



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



## “SITREP” 2021 – Issue 7

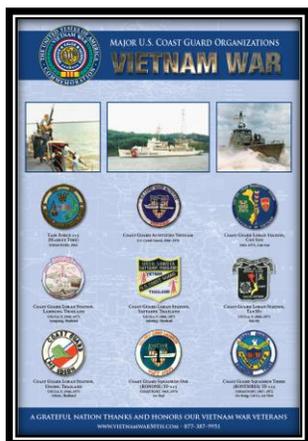
Monday, August 2

*Dear Commemorative Partners,*

**“Semper Paratus!”** or *“Always Ready”* is the [U.S. Coast Guard’s](#) motto. This Wednesday, **August 4**, we **celebrate 231 years** of the Coast Guard’s dedicated service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation! **August 4, 1790** marks the day *“Congress authorized Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton’s proposal to build ten cutters to protect the new nation’s revenue ... this service would officially be named the Revenue Cutter Service in 1863.”* *“In 1915, Congress officially passed the ‘Act to Create the Coast Guard,’ combining them with the ‘Life-Saving Service’ to form the Coast Guard.”*<sup>2</sup>



USCG Commandant, Admiral Karl Schultz (right) receives the VWC Commemorative Flag from our director, retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Pete Aylward.



The U.S. Coast Guard **maintained a presence in Vietnam for ten years.** In July 1965, USCGC *Point Orient* exchanged fire with Viet Cong in the Service’s first combat since World War II, and it was not until April 1975 that the Coast Guard shut down its last LORAN-C station in Vietnam. During that time, approximately **8,000 U.S. Coast Guardsmen served in Vietnam.** You can learn more about their involvement in Vietnam on this downloadable [three-panel poster series](#), as well as the [Patch Poster](#) (shown left). Additionally, we created an exciting 1-minute **“trailer”** from our Coast Guard Oral History interviews. This leads directly to an extended version available at [vietnamwar50th.com](#).

Another special day in August is **Purple Heart Day, August 7.** The **Purple Heart** medal is our Nation’s oldest military award and one of the first presented to all ranks. Originally introduced in 1782 by (then) General George Washington, only three recipients initially received this merit-based, heart-shaped award. It was reintroduced following World War I, and since then has been presented to American service members wounded or killed as a result of enemy action. Service members are eligible to receive multiple Purple Hearts throughout their career. There were **approximately 351,000 Purple Heart medals awarded to Vietnam veterans.** Of those Coast Guardsmen who served in Vietnam and received the Purple Heart, **8 gave their “last full measure”** and their names are inscribed on the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#).



As we both commemorate Purple Heart Day and celebrate our U.S. Coast Guardsmen this month, join us by watching our [Purple Heart Day tribute](#) as well as this celebratory [U.S. Coast Guard video!](#)

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

<sup>1</sup> United States Coast Guard, Historian’s Office, Timeline 1700’s-1800’s, <https://www.history.uscg.mil/Complete-Time-Line/Time-Line-1700-1800/> (accessed July 23, 2021).  
<sup>2</sup> United States Coast Guard, Chronology of Coast Guard History, <https://www.history.uscg.mil/research/chronology/> (accessed July 23, 2021).

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