



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2021 – Issue 1

Tuesday, February 23

Dear Commemorative Partners,

The fourth anniversary of **National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29**, is coming up soon! We are *utilizing* the ongoing *vaccine distribution* to *reach our Vietnam veterans* who are physically able to make it to the inoculation sites. As New York City rolled out the vaccine program at the Javits Center, we leveraged that effort to reach Vietnam veterans and *within days, more than 200 were thanked and honored*. Adjutant Generals from all 50 States, 3 territories and the District of Columbia have been *encouraged to do the same*.



This effort is picking up steam, but *we need you to* –
– *Help us connect with our hard-to-reach veterans*—those in Service-associated retirement homes, nursing homes or assisted living facilities.
– *Help us with the healing that happens when our Vietnam veterans*, our

Nation’s blood and treasure from a generation ago who would just rather leave Vietnam in the rear-view mirror, *receive our Nation’s thanks and gratitude*.

There is a scene from *Saving Private Ryan* where an aged Private Ryan (played by Harrison Young) turns to his wife and says: “Tell me I’ve led a good life.” “Tell me I’m a good man.” We believe that is what we do when we extend our Nation’s thanks to our Vietnam veterans. We tell these men and women they earned it. *They made a difference in our lives and in the lives of our children*.



Our hope is that COVID ends soon and our Commemorative Partners will again be able to host events, especially since the VA estimates that we are losing 557 Vietnam veterans each day. *We are deeply concerned about what the separation imposed by COVID means to our Vietnam veterans ... separation from families, the loneliness, the anxiety, and depression. We want them to know just how much we appreciate them ... that they have earned the Nation’s gratitude!*

So, I encourage everyone to visit www.vietnamwar50th.com. There you will find great *examples of safe and successful events honoring Vietnam veterans during COVID*.

Please follow these examples and *reach out* to the Vietnam veterans in your neighborhood. *I promise, you will make a huge difference in their lives!*

Maj. Gen. Peter M. Aylward
U.S. Army, Retired
Director

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!