



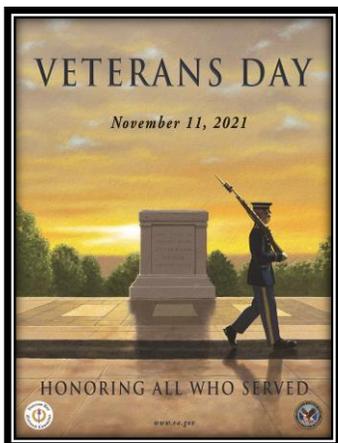
# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



## “SITREP” 2021 – Issue 12

Wednesday, November 10

*Dear Commemorative Partners,*



**Veterans Day** ... born from the 1918 cease-fire of the **Great War** on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Heroic declarations of **honor**, **service before self** and **sacrifice** resound as Americans venerate **those who have worn a military uniform in active service**, as well as **their families**.

More than **42 million** Americans have **served in times of war**; **19 million** are **living in America and abroad today**. Beginning in 1789, each of these **patriots** raised their right hand and solemnly affirmed they would ... *support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and ... bear true faith and allegiance to the same.*

Those who make this **declaration** ... this **commitment** ... this **solemn vow** ... are richly deserving of our abiding appreciation. Notably, **nearly one-third** of the **19 million** veterans alive today served on **active duty** between **Nov 1, 1955 – May 15, 1975**—the **Vietnam War period**. Our country and our communities owe you our **profound gratitude** and **humble respect**. Offer your hand, give a call, text a heartfelt thank you, or share this powerful video with family, friends and neighbors who served.

This year, **November 11** marks the Centennial Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This sacred memorial site serves as the “heart” of **Arlington National Cemetery (ANC)**. Sentinels—the elite of the elite from the 3d U.S. Infantry (“The Old Guard”)—stand watch over the Tomb day and night. The Tomb provides a focal point around which the history of ANC can be woven. Its story is captured in a compelling video narrated by ANC’s Senior Historian, Allison Finkelstein.

On Memorial Day 1984, a Vietnam War Unknown was interred in a **crypt west of the Tomb**. In 1998, DNA testing allowed the remains to be identified as those of U.S. Air Force pilot 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, shot down in 1972. In accordance with his family’s wishes, Blassie was laid to rest at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri. This left the original crypt vacant. On September 17, 1999—National POW/MIA Recognition Day—it was **rededicated to honor all missing U.S. service members from the Vietnam War** (photo at right).



During this centennial remembrance, *please observe 11 minutes of silence at 11 a.m.* in honor of **more than 1 million** who have given their lives for our freedoms, and *let church bells ring* in your communities *as together we honor all our veterans!*

~ *The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff* ~

Note: The 2021 Veterans Day poster shown above is available to download here, as well as four decades of previous Veterans Day posters.

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

vietnamwar50th.com