



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
**VIETNAM WAR
COMMEMORATION**



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Thursday, August 6

Dear Commemorative Partners,

We have ***exciting news*** ... **Maj. Gen. Peter (Pete) M. Aylward**, U.S. Army (Retired), was appointed as our ***new director*** beginning Monday, August 3, 2020!

Most of you know that Gen. Aylward has been an integral part of the Commemoration since 2012, serving as a senior advisor. In this capacity, ***he helped develop partnerships with many of you!***

What some of you may not know ... *although it's doubtful, given his distinctive accent and unabashed cheering of the Boston Red Sox* ... is that Gen. Aylward hails from Melrose, Massachusetts.

He came to the Commemoration on the heels of a ***distinguished 35-year military career***, which included a variety of command and senior staff positions. While a more amplified biography can be found [here](#), it is important to note the general's distinctive experience as a previous director of the DoD Pandemic Influenza Task Force, and his most recent involvement as a key member of the DoD COVID-19 Pandemic Influenza Task Force. Truly, Gen. Aylward's ***proven leadership*** and ***unique background*** promises success tempered with sagacity!



Regarding commemorative events, we continue to receive word of postponements. In addition, we received word yesterday from VVMF that they made the extremely difficult decision to ***cancel*** the remainder of ***The Wall That Heals tour*** for 2020. Clearly, COVID-19 remains a significant challenge and concern for America. As such, we encourage you to continue developing ***creative ways to virtually thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families***, all while ***safeguarding their well-being***.

Finally, we offer our sincere appreciation to our Assistant Director for Plans and Operations, retired U.S. Army ***Col. Larry M. Brom***, for ***expertly leading us as acting director*** these past three months. His steady hand allowed us to carry on this noble mission during an extremely challenging period, while ensuring our team was protected and you were supported in your efforts to virtually thank and honor our Vietnam veterans and their families.

We eagerly anticipate the day when we can all see each other again, and work side-by-side to publicly recognize and honor the ***amazing patriots*** who served during the Vietnam period.

Meanwhile, we encourage everyone to ***CALL, TEXT or VIDEO CHAT with a Vietnam veteran*** and ***offer your profound thanks!*** Thank you, for continuing as ***Proud Partners with The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration!***

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!