

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in shades of blue, white, and red.

# **Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee Meeting October 30, 2014**

# Agenda

- Opening Remarks / Commemoration Review
- Additional Committee Members Update
- Interagency Advisory Group Update
- Pentagon Corridor Project Update
- Joint Meeting of Congress Update
- Commemorative Partner Update
- Upcoming Major Events Update
- Discussion – Increasing number of Vietnam War vets at events
- Closing remarks

# **Authorization**

## **NDAA 2008: Public Law 110-181**

### **SEC. 598. PROGRAM TO COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR.**

(a) **COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of Defense may conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. In conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War.



# Objectives

**1**

- To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as POW or listed as MIA, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the U.S. and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

**2**

- To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal Agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.

**3**

- To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

**4**

- To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

**5**

- To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the Allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

# Execution Plan

## Three (3) phases:

- **Phase 1: Preparation (2011 – 2014)**
  - Recruit, organize and support CPs.
  - Obtain corporate sponsors.
  - Projects: Pentagon Corridor Exhibit, record public service announcements, develop traveling exhibits and commemorative stamps.
- **Phase 2: Execution (2015 – 2017)**
  - Joint Meeting of Congress.
  - CPs: Two events each year in hometown America.
  - One event each year at most military installations.
  - Conduct one homecoming at each major military unit that participated in the Vietnam War during this three (3) year period.
- **Phase 3: Sustainment (2018 – 2025)**
  - Education, Institutionalize events, legacy.
  - Support CPs.

# New Members

**Introduce new members:**

**Mr. Jerome Johnson**

**Mrs. Jeanette Early**

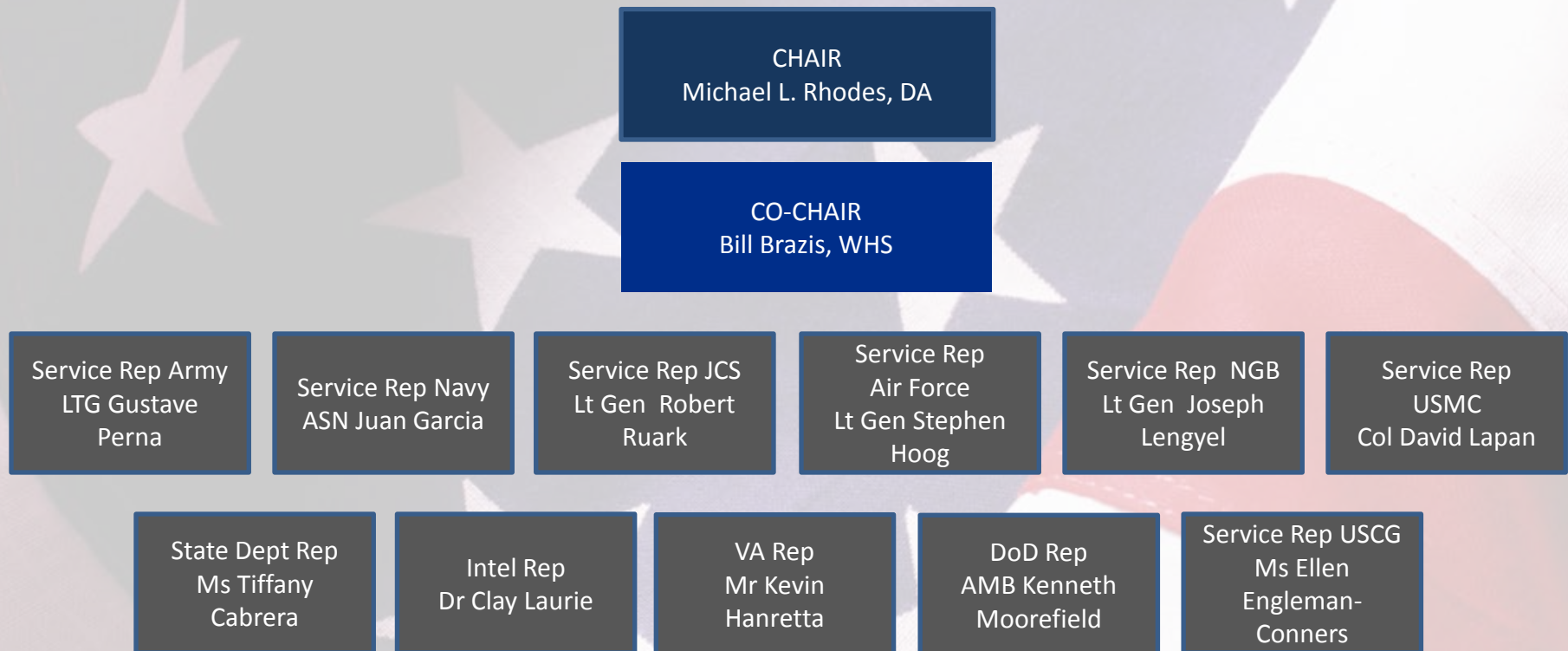


# Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) Update

- **Purpose**-to facilitate the involvement and efforts of the IAG member's respective component/department by effectively communicating within the component/department to disseminate information, communicate requirements, and obtain updates concerning component/department-specific activities being sponsored or supported.

# Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) Update

## INTER-AGENCY ADVISORY GROUP (IAG) ORGANIZATION CHART:





# Interagency Advisory Group (IAG) Update

- **The IAG has met on seven occasions**
  - **2012 (27 Apr, 4 May, 11 May, & 25 May)**
  - **2013 (24 Jan & 24 Sep)**
  - **2014 (30 Jun)**
- **Discussion Topics**
  - **Pentagon Corridor Project**
  - **History & Education**
  - **Outreach Efforts**
  - **Commemorative Partners Program**
  - **Commemorative Events**

# **Pentagon Corridor Update**

- Estimated completion date: Nov 2015.**
- Exhibit will ensure historical accuracy, create emotional impact, be designed artistically, integrate interactive technology and adhere to the objectives from the Congressional Language**
- Images from National Archives, Material left at the Wall, Binnacle from the Mayaguez, Donations from Vietnam Veterans**
- Approved by the Corridor Committee**
- N.C. Vietnam Helicopter Pilots association is providing two Hueys**

# Inner Wall across from Alcove



Exhibit panel highlighting  
Allied Nations during the Vietnam War

Exhibit panel highlighting  
Military Awards and Decorations  
during the Vietnam War

Opposite of Alcove

Exhibit panel highlighting  
Facts and Statistics of the  
Vietnam War

Large interactive touch screen



# Outer Wall Window Side



Display Case containing items of daily life

Lead glass panel for each section cut as detail silhouette focusing on the face of an individual serviceman or woman.

Small glass panels feature key events/operations with photos and personal recollections.

Video monitor, affixed with era appropriate television frame and sound paneling, displays movie/television footage.

## Typical Exhibit Sections, Courtyard Side

Call-out section highlighting different Moby Wrecks (i.e. Medical, Engineer, Aviation, Maritime, etc.)

Large audio relating to year/section. Spoken words range from heads-of-state to privates/servicemen/casualties.

Display Case containing combat arms.

Short text on glass panel summarizes key events of each section/year.



Required building storage

Window graphics are taken from photos and ephemeral items such as maps, labels, or common signage. The images are mounted to silk membranes of the frame with simple graphic elements, yet not block light from windows as per building requirements.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall panel (actual stone panel, not substituted due to crack)

Wall display cases contain offerings left at Memorial Wall

Touch-Screen connected to VMM Virtual Wall

## Exhibit End Sections, Courtyard Side

Weathered corrugated metal used as a decorative element, meant to evoke structures commonly constructed on bases in Vietnam.

Special section featuring the SS Mayaguez incident with backdrop from ship.



# Typical Display





# Huey Helicopters in Alcove





# Final Display



# **Joint Meeting of Congress Update**

**Planning a 2015 Congressional Ceremony or Joint Meeting of Congress to thank and honor Vietnam Veterans and their families, similar to the Joint Meeting of the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress to Close the Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WW II.**

**Considering a Congressional Ceremony, as opposed to a Joint Meeting, because Joint Meetings have become more restrictive (e.g., more restriction on tickets, bands cannot perform).**

# **Joint Meeting of Congress Update (Cont)**

**Congressional Ceremonies can be held in:**

- . Statuary Hall**
- . Rotunda (preferred; construction)**
- . Emancipation Hall (largest capacity)**

**Both Congressional Ceremonies and Joint Meetings require legislation (sponsorship) and both are restricted to one hour.**



# **Joint Meeting of Congress Update (Cont)**

**To garner support for this event, we are recruiting members of Congress and Senators. The following have become Commemorative Partners:**

- . Office of Senator Richard Burr (NC)**
- . Office of Senator Sherrod Brown (OH)**
- . Office of Rep. Jeff Miller (FL-01)**
- . Office of Rep. Patrick Meehan (PA-07)**
- . Office of Rep. Scott Rigell (VA-02)**
- . The House Committee on Veterans Affairs**

# Commemorative Partner Program



- **1st Mission: Help federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other nongovernment organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families.**
- **Primary vehicle by which the Commemoration accomplishes the objectives as directed by Congress to thank and honor Vietnam Veterans and their families**
- **Voluntary, organizational-based program which is hometown-focused to honor the veterans and their families where they live!**

# Commemorative Partner Program



- Potential partners can send application and Statement of Understanding via website, scan and email, fax or mail
- Partners agree to conduct two events/activities each year in 2015, 2016 and 2017 that thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families
- Applicants are kept informed of status of application via emails generated by system or staff member
- Once approved, the partner is immediately notified via email from Director and sent a system-generated password and ID to log on to the Commemorative Partner Portal





# Commemorative Partner Program

- **Commemoration provides a starter kit composed of the commemorative flag, commemorative partner certificate and poster of Congressional objectives and Presidential Proclamation.**
- **Results of event/activity are captured through an after-action report submitted by commemorative partner.**
- **As of October 28—more than 6,636 Commemorative Partners**

# Commemorative Partner Program



- **2nd Mission: Certificate of Honor Program**
- **Four special groups:**
  - ✓ **Immediate family members of those listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.**
  - ✓ **Immediate family members of those still missing and unaccounted for**
  - ✓ **Former living Vietnam War POWs**
  - ✓ **Spouses of those veterans who served in the theater of operations and returned home and have subsequently passed away**
- **Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and healing is taking place**
- **As of 28 October—Approximately 1100 Certificates of Honor produced**



# Commemorative Partner Program



## Certificate of Honor and lapel pins





# Commemorative Partner Events

## Statistics – All Completed Events To Date 10/31/14

Fiscal Year	Staffed Events	Materials and/or Advertising Support
2012	8	63
2013	81	146
2014	98	515
2015	7	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>755</b>

Fiscal Year	Staffed Events with Speaking Role
2012	3
2013	59
2014	67
2015	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>

**Total of 949 Veteran Events Have Occurred Since FY 2012**  
**Of the 194 Staffed Events - 134 have had speaking roles**  
**101 Upcoming Events Through the Remainder of the Calendar Year**

# Commemorative Partner Events

- Commemorative Partners have committed to having two events per calendar year 2015, 2016 and 2017
- Expect a dramatic increase in support by the 2nd and 3rd quarters of FY 2015
- Currently supporting events with the following:
  - speakers
  - booth/table displays
  - free materials to handout and present to veterans
  - advertising on the program website

# Commemorative Partner Events and Vietnam Veterans Attendance

- Capture Vietnam Veteran attendance on event support request form
  - Will be able to run more metrics after FY2015 during Phase II
- Capture totals of Vietnam Veterans and their families' attendance on the After Action Report form
- Encourage partners to co-host events and share resources



# Commemorative Partner Events



The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia held its 29th annual reunion. Nearly 700 Vietnam Veterans visited the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA.



# Commemorative Partner Events

## JBLM says thank you to Vietnam vets

*Long-delayed honor accorded those who served their country in a long-ago war*



On October 9th, Joint Base Lewis-McChord hosted a Vietnam Veterans Salute ceremony. The host, Lieutenant General Stephen R. Lanza, I Corps commanding general, set the tone for the ceremony by telling the 1,500 to 2,000 Vietnam War veterans and family members in attendance, “We’re here today to celebrate you.”

# FY2015 Events Update

Date	Event Title	Location
2015 TBD	Special Joint Meeting of Congress	Washington, DC
11 Nov 2014	NYC Veterans Day Parade and Associated Events	New York, NY
12 Nov 2014	Coca-Cola Vietnam Veterans Dinner	Atlanta, GA
14 Nov 2014	Parade Honoring Vietnam Veterans	Milledgeville, GA
22 Nov 2014	Clemson Football Game	Clemson, SC
18 Mar 2015	NAM-POW Reunion	San Antonio, TX
28 Mar 2015	Vietnam Veterans Day	Atlanta, GA
Apr 2015	Virginia International Tattoo	Norfolk, VA
2 May 2015	Vietnam Veterans Parade of Honor	Inverness, FL
June 2015	National League of POW/MIA Families Annual Meeting	Arlington, VA
24 Jun 2015	Twilight Tattoo	Ft Myer, VA
25 Jun 2015	American Gold Star Mother's Annual Conference	Kansas City, MO
July 2015	Gold Star Wives of America Annual Conference	Arlington, VA
10 Jul 2015	Vietnam 50 <sup>th</sup> Celebration Honor and Remember	Windsor Locks, CT
20 Jul 2015	EAA AirVenture Oshkosh Air Show	Oshkosh, WI
Sep 2015	Spirit of America	Various Locations



# DISCUSSION

How to expand outreach to increase our ability to thank and honor Vietnam War veterans.

# CLOSING REMARKS

**Chairman**