- AMVETSND Roy C. Wagner Memorial Post 9
- Anchors and Iron Tactical Outfitters
- Associates of VVA, Inc
- Brooks W. Stewart VFW Post 9832
- California Vietnam Veterans Memorial 25th Anniversary Event Committee
- Caroline Close Stuart Chapter, NSDAR
- CONR-1AF(AFNORTH)
- Conway High School JROTC
- David Westphall Veterans Foundation
- Dept of NY, AGSM, Inc.
- Fort Belvoir Survivor Outreach Services
- Gold Star Wives New England Region
- GSW Mountain Laurals chapter
- Hawaii Chapter AUSA
- Helicopter Association International
- Henry Hart Post 1411 VFW
- Huntsville Chapter NSDAR
- Illinois State Organization DAR
- Janna's Food Farm
- Katuktu Chapter NSDAR
- Knights of Columbus-Greater Dayton Chapter
- Lake Havasu City, Arizona
- Lebanon Correctional Institution VVA Chapter 592
- Lone Star - DAR
- Madison County Veterans Service Agency
- Marine Corps Intelligence Association, Inc.
- Maryland Public Television
- Mid Valley Products
- Middletown Township
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- MOPH, New Mexico
- National Defense University
- Noncommissioned Officers Association
- Northern NJ Chapter of the AUSA
- NROTC Consortium-Atlanta
- NROTC University of Minnesota



Betty Pulliam was among four Gold Star Mothers who received a Certificate of Honor, which recognizes the significant sacrifices made by her loved one, herself and her family.

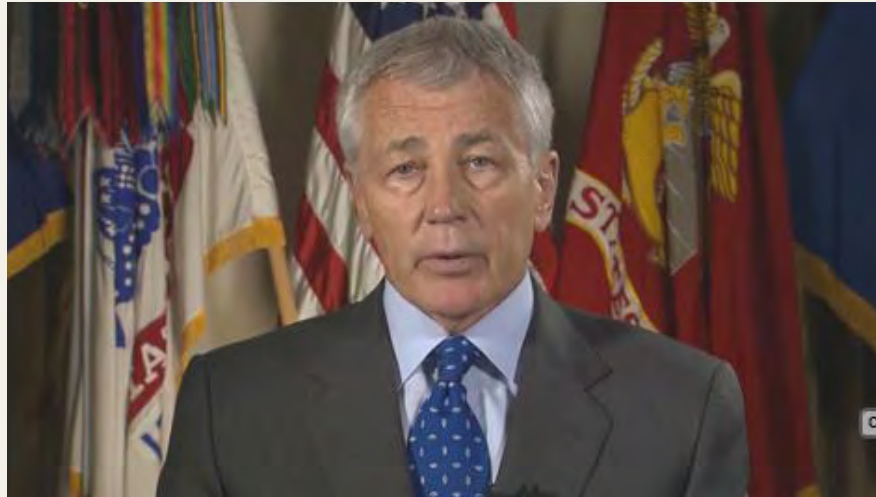
- Santa Margarita Chapter NSDAR
- State of Maine
- State of Maryland
- The Ohio State University
- Thunderbirds Alumni Association
- Tulane University NROTCU
- U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps
- Unilever
- VFW Department of Washington
- VFW Post 6165
- VFW Post 9738
- Vietnam Veterans Event Executive Planning Committee
- VVA - Chapter 10
- VVA - Chapter 671
- VVA - Chapter 900
- VVA - VSC
- VVA - Chapter 233
- VVA - Chapter 566
- VVA - LA Council
- VVA of Northeast SD, Chapter 1054
- VVA - Chapter 787
- VVA - Chapter 1049
- VVA - Chapter 1027, St. Joseph County, IN
- VVA - Chapter 1045
- VVA - Chapter 255
- VVA - Chapter 35
- VVA - Chapter 649
- VVA - Chapter 785, Orange County
- VVA - Chapter 810
- West Point Society of Michigan
- York County Veterans Affairs
- NROTCU Penn State
- NSDAR Jean Marie Cardinell Chapter
- Office of The Adjutant General, Maine
- Pittsburg State University
- Putnam County Veterans Service Agency
- Recreation Centers of Sun City West
- Rockford Charter Chapter VietNow
- Rogersville Chamber of Commerce



Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki spoke during the opening reception and meeting at this year's Military Order of the Purple Heart 81st Annual National Convention in Rogers, Ark.

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Click and share the latest in
 Vietnam Veteran news



Did you see Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's message to fellow Vietnam Veterans for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration?

If not, go to www.VietnamWar50th.com/videos to watch!

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 In recalling his war experiences, Larry Penrod says, "It's like deer hunting, only the deer carry weapons in the... fb.me/2BIBztANZ
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 "Both the battalion commanders were Vietnam veterans ... all the platoon sergeants, all the first sergeants, all... fb.me/1ZkNqjXdv
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 "...I'm in my 60s, so there's more time behind me than in front of me, now," said Douglas Morgan, 66. "I just... fb.me/1NKwfh7Dm
 View summary

vietnamwar50th @vietnamwar50th 29 Aug
 "So I picked it up and brushed it off, and it was some guy's U.S. Marines dog tag," Naismith said. "How it got... fb.me/XjL8rqTd
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Find recent articles about Vietnam Veterans or stop by to share one you may have found.

Follow Vietnam Veteran events as they take place with posted pictures or video.

Find videos and stories about what your community is doing to recognize Vietnam Veterans.



Did you know?

The granite used for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. is from Bangalore, India. The granite was used because of its deep color and consistency. The five foot panel weighs 875 lbs. The ten foot panel weighs 1750 lbs.

9.1 million men and women in U.S. Military service in total from Aug. 4, 1964 (Gulf of Tonkin attack) to April 1, 1973 (last POW's released).

Over 153,000 U.S. Soldiers were wounded in Southeast Asia from 1955 to 1975 (requiring hospital care). Approximately 220,000 Purple Hearts awarded in Vietnam.

The Draft/Lottery – The first Draft Lottery (by birth date drawing) was Dec. 1, 1969 (took up to #195).