



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2023 – Issue 9

Friday, July 7

Dear Commemorative Partners,

We are pleased to announce that [Maj. Gen. Edward \(Ed\) J. Chrystal, Jr.](#), U.S. Army (at right), is our new director! Installed recently, Gen. Chrystal’s robust service to our Nation features 38 years of Army National Guard service, as well as a 26-year civilian career as a Lieutenant with the New Jersey State Police. Many of you are already familiar with him, as he has served the past several months as Acting Director. Please formally welcome him in this new role! Also, we count it an honor and privilege to have been led by Maj. Gen. Peter (Pete) M. Aylward, U.S. Army (Retired) for the past three years. We thank him for his more than 38 years of distinguished service to our Nation and wish him well in retirement!



As we continue this important mission, we are proud to report that *due to your efforts*, [3.7 million](#) Vietnam veterans have now been thanked and honored since 2011! This remarkable impact is the result of more than [26 thousand](#) events being hosted or co-hosted by you, our Commemorative Partners all over the Nation. In fact, *in 2023 alone*, close to 250 organizations joined as new Partners, and all have collectively recognized nearly [223 thousand](#) Vietnam veterans in [2,200 events](#) across America and abroad!

One prime example includes the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) New Jersey Annual Convention, where 124 Vietnam veterans were recognized. Pictured at left (l-r), are past VFW Commander-in-Chief, Robert Wallace; National Senior Vice Commander, Duane Sarmiento; New Jersey State Adjutant Kenneth Hagemann; VWC Director, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Edward J. Chrystal, Jr.; VFW New Jersey State Commander Jay Boxwell; and VWC Director’s Action Group Chief, U.S. Army Col. Patrick Cramer. All participated in presenting our “lasting memento of the Nation’s thanks,” the [Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin](#), to each Vietnam veteran present.



Speaking of lapel pins, in order to better unify our efforts to thank and honor our Vietnam veterans and their families, we are [phasing out](#) the Deceased Vietnam Veteran’s Surviving Spouse Lapel Pin, also known as the *Surviving Spouse Lapel Pin* (SSLP). The SSLP and its accompanying Certificate of Honor will no longer be available for new issuance through the Commemorative Partner Portal. Remaining inventory will be used to support ongoing Honorary Partner initiatives until stock is depleted (Honorary Partners should therefore continue their process as normal). In its place, the *Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin* (VVLVP) will be substituted for presentation to honor these spouses for their sacrifice with the very same distinguished memento that their Vietnam veteran would have received for their service. For further information, refer to the [memo](#) issued two weeks ago. Thank you as always, for your continued, faithful efforts and steady partnership!



Surviving Spouse
Lapel Pin



Vietnam Veteran
Lapel Pin

~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!