



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



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Thursday, December 16

Season’s Greetings!



As we celebrate the holidays, we are aware that many who serve in our military continue to be forward deployed, standing the watch, and unable to celebrate with loved ones back home. We are also mindful of all our veterans—notably our Vietnam veterans—and all our military families at home, especially our Gold Star families.

More than ever, during this special time of year, I encourage you to take some time to reflect upon all the blessings we continually enjoy as Americans. For most of us, our families will come together to celebrate their faith, welcome the New Year, and treasure the simple joys of life.

This past year, as the ongoing pandemic continued to challenge us, many remained separated from family and loved ones, especially those in care facilities. This holiday season, I encourage you to find creative ways to connect with them, especially the veterans in your families and neighborhoods, and most particularly, our Vietnam veterans. We want them to know just how much we appreciate them and their service to our Nation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them, as well as those who bear visible or unseen wounds of war, their families, and the families of the fallen and missing. American patriots – like Vietnam veteran George Hayes (shown at right) – have borne the most solemn burden in our fight to secure a better future for our children and our grandchildren ... in a very dangerous world.

We must never forget them.

We wish you and your families a joyful, healthy, and happy holiday season. Wherever you serve, we extend our deepest hopes and prayers for a safe and prosperous New Year!

Peter M. Aylward, Maj. Gen., U.S. Army (Ret.)
Director



Vietnam veteran George Hayes, Spc. 4, 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry (69-71) experienced the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. for the first time on December 16, 2021. Mr. Hayes was presented the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin, on behalf of the Nation, by our Director, retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Pete Aylward, and the President and CEO of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Mr. Jim Knotts.

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!

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