



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



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Dear Commemorative Partners,



Time has not diminished their astonishing bravery, their selflessness in putting the lives of others ahead of their own, and the gratitude that we as a Nation owe them. These are the recent words of our Commander-in-Chief, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., during The White House Medal of Honor ceremony July 5, 2022, recognizing the valor of four of our Nation’s Vietnam veterans: Retired Army veteran *Major John J. Duffy* and Army veterans *Staff Sergeant Edward N. Kaneshiro* (posthumous), *Specialist Five Dwight W. Birdwell* and *Specialist Five Dennis M. Fujii*. You can [view](#) the ceremony of these White House *Medal of Honor* presentations, or watch it from our [homepage](#) or [video gallery](#).

Tomorrow, August 4, we celebrate 232 years of the [United States Coast Guard’s](#) honorable service. Happy Birthday U.S. Coast Guard, we celebrate you with this [video tribute](#)! On June 1, 2022, the U.S. Coast Guard [formally transitioned](#) to new leadership. [Admiral Linda L. Fagan](#) (at right) was installed as its 27th Commandant, who notably, is also the first woman in history to oversee a United States Armed Forces service branch. Congratulations Admiral Fagan!



Admiral Linda L. Fagan,
27th Commandant,
U.S. Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard’s contribution in Vietnam, began on April 29, 1965, when President Lyndon B. Johnson authorized their service under the operational control of the United States Navy. Amidst a myriad of duties, the U.S. Coast Guard’s primary efforts centered around coastal surveillance and counter insurgent operations. Read more about the Coast Guard’s service in Vietnam by checking out our 3-part poster series titled, [The Coast Guard in the Vietnam War](#), as well as discovering the [U.S. Coast Guard’s Pentagon Exhibit, Vietnam section](#). Finally, enjoy our [Coast Guard Service Patch Poster](#) as we pay tribute to the U.S. Coast Guard all this month.



Lastly, we mark another monumental day on *August 7*, [Purple Heart Day](#).

Originally introduced by our first president, George Washington while he was a still a General, this medal remains our country’s oldest military award, and is also presented to all ranks. The [Purple Heart Medal](#) (shown at left) is awarded to American service members wounded or killed as a result of enemy action. Of note, there have been approximately 351,000 of these distinguished medals conferred to Vietnam veterans.

As we commemorate this day, remember the poignant words of our own [Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III](#) who affirmed, “*Purple Heart Day also reminds us of the high cost of war: the price to be paid by brave men and women and the burden that is*

laid at our feet, as a nation, to care for them and their families.” To our Nation’s Purple Heart Medal recipients, and especially our Vietnam veterans, we [salute](#) you!

~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!