



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



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Dear Commemorative Partners,

“*Semper Fi*,” “*Leathernecks*,” “*Devil Dogs*” and “*the Few, the Proud, the Marines*,” are just a few of the recognized hallmarks of our revered [U.S. Marines](#). On **November 10**, we hail their **246th birthday!** *United States Marine Corps history* began on that date in 1775 when the Second Continental Congress ordered “two battalions of Marines be raised”¹ for service as landing forces with the fleet. This resolution led to the immediate establishment of the “first Marine Corps recruiting headquarters at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, PA.”²



Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps Gen. David H. Berger (right), receives the VWC Commemorative Flag from our Director, retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Peter M. Aylward.

Since its inception, the U.S. Marine Corps has maintained a distinctive legacy of *combat valor* and *tenacity*. Their **service during the Vietnam War** is

outlined on a [Fact Sheet](#) provided by the *United States Marine Corps History Division*. **Initially in Vietnam as advisors, their presence grew with the need to protect the key airbase at Da Nang.** From the demilitarized zone in the north to counterinsurgency operations in the south, Khe Sanh in the west to “Leatherneck Square” in the east, and from the Gulf of Tonkin incident to the 1968 Tet Offensive, the 1972 Easter Offensive, and 1975 Operations EAGLE PULL and FREQUENT WIND, **nearly 500 thousand Marines served and sacrificed –**

- **58** were awarded the **Medal of Honor** for gallant combat actions—seven of whom are living today: [Harvey C. Barnum, Jr.](#), [John L. Canley](#), [Allan J. Kellogg, Jr.](#), [James E. Livingston](#), [Robert J. Modrzejewski](#), [Robert E. O’Malley](#) and [Jay R. Vargas](#).
- There are **14,858** Marines among the **58,281** patriots listed on the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#).
- **202** are counted among the **1,584** who remain **missing and unaccounted for**.

For all interested in Marine Corps units involved in the Vietnam War, our [U.S. Marine Corps Patch Poster](#) (at right) is available to freely download. Lastly, we invite you to enjoy our [Marine Corps Birthday Tribute](#), and—on **November 10**—to visit our [homepage](#) to watch a video vignette drawn from **Oral History Interviews** that highlights our Vietnam veteran Marines! To the faithful men and women who served and continue to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps ... [Oo-rah!](#)



~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

¹ USMC History Division, Reference Branch, “Brief History of the United States Marine Corps,” July 2006, <https://www.usmcm.edu/Research/Marine-Corps-History-Division/Brief-Histories/Brief-History-of-the-United-States-Marine-Corps/>, (accessed October 8, 2021).

² Marines, “A Legacy Forms,” 2021, <https://www.marines.com/about-the-marine-corps/who-are-the-marines/history.html>, (accessed October 25, 2021).

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!