



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



MAY 2012

SECOND QUARTER 2012 COMMEMORATION NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events:

*Memorial Day Opening Ceremony
for the United States of America
Vietnam War 50th Anniversary
Commemoration (See next page)*

The Wall That Heals

**Tribute to Rolling Thunder's 25th
Anniversary**

**The National Vietnam War Mu-
seum- 3rd Annual Update of the
Vietnam Memorial Wall**

**Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
Fort Hood**

Details about these events can be
found on pages 2 and 4

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS YOU

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Jan Scruggs, Founder and President of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) met the family of Vietnam Veteran, CPL Frank A. Neary, during a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. May 13. The ceremony unveiled changes to The Wall and honored 10 newly-listed heroes, including Neary. Vietnam War Commemoration Director Lt. Gen. Claude "Mick" Kicklighter served as the keynote speaker for the ceremony. (Photo by Bill Petros, courtesy of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund)

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- I. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
- II. 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.
- III. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
- IV. To highlight the advances in technology, science and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
- V. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

Opening Ceremony for the United States of America Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration

May 28, 2012, Washington, D.C.

The Memorial Day 2012 ceremony beginning at 1 p.m. at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall will begin the national commemoration of the Vietnam War's 50th anniversary. The Department of Defense's Office of Commemorations is working with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and National Park Service for a special and inspiring ceremony to thank and honor America's Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service, valor and sacrifice.

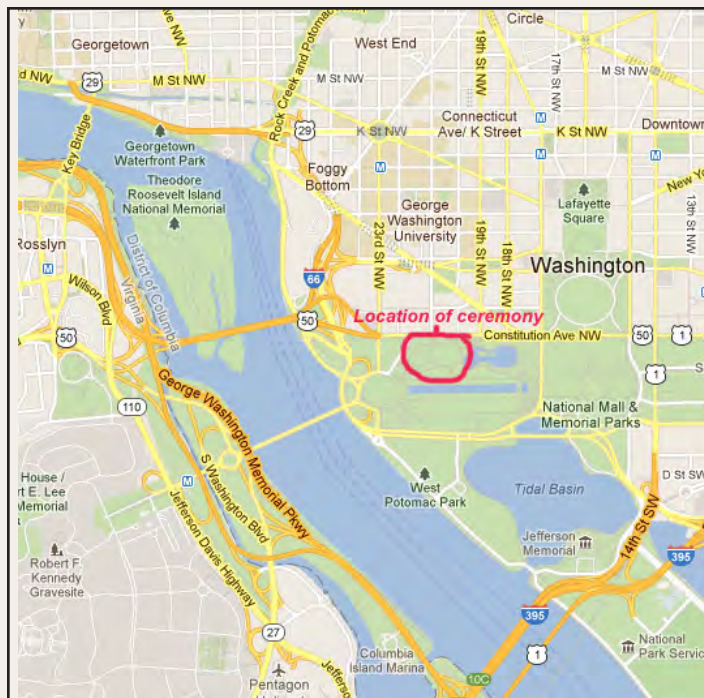
This year, the Secretary of Defense will host over 2,500 Vietnam Veterans, Gold Star family members, wounded veterans from military and other hospitals, and other distinguished guests. Veteran Service Organizations associated with the Vietnam War, each branch of the military services, as well as the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and other governmental leaders will also have representatives attending the event.

It will be impossible to accommodate everyone who wishes to be present in front of The Wall for the Memorial Day ceremony but arrangements are being made to provide an additional viewing area on the knoll just to the East of The Wall within line of sight of the event. In addition, attendees will be able to see the events unfold on a JumboTron viewing screen at the site. Security will be very restrictive and each person attending in viewing areas will need to successfully pass through a magnetometer and restrictions will apply, as to what can be carried into the viewing areas (no bottled water or food, no knives, no weapons of any type, no sharp metal objects such as nail files, etc. will be allowed past the security screening points).

Expected attendees at the ceremony include the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of Joint Chiefs, Senator Chuck Hagel (a Vietnam Veteran) as well as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Secretary of the Interior and other cabinet officials. Emmy and Golden Globe award winning actor and Vietnam era Army Veteran, Tom Selleck, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. He will be joined by the Marine Band and the Army Chorus. In attendance will be General Barry R. McCaffrey and Jan Scruggs of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and other veterans and their family members.

During the ceremony, wreaths will be laid by Veteran Service Organizations, Gold Star family members and military leaders. Taps and a moment of silence will follow the wreath laying and flyovers by military aircraft culminate the tribute to America's Vietnam Veterans and begin a series of nationwide commemorations.

The objective of this special ceremony is simple: TO THANK AND HONOR THE SERVICE, VALOR AND SACRIFICE OF VIETNAM VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.



How to Arrive & What to Bring

You will need to arrive no later than 1:00 p.m.

There are several ways you can get to the entrance on Constitution Avenue at the Vietnam Memorial for the Ceremony:

If you drive, be aware that parking will be extremely limited in D.C.

The Metro's Orange and Blue lines stop at Foggy Bottom and Farragut West, both approximately a 15 minute walk from the Memorial.

Taxis can drop off on Independence Avenue near the Lincoln Memorial.

All guests must show photo ID to enter.

Security will close entrances at 1:00 pm. After 1:00 pm, no one will enter.

For more information about the annual ceremonies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, please contact VVMF at (202) 393-0090 or via e-mail at vvmf@vvmf.org



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

Vietnam Wall Turns 30

By Terri Moon Cronk
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 26, 2012 – Commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial groundbreaking here today, officials of the memorial's fund announced the development of an education center to inform younger generations about the war's history.

Retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey speaks to an audience about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and its soon-to-be built education center during a March 26, 2012, event kicking off a year-long observance of the memorial's 30th anniversary. DOD photo by Terri Moon Cronk (Click photo for screen-resolution image); high-resolution image available.

Retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey, a Vietnam veteran and chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund advisory board, said the center also will showcase a "Wall of Faces" of the lives lost during the war, just as the wall bears their names.

"The wall is not just for the [millions] of us who served, but also for the 300,000 or more who were wounded, the 58,000 who were killed, and all the pain that brought along with it [for] dads, mothers, brothers, friends," McCaffrey said. "It's an extraordinary achievement."

And the crux of the education center, he said, will be to connect service members' stories, families and experiences to the wall.

"It will also connect the other veterans from our other wars from the Revolutionary War all the way up to the unbelievable heroism and sacrifice of our service members who are still fighting in Afghanistan," he said.

"The Wall" is one of the most vis-

ited memorials in the nation's capital, added retired Army Brig. Gen. George Price, who also was an early supporter of the memorial and served in Vietnam.

Price said the American public owes knowledge of the Vietnam War to today's children.

"We owe this center to our youngsters to bridge the gap between then and now," he said. "We need to make sure they understand that mistakes were made, good things were achieved, and most importantly, they must understand the sacrifices of service to the most important country in the world, the United States of America."

To preserve the legacy of the fallen, the center will offer exhibits such as:

-- "Telling Their Stories," to showcase military service taken from excerpts of letters and memories;

-- "The Wall of Faces," digital images of the more than 58,000 service members who are memorialized on the wall;

-- "The Legacy of Service," comprising images of service members who served in all the nation's wars through Iraq and Afghanistan; and

-- "The Artifacts Collection," which is expected to exhibit more than 120,000 personal items left at the wall by families and visitors.

The center also will provide other educational resources for information on the fallen, officials said.

The education center's groundbreaking is expected to take place sometime this year, amid other celebrations to take place all year along the National Mall to commemorate the memorial's 30 years, Memorial Fund officials said.



Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans ceremonies are taking place throughout the nation. Above: With the names of 510 service members beside him on the Buffalo waterfront, inscribed on a Washington-like Wall honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, Vietnam War veteran Ted Wilkinson reflects on his harsh homecoming and how much public perceptions have changed. (Robert Kirkham / Buffalo News) Full story by Lou Michel see: Long after Vietnam: Honor at <http://www.buffalonews.com/city/article787196.ece>

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VIETNAM WAR

COMMEMORATION

Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration 2012 at Charlotte Motor Speedway

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Dan Cook, Black Team demonstrator, U.S. Army Parachute Team members, "The Golden Knights," is thanked by Vietnam veterans and family members after jumping into Charlotte Motor Speedway during the opening ceremonies of the USO North Carolina Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration, March 31, 2012. (US Army Photo by Jerry Morrison)



Armand Tetu, formerly a Spc. 4 -"grunt" with the 101st Airborne Division during the Vietnam War, pays his respects during the playing of the national anthem at the Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration at the Charlotte Motor Speedway March 31. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Katryn Tuton)

Upcoming and Recent Events:

The Wall That Heals

May 24-28, Sugarland, TX
June 14-17, Washington, IA
June 27-July 1, North Kansas City, MO

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

May 21 10 a.m.
Sadowski Field in front of III Corps HQ
Ft. Hood, TX
For more info: <http://www.forthood-presscenter.com>

Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration, May 28

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Washington, DC

Tribute to Rolling Thunder's 25th Anniversary

May 26, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Henry Bacon Dr. and Constitution Ave.
More details at: www.cammomusic.org

The National Vietnam War Museum-3rd Annual Update of the Vietnam Memorial Wall

June 2, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
12685 Mineral Wells Highway
Weatherford, TX 76086
940-325-4003
www.nationalvnwarmuseum.org

(Photo 26 April 1965, Douglas Pike Photograph Collection, The Vietnam Center and Archive, Texas Tech University)



Robert McNamara's leadership during the Vietnam War is the subject of a new book entitled "McNamara, Clifford, and the Burdens of Vietnam, 1965-1969." The author, Edward Drea, joined former Defense Secretary Harold Brown and others for a discussion about McNamara and his successor, Clark Clifford. To view the complete discussion, visit: <http://c-spanvideo.org/program/DepartmentLea>

For more Vietnam Veterans Homecoming at Charlotte Motor Speedway, go to: <http://www.dvidshub.net/video/140865/vietnam-veterans-homecoming-celebration> and www.facebook.com/50thPAD