



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



## “SITREP” 2021 – Issue 10

Friday, October 1

*Dear Commemorative Partners,*

*As we step into Autumn*, we celebrate another Service branch birthday ... that of the U.S. Navy! **246 years ago—October 13, 1775**, nearly six months after the Revolutionary War began—the Continental Congress authorized two armed vessels to sea, effectively initiating the [United States Navy](#). Though disbanded in 1785, the [Naval Act of 1794](#) reestablished it and formed the *Department of the Navy*. It is **October 13**, however, that we recognize and celebrate the Navy’s birth.



Admiral Michael M. Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations (left), receives the VWC Commemorative Flag from our Director, retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Pete Aylward.

During the Vietnam War period, the Navy performed a wide array of missions. *In the air*, it projected power from the flight decks of its carriers, and was a key partner with the Air Force during the ROLLING THUNDER and LINEBACKER air campaigns. *On the coast*, the Navy



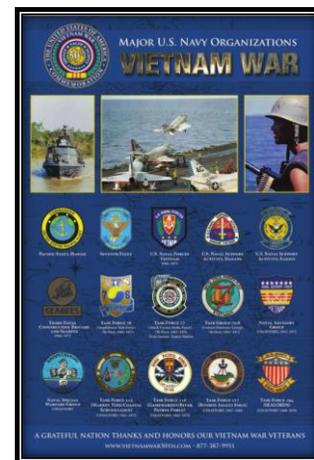
engaged in naval gunfire support missions against enemy targets in the littoral areas of Vietnam, developed a highly effective blockade to prevent the resupply of enemy forces by sea, and provided amphibious transport for Marines operating in I Corps. *On rivers*, it stood up task forces designed to protect commercial traffic, assist allied ground forces, and interdict enemy troops and supplies moving on these inland waterways. You can read more about the Navy’s involvement in Vietnam on this [Fact Sheet](#), provided by the *Naval History and Heritage Command*, as well as on our own [three-panel poster series](#).

In addition, our U.S. Navy [Patch Poster](#) (below right) is freely available online! Lastly, visit our [website](#) on the Navy’s birthday—**October 13**, for a special Oral History Interview video vignette highlighting our Navy Vietnam veterans and their service experience!

Some noteworthy facts about our Navy’s Vietnam War service and sacrifice:

- **16 sailors** were recognized for their gallant combat actions with the **Medal of Honor**—six are living today: [Donald E. Ballard](#), [Robert R. Ingram](#), [Thomas G. Kelley](#), [Thomas R. Norris](#), [Michael E. Thornton](#), and [Joseph R. Kerrey](#).
- Of the **58,281** names on the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#)—**2,569** are sailors.
- **352** are counted among the **1,584** who remain **missing** and **unaccounted for**.

As we pay tribute to our beloved Navy service members this month, join with us by watching and sharing our brief [U.S. Navy Birthday Salute!](#) *To this remarkable, select group of men and women who served and continue to serve in the United States Navy, particularly our Vietnam veterans ... [Bravo Zulu!](#)*



~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

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