



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



## The Commemorative Flag

### Symbolism:

- **“The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration”** is the official name given to this Department of Defense program in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.
- **Background** – The blue background matches the blue canton in the United States Flag.
- **Gold Color** – Traditional in signifying a 50th anniversary, gold is incorporated in the text of this design and reflects the congressional authorization of this 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.
- **Inner Rings** – Red, white and blue rings incorporate colors drawn from our National Emblem and honor all Americans, military and civilian, who contributed to the Vietnam War effort. The words, “Service,” “Valor” and “Sacrifice” – virtues embodied by our veterans during the Vietnam War – are embedded within the blue ring. A representation of the Vietnam Service Medal (ribbon) rests below the rings.
- **Outer Ring** – This black ring encompasses the red, white and blue rings, and serves as a reminder of those killed in action or held as prisoners during the Vietnam War. It also represents those who remain listed as missing in action and unaccounted for.
- **Stars** – The gold-rimmed white star between the words “Service” and “Valor” represents hope for families of Vietnam veterans for whom there has not been the fullest possible accounting. The gold star between the words “Valor” and “Sacrifice” represents families whose Vietnam veteran paid the ultimate sacrifice during the war. The blue star at the bottom of the inner blue ring represents families of all Vietnam 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 – that symbolize the contributions and sacrifices made by the United States and its allies: the Commonwealth of Australia, the Kingdom of Thailand, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of the Philippines.
- **Center** – A map of the country of Vietnam outlined in black relief occupies the center of the flag, along with the subdued outlines of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and surrounding waters. This map represents the Indo-China area of operations where U.S. Armed Forces served.
- **Green Laurel Wreath** – A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity and strength.
- **“A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You”** reflects our country’s gratitude for each veteran and their family, Department of Defense civilians, and all others who served and sacrificed during the Vietnam War.



### Placement:

- When displayed next to the Commemorative Flags of World War II and the Korean War, the Commemorative Flag of the Vietnam War will signify Vietnam veterans taking their rightful place among generations of U.S. veterans.

May 2022

*Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!*

[vietnamwar50th.com](http://vietnamwar50th.com)