



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



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Dear Commemorative Partners,

The phrase “with liberty and justice for all,” penned in our Nation’s [Pledge of Allegiance](#) more than 100 years ago still inspires, and serves as a poignant reminder of the ideals for which the United States of America Flag was created and the purpose for which it stands. As we approach [Flag Day](#) on June 14, the impassioned words from 40th U.S. President [Ronald W. Reagan](#) about our flag nearly 40 years ago offer an eloquent charge today: “*And let us never forget that in honoring our flag, we honor the American men and women who have courageously fought and died for it ... patriots who set an ideal above any consideration of self and who suffered for it the greatest hardships. Our flag flies free today because of their sacrifice.*”



Looking back on the sacrifice of American men and women who have served our country since Flag Day, one group in particular stands out, America’s Senior Service. [The United States Army](#), appropriately shares its birthday with Flag Day, and will celebrate 248 years of dedicated service June 14. You can read more about the history and formation of the Army’s birthday from the [U.S. Army Center of Military History](#). As we hail the [Army’s Birthday](#) and commemorate Army Heritage Month in June, find out how you can [participate](#).

Of the 58,281 engraved names on the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#), more than 65%, or 38,260, served in the Army. There are 509 soldiers whose accounting is still being sought after in earnest. From the Vietnam War, 268 were awarded the *Medal of Honor*, of whom 179 served in our Nation’s oldest service branch. One of those recipients (at right), was U.S. Army Specialist Five [John J. Kedenburg](#). Kedenburg earned his Medal of Honor for his gallant actions 55 years ago this week as he facilitated the rescue of every man in his unit from a North Vietnamese Army ambush on June 13, 1968. You can read more about that fateful day in a *This Week in History featurette*, as well as read Kedenburg’s Medal of Honor [citation](#). Additional [featurettes](#) are made available weekly on our website and social media.



In the weeks ahead, we look to commemorate two more days as a Nation. These national days of celebration have their foundation in the same principles of liberty and justice: [Juneteenth](#) on June 19 and [Independence Day](#) on July 4. As you gather to celebrate these holidays with friends, families and neighbors, and pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate price so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today, remember to thank all who served, including our Vietnam veterans, and especially our soldiers.



~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!