



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2023 – Issue 2 Special Edition: 2022 in Review

Tuesday, January 31

Dear Commemorative Partners,

Congratulations! Since this effort began, *you* have *inspired* millions of Americans to thank and honor **3.3 million** Vietnam veterans and their families during **24 thousand** events across the country! In fact, in 2022 alone, **541** organizations joined as Commemorative Partners.



Over the course of the year, you have *joined the Nation* in thanking and honoring **267 thousand** of these previously unsung heroes during **2,715** events!



Top social media content – on Facebook, our Gary Sinise [Happy Birthday post](#) reached more than **200 thousand**, with an overall total audience engagement of **78 thousand!** In addition, Gary also produced a fifth anniversary National Vietnam War Veterans Day [video](#).



Gary Sinise video recognizing National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Additionally, statistics by the Department of Veterans Affairs published last year indicate that the number of Vietnam veterans who served on active duty from November 1, 1955 – May 15, 1975 is actually larger than we previously thought. It has been confirmed that this number is in fact closer to **7 million**, representing more than **6.7 million men** and nearly **300 thousand women**

veterans living in America and abroad! This is wonderful news!

Reflecting on 2022, **highlights and milestones** brim over! In January, we released the anticipated National Vietnam War Veterans Day (NVWVD) [poster](#). In March, as part of The Plaza live audience in New York City for **TODAY** on **NBC**, our staff [recognized](#) a Vietnam veteran in observance of NVWVD. **March 29** also brought our Nation’s senior military and government leaders alongside our Vietnam War Gold Star family members in a joint wreath-laying ceremony at the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#) in Washington, D.C.



Honor Flight attendees from three Michigan groups gather at Arlington National Cemetery’s Memorial Amphitheater June 18, 2022.

Throughout the year, Americans resurged from COVID and events picked up nationwide. In fact, more than **300 Honor Flights** brought veterans from across the country to our Nation’s capital to thank and honor them for their service! Over **13 thousand** Vietnam veterans alone were recognized during these priceless experiences, including **Medal of Honor** recipient [James C. McCloughan](#) participating in a June Michigan Honor Flight.

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



Speaking of the *Medal of Honor*, in July, 46th President Joseph R. Biden Jr. awarded our Nation's highest distinguished military decoration to *four United States Army Vietnam veterans* (one posthumously) at The White House, with the following attribution ...



“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.”



Retired Army veteran
Major John J. Duffy



Son of Army veteran Staff
Sergeant Edward N. Kaneshiro,
John Kaneshiro, receives his
father's posthumous award.



Army veteran Specialist Five
Dwight W. Birdwell



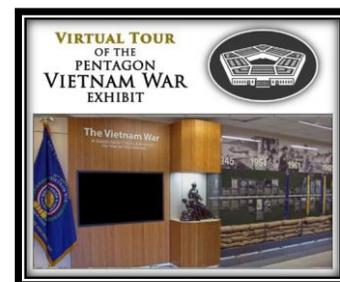
Army veteran Specialist Five
Dennis M. Fujii

View the [ceremony](#) of these White House Medal of Honor presentations that took place in Washington, D.C. on July 5, 2022 as well from our [video gallery](#). You can also read about the [history](#) of this award.

In November, we officially released our *Virtual Tour* of the *Pentagon Vietnam War Exhibit*. This award-winning *museum-quality virtual exhibit* is a 360-degree immersive experience you will not want to miss! More than *300 preserved artifacts and photographs* are shown in ten display cases



throughout the corridor. Other focal points include two era *UH-1 Huey helicopter cabs* at the center, and at the end, a tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The exhibit's themes of the *service and sacrifice* of Vietnam veterans and their families are situated in historical context, which should enhance the overall experience.



December brought two additional partnership designations: *Commemorative Ambassador* and *Honorary Partner*. *Commemorative Ambassadors* are recognized leaders in both Governmental and nongovernmental organizations who embrace opportunities to promote the mission and messages of the VWC, and inspire others to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families. *Honorary Partners* are organizations made up solely of those who **bore the battle** of the Vietnam War or those who **bore the loss**. **Sons and Daughters in Touch (SDIT)**, shown at right, is one such organization whose members **bore this loss** and was presented this distinction.



SDIT Founder & President
Mr. Tony Cordero (far right), SDIT
Board members & members at large.

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



VVA National President,
Mr. Jack McManus (at right).

We also had the opportunity to bestow this distinction to **Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)—those who bore the battle.** National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and their 2,096 Commemorative Partner chapters began collaborating with us in August to bestow this distinction on all VVA organizations, and publicly thank and honor the veterans in each of their 47 State Councils and 601 chapters in our 50 states and the District of Columbia. To date, **66 ceremonies in 16 states** have been scheduled, with 15 completed. Of note, all VVA chapters and the State Council in Nebraska have received this notable distinction.

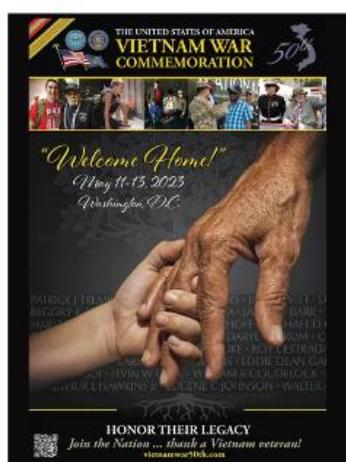
In addition to VVA state councils and chapters being conferred this distinction, DAR members are presenting **Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins** to VVA members who have never received one, as well as to any surviving spouse of a late Vietnam veteran. All VVA members are also being given a warm **“Welcome Home”** and offered the humble thanks of a grateful Nation.



Vietnam veterans of VVA Chapter 1052 in Hammond, LA presented the Honorary Partner distinction by Wharton Chapter, NSDAR, January 10, 2023.



Finally, **“Welcome Home!”** is just **99 days** away! Join us May 11-13 for this milestone event on the National Mall in Washington D.C. Check out our newly updated **event site**, **poster**, **2-page flyer** shown below, and **submission request for Vietnam veteran photos!** Share with everyone you know using hashtags **#WelcomeHome2023** and **#VWCWelcomeHome23** in your posts. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!



~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!