



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2022 – Issue 3

Tuesday, February 15

Dear Commemorative Partners,

February, we celebrate [Black History Month](#) and highlight the remarkable achievements of our Nation’s African Americans! Also known as *National African American History Month*, **Black History Month** dates back almost a century ago when historian Carter G. Woodson selected the second week in February, 1926—signifying the birth month of abolitionist and social reformer Frederick Douglass, and also that of 16th U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, who issued the Emancipation Proclamation—to celebrate African American contributions to this remarkable republic. For five decades, every U.S. president since our 38th, Gerald Ford, has officially designated February as **Black History Month**. We mark its significance this year by spotlighting our Nation’s African American Vietnam veterans and their selfless service and sacrifice!



Sammy Davis, Jr., pictured with troops at Bien Hoa Air Force Base, Vietnam.

More than 300,000 African American troops served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War. Of these, **22** were conferred the [Medal of Honor](#)—the Nation’s highest award for conspicuous gallantry in combat—and three remain alive today: [John L. Canley](#), [Melvin Morris](#) and [Clarence E. Sasser](#). Reading their citations provides a small glimpse into the extraordinary character of these men, and watching short, yet powerful Medal of Honor video tributes to [Sasser](#) and [Charles C. Rogers](#) promises to leave you awestruck! You can also view and download our 4-part [African Americans in the Vietnam War](#) poster series, which features the photo shown above and historical information on African Americans in the Vietnam War, as well as many of their specific contributions.



Gen. Colin L. Powell



Maj. Gen. Arnold Fields



Brig. Gen.
J. Timothy Boddie, Jr.



Chief Warrant Officer 4
Doris “Lucki” Allen



Sgt. Maj. Ernest J. Davis



The Honorable John Allen

Finally, in our first [SITREP](#) of 2022, we introduced our [National Vietnam War Veterans Day Poster](#) and an accompanying [reference sheet](#) that outlines each Vietnam veteran’s military service, occupation and awards received, and provides a link to their respective Oral History Interviews. [Read more](#) about the *six African American Vietnam veterans* (at left) featured in this **29 March poster**.

Stay tuned—as we approach 29 March—for the *live-stream link* to our *national wreath-laying ceremony* at the *Vietnam Veterans Memorial*, as well as the rollout of our new *digital media kit*!

~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!