



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION 50th Anniversary



WINTER 2013 - 2014

COMMEMORATION NEWSLETTER

Upcoming partner events throughout the nation:

Jan 30: Virginia International Tattoo Press Event Norfolk, Va.

March 26-30: Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Celebration Branson, Mo.

March 29: Dedication of Vietnam Veterans Monument Austin, Texas

April 24-27: 2014 Virginia International Tattoo - Vietnam War Commemoration Partner event Norfolk, Va.

More event details on page 3

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS YOU

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Retired Gen. John Jumper, former Air Force Chief of Staff and 1988 Honorary Thunderbird, recognized both the current team and alumni association for becoming partners with the U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration. General Jumper asked all Vietnam War-era veterans to join him on stage for a group photo.

2014 begins with 5,200 Commemorative Partners

The Commemorative Partner Program is hometown centric and veteran-focused to thank and honor Vietnam Veterans and their families where they live. Launched in late October 2012, more than 5,200 organizations across America have joined the nation in thanking and honoring Vietnam Veterans and their families. These partnership events have a strong impact on our veterans. For many of these veterans and their families, it will be the first time in 50 years that they have been remembered and thanked for their service and sacrifice.

Although extremely excited and gratified by the significant number of partners joining this Congressionally-mandated initiative, the Vietnam War Commemoration urges everyone to continue to carry the message.

Partners participate by conducting events and activities to thank and honor Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service, valor, and sacrifice. Commemorative Partners are re-

quested to commit to conducting two events in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Communities across the nation already honor veterans at events, such as Memorial Day ceremonies and Veterans Day parades. At these events, partners can specifically highlight those who served during the Vietnam War.

Partners receive the commemorative flag, Commemorative Partner Certificate signed by the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, commemoration materials and authorization to use The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner seal for approved purposes.

More information about the Vietnam War Commemoration, the Commemorative Partner Program, and the list of current partners is available on the Vietnam War Commemoration website: www.VietnamWar50th.com.

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VIETNAM WAR
COMMEMORATION

Vietnam Women's Memorial Celebrates 20 Years



Story and photo by
Amanda Negron

Thousands of veterans from different generations, and in particular the Vietnam War generation, their families, daughters and sons, grandchildren and friends celebrated the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial this Veterans Day in the nation's capital. On Veterans Day 1993, the Vietnam Women's Memorial was unveiled opposite the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, known around the world as The Wall. Nearly 11 years in the making, the Vietnam Women's Memorial has stood for 20 years honoring the eight American women who died

while serving in theater and all women who served in the Vietnam War. It serves as a touchstone of healing for all who answered this nation's call.

This year, the 20th anniversary of the memorial brought together visitors from around the world – those who came to pay their respects to loved ones who lost their lives, others who attended reunions to see friends with whom they served and to reminisce about the times they shared together.

Visitors to the Vietnam Women's Memorial shared highlights of the other Veterans Day events at the Wall, which included words from Vietnam veteran and former Chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell, and songs from former USO performer, Ms. Jan Daley. In addition a letter from Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel was read to the audience.

The most moving moment of the day was during the "Vietnam: In Their Own Words" event, where women who served in Vietnam told their stories of service at their memorial. Their experience offered guests a chance to understand their service and to wish a sincere "Welcome Home" to all the veterans in attendance.

For more news about this event:
<http://www.army.mil/article/114793/>

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

American Red Cross Becomes Commemorative Partner

Story and photo by Amanda Negrón

For Americans serving in Southeast Asia, they were the “touch of home” -- American Red Cross Volunteers. Affectionately referred to as “donut dollies” in honor of their legacy members who baked and served donuts for service members during World War II and Korea, those who served during Vietnam designed programs and entertained troops in the field.

Established in 1949, The American Red Cross Overseas Association serves to renew and continue friendships created while serving as volunteers overseas, keeps alive the spirit which prompted that service, contributes to international understanding, works for the mutual benefit of members, engages in community service, provides services to members in need, acknowledges an outstanding humanitarian annually, and makes training funds available to members, and members’ children and grandchildren.

With more than 100 guests in attendance, ARCOA recently held a ceremony at the Red Cross Headquarters in Washington DC, to recognize Red Cross members who were deployed from 1918-2013, as well as five Red Cross service mem-

bers who volunteered and sacrificed their lives helping others during the Vietnam War. In addition to a wreath laying by World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Red Cross Archives representatives, a wreath was placed at the Vietnam memorial in the Red Cross headquarters garden.

Finally, at the same ceremony, the ARC became

a Commemorative Partner with the Vietnam War Commemoration. The Vietnam War Commemoration presented the commemorative flag and certificate to Ms. Gail McGovern, president and chief executive officer of the ARC.

The ARC is among the more than 5,000 orga-



(Left to right) American Red Cross volunteers, Ms. Dale Boggs, who served in Okinawa, Japan from June 1969 to June 1971, and the Rev. E. Peyton Wooldridge, who served in the Republic of South Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 in Qui Nhon and Da Nang, position a wreath at the Red Cross Memorial in the Garden of the Red Cross Square.

nizations to join a growing and wide-ranging list of Commemorative Partners supporting the efforts of the congressionally-chartered Commemoration. In doing so, ARC members across the nation will have an important role as a grateful nation thanks millions of Vietnam veterans and their loved ones for their service, valor and sacrifice.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan. 6-31: Colonel Andrew Balfour Chapter, NSDAR Vietnam War Library Display

Asheboro Public Library
201 Worth Street
Asheboro, NC 27203
<http://bit.ly/1bRRM5d>

Jan. 30: Virginia International Tattoo Press Event Norfolk, Va.
www.vafest.org/2014/tattoo-main

Feb. 28: Joint Department of Defense G-4 Event at the Pentagon

March 25: Tribute to Georgia’s Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipients - Atlanta, Ga.

March 26-30: Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Celebration Branson, Mo.
www.bransonveteransevents.com/events.htm

March 29: Dedication of the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument
Texas State Capitol
1100 Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701
www.buildthemonument.org

April 25: Illinois Daughters of the American Revolution State Conference
www.ildar.org

April 11 - 13: National Society Children of the American Revolution National Convention
www.ncsar.org

April 24-27: 2014 Virginia International Tattoo - Vietnam War Commemoration Partner event

Norfolk Scope Arena
201 E. Brambleton Ave
Norfolk, VA 23510
www.vafest.org/2014/tattoo-main

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



WIMSA formally installed as Commemorative Partner

Story and photo by Amanda Negron

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial was formally installed as a Commemorative Partner with The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration as part of the memorial's annual Veterans Day program.

Commemorative Partner Program Branch Chief Ms. Yvonne Schilz presented the commemorative flag and certificate to the president of WIMSA Foundation, retired Air

Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught (See photo above). The partnership demonstrates WIMSA's ongoing commitment to thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War and their families, especially those held as prisoners of war, families of still unaccounted for servicemembers and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In addition to the Commemoration presentation, WIMSA's Veterans Day program included a luncheon for

Medal of Honor recipients, a woman warrior from each of the five services sharing her inspiring story, wreath presentations by Gold Star Wives and the Air Force Security Forces Association, and the showing of the film "Gold Star Children" by Mitty Griffis Mirror, herself a Gold Star Child. The film reflects the long-term impact on children who have endured the loss of a parent serving in war and includes reflections of the now adult-children who lost a parent in Vietnam.

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VIETNAM WAR
COMMEMORATION

Veterans Day takes over New York City's Fifth Avenue with "America's Parade"

With almost one million veterans in New York, it is no wonder Veterans Day in New York City lasts an entire week. However, the 94th Annual NYC Veterans Day Parade, known as "America's Parade," was truly the highlight!

This year's parade honored Women in Service and the featured service was the U.S. Army. Representing both themes was retired Army Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, the first woman to achieve the four-star rank in any U.S. military service, who served as the Parade Grand Marshal.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and other dignitaries kicked off the parade with a memorial ceremony at Madison Square Park. For most of the day, America's Parade took over NYC's Fifth Avenue from 26th Street to 53rd Street with over



27,000 participants including veterans, active military units and high school bands from across the nation. Observers lined Fifth Avenue, displaying gratitude and patriotism as the parade passed by.

Singer and songwriter Chris Van Cleave performed "Not Forgotten," aboard The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration float to honor all veterans and their families for all the sacrifices they make, and as a tribute to his father whose remains have not yet been recovered. Van Cleave's father, an F-4 pilot, was shot down in April 1969. He invited some members of his family, as well as members of the National League of POW/MIA Families, to join him on the float.

Van Cleave was very happy his daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter were able to join him on the float. "It was an honor. They knew, it wasn't just about the waves

and all that side of things. They knew that this was deeply important work on a heart and soul level for people."

"Just seeing the faces on the streets, and their support and their emotional heart connection with what we were doing, and to be a part of that was very moving to me," said Van Cleave.

NYC's Veterans Day Parade was broadcast in major cities throughout the United States, including Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Orlando/Daytona, Phoenix and Washington, D.C.

America's Parade carries on the tradition of the NYC Veterans Day Parade. Produced by the United War Veterans Council, it is the largest event in the nation honoring those who have defended our freedoms. For more information about NYC's Veterans Day Parade and related events visit www.americasparade.org.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



Cincinnati Reds owner, Bob Castellini, accepts the Commemorative Partner flag and certificate during their annual Redfest, which is their official annual winter warm-up.



Charles Bernroth, member of the National League of Families, and Vietnam Veteran Victor Martinez participated in New York City's Veterans Day Parade. Bernroth's brother-in-law, Air Force Capt. Charles J. Wanzel III, was a pilot on an AC-130 shot down in Laos.



Private Pete Myers (standing), one of the first men out of the Higgins Boat for Company F wading ashore in seawater up to his neck, is greeted by Ft. Belvoir Base Commander, Colonel Greg Gadson during Veteran's Day tribute to six Gold Star Mothers.



Inspirational Networks, Inc. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer David Cerullo (center) is joined by (left to right) John Roos, Thomas Torrey, Jim Goss, and Dale Ardizzone. Their video, "Thank You For Your Service" (A Moment of Truth) is a tribute to Vietnam Veterans. <http://bit.ly/1kPs3K2>



Pete Wheeler, the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Veterans, speaks during the Governor of Georgia's 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War ceremony at the State Capitol. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class David P. Coleman/Released)



College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Mo., hosted the premiere of the original play "Four-Star Country Boy," based on the life of Vietnam Veteran and former Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps General Terrence R. Dake. Gen. Dake is an alumnus of the school. Some veterans had the cast members autograph their programs.