

# About the Program

In Accordance With Public Law 110-181 SEC.598; the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and "in conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War."

The Secretary of Defense shall determine the schedule of major events and priority of efforts for the commemorative program, in order to ensure achievement of the objectives specified in Law.



The commemorative program will include activities and ceremonies to achieve the following objectives:

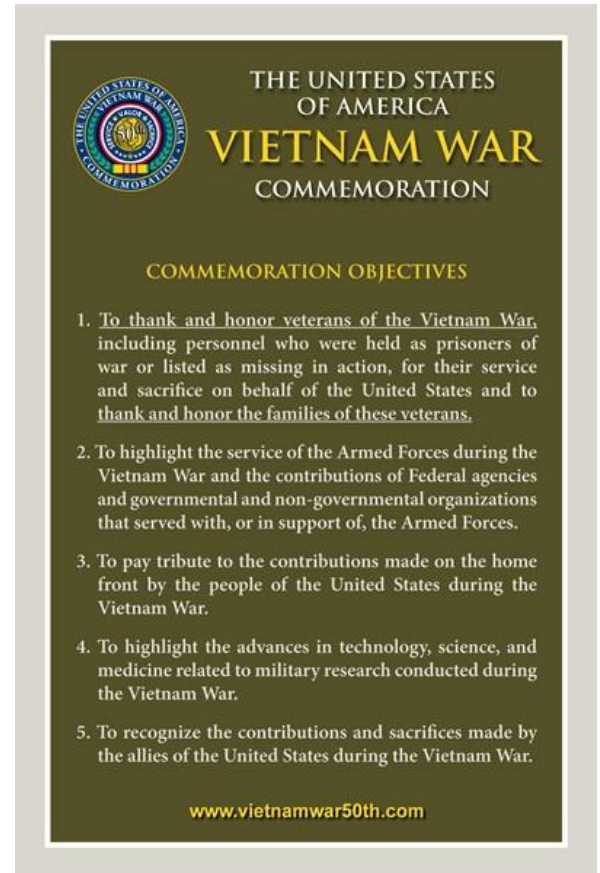
1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war (POW), or listed as missing in action (MIA), for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

# Commemoration Objectives

## In Accordance With Public Law 110-181 SEC.598:

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and "in conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War."

The Secretary of Defense shall determine the schedule of major events and priority of efforts for the commemorative program, in order to ensure achievement of the objectives specified in Law.



# About the Flag

## Description of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Flag:

"The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration" is the official title given to the Department of Defense program in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. The traditional use of the color gold to signify a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was chosen for the phrase "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" and symbolizes the specific mission of the Department of Defense program as outlined in the Congressional language "to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War."



A representation of the Vietnam Service Medal (ribbon) rests below the inner rings.

The red, white, and blue inner rings represent the flag of the United States of America and recognize all Americans, both military and civilian, who served or contributed to the Vietnam War effort

The outer black ring serves as a reminder of those who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War. The black ring surrounds the red, white, and blue rings to call attention to their sacrifices, the sacrifices of their families, and the defense of our nation's freedom

Within the blue ring are the words "Service, Valor and Sacrifice"; virtues demonstrated by our veterans during the Vietnam War. The gold-rimmed white star located between the words "Service" and "Valor" represents hope for the families of those veterans for which there has not been a full accounting. The blue-rimmed gold star located between the words "Valor" and "Sacrifice" represents the families of those veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the war. The blue star at the bottom of the inner blue ring represents the families of all veterans and symbolizes their support from home

At the bottom of the inner blue ring are six white stars, three on each side of the blue star. These six white stars symbolize the contributions and sacrifices made by the United States and its Allies, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Thailand.

The center circle contains a map of Vietnam in black outline relief, signifying both the country and the Vietnamese veterans who stood with our veterans. The subdued outlines of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and surrounding waters represent the area of operation where U.S. Armed Forces served.

The green laurel wreath signifies honor for all who served.

The phrase "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is the personal message to each veteran, civilian, family member, and all who served and sacrificed during the Vietnam War

The seal's blue background is the same color as the canton in the United States Flag. When placed next to the flags of World War II and the Korean War Commemoration Flags, the Vietnam War Commemoration Flag will signify the Vietnam Veterans taking their rightful place among generations of U.S. veterans

*\* The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration commemorative flag is not for sale at this time. Organizations that become Commemorative Partners are eligible to receive the commemorative flag. Organizations interested in becoming Commemorative Partners should [click here](#).*

# About the Seal

## Description of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Seal:

"The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration" is the official title given to the Department of Defense program in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.

A representation of the Vietnam Service Medal (ribbon) rests below the inner rings of the Seal.

The red, white, and blue inner rings represent the flag of the United States of America and recognize all Americans, both military and civilian, who served or contributed to the Vietnam War effort.

The outer black ring serves as a reminder of those who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War. The black ring surrounds the red, white and blue rings to call attention to their sacrifices, the sacrifices of their families, and the defense of our nation's freedom.

Within the blue ring are the words "Service, Valor, and Sacrifice"; virtues demonstrated by our veterans during the Vietnam War. The gold-rimmed white star located between the words "Service" and "Valor" represents hope for the families of those veterans for which there has not been a full accounting. The blue-rimmed gold star located between the words "Valor" and "Sacrifice" represents the families of those veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the war. The blue star at the bottom of the inner blue ring represents the families of all veterans and symbolizes their support from home.

At the bottom of the inner blue ring are six white stars, three on each side of the blue star. These six white stars symbolize the contributions and sacrifices made by the United States and its Allies Australia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Thailand.

The center circle contains a map of Vietnam in black outline relief, signifying both the country and the Vietnamese veterans who stood with our veterans. The subdued outlines of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and surrounding waters represent the area of operation where U.S. Armed Forces served. The white number "50<sup>th</sup>" emblazoned over the map, and the outer and inner gold rings which make traditional use of the color to signify the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, symbolize the specific mission of the Department of Defense program as outlined in the Congressional language "to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War."

The green laurel wreath signifies honor for all who served.

The seal's blue background is the same color as the canton in the United States Flag.



## Commemorative Partners Program

Events marked with an asterisk are placed on this calendar for informational purposes only and have not been formally endorsed under the Commemorative Partners Program. For more information on becoming a Commemorative Partner, click the link at the top of the page.

To submit an event to be considered for inclusion on the calendar, please send an email to [pa\\_vnwar50th@osd.mil](mailto:pa_vnwar50th@osd.mil) and include the following information:

- Organization Name
- Point of Contact Name / Phone Number / Email Address
- Name of Event
- Date and Time of Event
- Location of Event
- Summary of Event
- Which of the 5 Program objectives the event satisfies
- Brochure or other materials (optional)

Event submissions received by close of business on Tuesday will be reviewed and posted to the calendar by Friday of the same week.



# Education

The goal of the History and Education effort is to provide the American public with historically accurate materials and interactive experiences that will help Americans better understand and appreciate the service of our Vietnam War veterans and the history of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

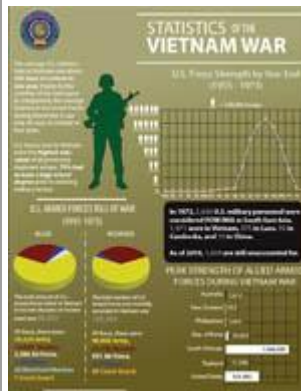
## In the classroom

The History and Education office will develop high quality educational content for classroom use based on best practices of pedagogy.

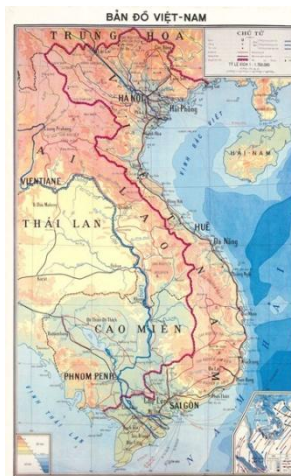
Resources for teachers and students in the grades 7-12 will be available on the web site.

## Educational Resources

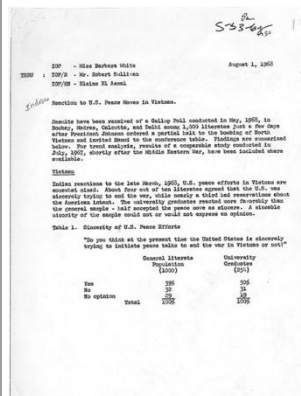
### Fact Sheets



### Maps



### Primary Sources



### Posters



Future initiatives will include web-based oral history interviews with Vietnam veterans and a traveling educational museum.

## **Commemorative Partners**

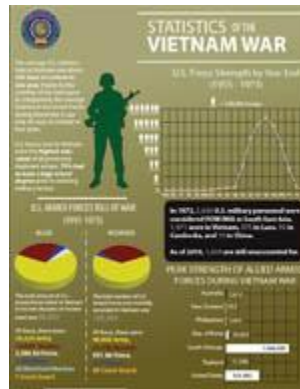
Schools are encouraged to become a [Commemorative Partner](#) to honor the service, valor, and sacrifice of the Vietnam War veterans in their hometown. Partners will receive additional educational materials.



# Fact Sheets

The Commemoration's intent with our fact sheets is to provide the American public with historically accurate materials to help Americans better understand and appreciate the service of our Vietnam War veterans and the history of the Vietnam War.

## Statistics of the Vietnam War



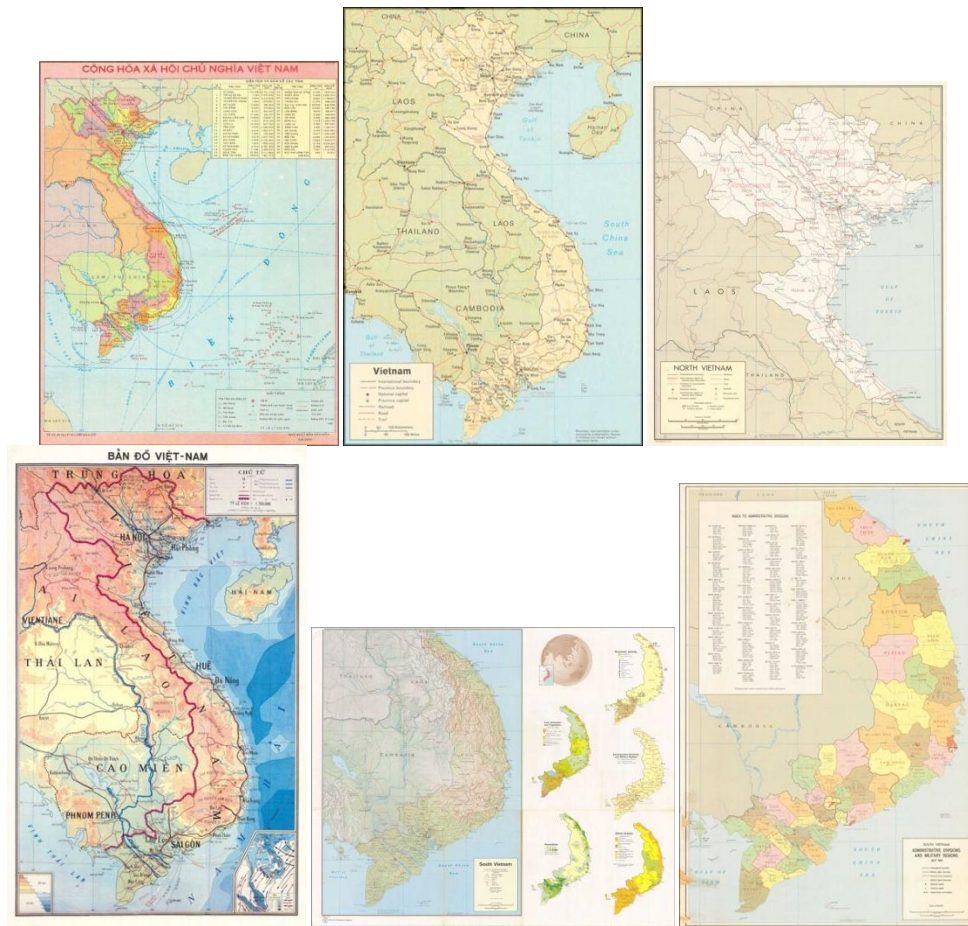
## Military Involvement



Each branch of the United States military performed a unique role in the Vietnam War. The fact sheets linked to below sketch their main contributions during the war.

- [U.S. Air Force](#)
- [U.S. Army](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard](#)
- [U.S. Marine Corps](#)
- [U.S. Navy](#)

# Maps of North and South Vietnam



# Primary Sources

## 1940-1950

[Pentagon Papers. Summary and Chapter 1: "Background to the Crisis: 1940-50."](#)  
[Roosevelt and Stalin Discuss the Future of French Rule in Indochina](#) (1943)  
[Roosevelt to Cordell Hull on Indochina](#) (1944)  
[Abdication of Bao Dai](#) (1945)  
[Franklin Roosevelt on French Rule in Indochina](#) (1945)  
[Vietnamese Declaration of Independence](#) (1945)  
[Accord between France and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam](#) (1946)  
[Agreement of the Independence of Vietnam](#) (1946)  
[Eisenhower on the Strategic Link between French Forces in Europe and Vietnam](#)  
[Report of Pham No Mach to the Soviet Envoy in Switzerland, A.G. Kulazhenkov](#) (1947)

## 1950-1960

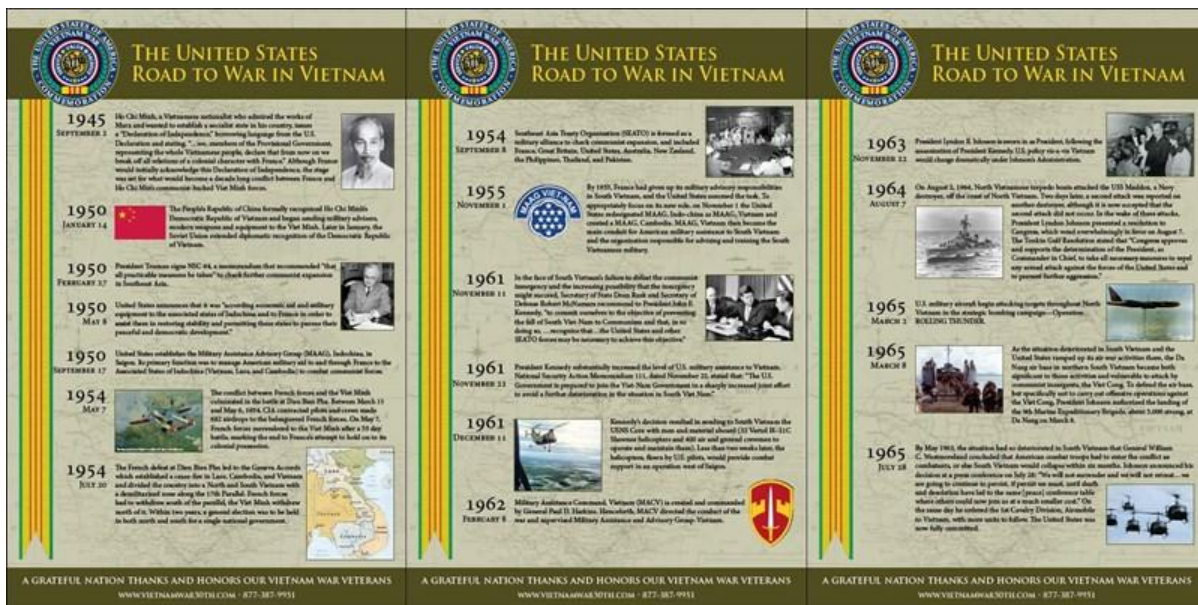
[Pentagon Papers. Chapter 2: "U.S. Involvement in the Franco-Viet Minh War: 1950-1954."](#)  
[Minutes of the Meeting between Truman and Plevin](#) (1951)  
[NSC 100: Recommended Policies and Actions in Light of the Grave World Situation.](#) (1951)  
[NSC Staff Study on U.S. Objectives and Courses of Action with respect to Communist Agression in SE Asia](#) (1952)  
[Indochina- United States Emergency Aid to Laos and Thailand News Conference](#) (1953)  
[NSC Action No. 1074-a, on Possible U.S. Intervention in Indochina](#) (1954)  
[NSC 5405, "United States Objectives and Courses of Action with Respect to Southeast Asia."](#) (1954)  
[American COMINT and the Franco-Vietnamese War](#)

# Posters

## The United States' Road to War in Vietnam: 1945 - 1965

"While historians know with certainty that the Duke of Wellington bested Napoleon at Waterloo on 18 June 1815, the Germans surrendered on the Western Front on 11 November 1918, and the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, they must still live with ambiguity in offering answers to many complex historical questions. The question of when the Vietnam War started for the United States falls into that category of ambiguity. It is impossible to state categorically that one date or another is the precise date on which the start of the war for the United States occurred. Put differently and emphatically: no obvious and verifiable start date exists. Probably the truest, though not the most satisfactory, statement to be made is that the process by which the United States became embroiled in the war was evolutionary and incremental." (Excerpt from a paper by Dr. John Carland, Historical Office of the Secretary of Defense titled, "[When Did the Vietnam War Start for the United States.](#)")

This three poster series outlines some of the significant political decisions and military events that incrementally committed the United States to deeper involvement in the Vietnam War.



# Commemorative Partners Program

## The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner Program

The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families. Commemorative Partners are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam Veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the Congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the Congressionally-mandated objectives of the program, and as a minimum, with an emphasis on objective one.

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

To become an official Commemorative Partner, organizations must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding. Applications are available at [www.VietnamWar50th.com](http://www.VietnamWar50th.com) on the Commemorative Partner Program. The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners are kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. Questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process can be directed to: [CPP\\_vnwar50th@osdcommemorations.mil](mailto:CPP_vnwar50th@osdcommemorations.mil).

We look forward to working with you and your organization in assisting a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families.

## How to Become a Commemorative Partner



Thank you for your interest in becoming a Commemorative Partner with The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. To apply, organizations will fill out an application and a Statement of Understanding. Organizations will need to review and sign the Statement of Understanding either digitally on line, or sign and fax, email or mail the Statement of Understanding to the Commemoration as provided on the form.

The Statement of Understanding contains specific information for organizations interested in becoming a Commemorative Partner, but in general, organizations need to know that Commemorative Partners must commit to conduct at least two events each year during the commemorative period of 2015 - 2017 that will recognize, thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans and their families. Organizations need to understand that there is no guarantee that military support for Commemorative Partner events will be provided.

It is important for these events to meet at least the first of the five Congressionally-mandated objectives of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration: "To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans."

Commemorative Partners understand that if The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration determines that they are not able to conduct an event in a dignified, honorable and memorable way and in a manner consistent with the Congressionally-mandated objectives, they will not be allowed to continue their participation in the Commemorative Partner Program, nor will they be allowed to represent to any member of the public that they are in any way affiliated with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration's Commemorative Partner Program.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration reserves the right to deny or remove an organization from the Commemorative Partner Program for any reason, including when an organization's representations create the appearance that the organization is part of or endorsed by the DoD, or otherwise are inconsistent with the Joint Ethics Regulation (DoD 5500.07-R); or activities conflict with, or violate any of the policies of, the DoD Community Relations Program (DoDD 5410.18 and DoDI 5410.19) or The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. DoD publications are available at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/>.

Status as a Commemorative Partner does not confer any priority or guarantee for military support of Commemorative Partner events. Requests for military participation in non-DoD Commemorative Partner events will be evaluated for eligibility according to DoD community relations policies and Federal ethics regulations. Military Service support of and/or participation in eligible events is subject to the availability of requested assets and funds. Such involvement must not result in any additional expenses or costs for the U.S. Government which have not been previously budgeted and funded.

- For online application forms visit our website at:  
[http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative\\_partners/online\\_application\\_forms/](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners/online_application_forms/)

- To download printer-friendly application forms,  
[http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative\\_partners/application\\_forms/](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners/application_forms/)

# Commemorative Partners Login

Welcome! Please Log In:

**I have an Account**

Email

Password

[Forgot Password?](#)

Remember Me ☐



# Commemorative Partners - Online Application Forms

All applicants are required to submit an appropriate Commemorative Partner Program Application (Civilian Organization Application/DoD Component and Military Installations Application), plus the "Commemorative Partner Statement of Understanding." You may submit the "Statement of Understanding" by mail, fax or scanned email. In order for us to start processing, we must have both of the required forms.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Thomas Graft at [Thomas.O.Graft.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:Thomas.O.Graft.ctr@mail.mil). If you have **legal** questions regarding the application process, please contact our general counsel at: [John.McCarthy@osd.mil](mailto:John.McCarthy@osd.mil). The email addresses provided to us in this application will automatically be signed up to receive the quarterly newsletter and any special updates related to The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. You will have the option to opt out via email that acknowledges the receipt of your application.

## Civilian Organizations Application

[Click here for online Civilian Organizations application](#)

Please write the name of your organization at the top of your Statement of Understanding before you fax, email, or mail it to us.

## DoD Component and Military Installations only Application

[Click here for online DoD Component and Military Installations application](#)

Please write the name of your organization at the top of your Statement of Understanding before you fax, email, or mail it to us.

# Commemorative Partners - Printable Application Forms

All applicants are required to submit an appropriate Commemorative Partner Program Application (Civilian Organization Application/DoD Component and Military Installations Application), plus the "Commemorative Partner Statement of Understanding." You may submit all forms by mail, fax or scanned email. In order for us to start processing, we must have both of the required forms.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Thomas Graft at [Thomas.Graft.ctr@osd.mil](mailto:Thomas.Graft.ctr@osd.mil). If you have **legal** questions regarding the application process, please contact our general counsel at: [John.McCarthy@osd.mil](mailto:John.McCarthy@osd.mil). The email addresses provided to us in this application will automatically be signed up to receive the quarterly newsletter and any special updates related to The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. You will have the option to opt out via email that acknowledges the receipt of your application.

Thank you for assisting a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam War Veterans and their families.

## Civilian Organizations Application

[Click here to download Civilian Organizations application in printable format](#)

### *Statement of Understanding*

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Please write the name of your organization at the top of your Statement of Understanding before you fax, email, or mail it to us.

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# Media Center

## Videos

Follow the link below to the Video Archive of the Vietnam War Commemoration.

[View All Videos ›](#)

## News & Press Releases

Follow the link below to the News & Press Releases of the Vietnam War Commemoration.

[View All News & Press Releases ›](#)

## Photo Galleries

Follow the link below to the Photo Galleries of the Vietnam War Commemoration.

[View All Photo Galleries ›](#)

## Speeches, Remarks and Transcripts

Follow the link below for remarks and speeches from previous events recognizing the Vietnam War Commemoration.

[View All Speeches ›](#)