



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2023 – Issue 10

Thursday, August 3

Dear Commemorative Partners,

Tomorrow, August 4, we pay [tribute](#) to the 233 years of dedicated service of the [United States Coast Guard](#) (USCG). Happy birthday U.S. Coast Guard! Pictured at right, the 23rd Commandant of the Coast Guard, retired Admiral Thad W. Allen (far left) joined four other retired four-star flag officers in a riveting [panel discussion](#) emceed by retired U.S. Air Force Col. Leonard R. Vernamonti on May 12 during [Welcome Home!](#) To the right of Allen are the 15th Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Ronald R. Fogleman; the 26th Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Craig R. McKinley; the 33rd Chief of Staff of the Army, General Dennis J. Reimer; and the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Navy Admiral Michael G. Mullen.



Four-Star Vietnam Veterans engage in a Panel Discussion at “Welcome Home!” May 12, 2023.

During the Vietnam War, nearly 57 years ago this month, our first Coast Guardsmen perished. The USCG cutter *Point Welcome* was patrolling near the mouth of the Cua Viet River in support of Operation MARKET TIME on August 11, 1966, when the tragic [incident](#) occurred. You can read more about the Coast Guard’s presence during this period in a short [This Week in History](#) featurette, as well as via our 3-part [The Coast Guard in the Vietnam War](#) poster series. The [USCG Service Patch Poster](#) is also available for download. In addition, our full [Oral History collection](#) includes seven interviews with Coast Guardsmen, including (at left), retired U.S. Coast Guard Vice Admiral [James D. Hull](#).



On Saturday, July 8, Chattanooga, Tennessee area resident and U.S. Army Vietnam veteran AH-1 pilot Larry Taylor received word from President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., that he will be presented our Nation’s highest military honor, the [Medal of Honor](#), for his actions on June 12, 1968, during the Vietnam War. Following the upcoming White House ceremony, Taylor will be inducted into The Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes. Stay tuned to our website and social media as more information on these special ceremonies becomes available.



*The Medal of Honor
(U.S. Army)*



*Purple Heart
Medal*

Finally, Monday, August 7 is [Purple Heart Day](#), a day we set aside to honor our United States Armed Forces service members who have been wounded or killed by enemy action. There are approximately **351 thousand** Purple Heart Medals— our Nation’s oldest military award—that have been conferred to our country’s Vietnam veterans. To all of our Purple Heart Medal recipients, we thank you for your service and sacrifice. And for our U.S. Coast Guard service men and women, both past and present, we [salute](#) you!

~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!