



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION 50th Anniversary



OCTOBER 2012

FOURTH QUARTER 2012 COMMEMORATION NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Events:

Branson, Missouri, Veterans Day Parade (79th annual)  
November 5-11 Branson, MO

Salute to Coast Guard Vietnam Veterans  
November 8 Coast Guard Island Alameda, CA

Northern Utah Veterans Parade/Rally  
November 10 Ogen, UT

50th Anniversary of Vietnam War  
November 10 New York, NY

The 33rd Annual Veterans Day Banquet  
November 11 Riverside, IA

Honolulu Memorial in Hawaii  
November 11 Honolulu, HI

University of Iowa Veterans Association  
November 12 Iowa City, IA

More events and details on page 4

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A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS YOU

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## SENATOR CHUCK HAGEL TO LEAD VIETNAM WAR ANNIVERSARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter, Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and former Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska gave remarks to honor National POW/MIA Recognition Day at the Pentagon, Sept. 21, 2012. The ceremony hosted former prisoners of war, family members, service members and distinguished guests. (DOD Photo By: U.S. Army Staff Sgt Sun L. Vega, Joint Staff)

The Secretary of Defense has named The Honorable Chuck Hagel to serve as the Chairman of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee. The beginning of the commemoration effort for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War was announced by President Barack Obama during a ceremony hosted by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC on Memorial Day 2012. Senator Hagel was one of the speakers at that event, which included the Vice President of the United States, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and thousands of Vietnam veterans and their families.

Senator Hagel, a decorated Vietnam War combat veteran, served in the United States Army in Vietnam with his brother, Tom, in 1968. They served side by side as infan-

try squad leaders with the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Division. Senator Hagel earned many military decorations and honors, including two Purple Hearts.

After his military service, Senator Hagel led a successful business career and continued to serve our veterans and their loved ones as President and Chief Executive Officer of the World USO, as Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration, and two terms as the United States Senator from Nebraska. He and another Vietnam Veteran, Senator Jim Webb, co-authored the new GI Bill, which was passed by Congress and signed into law in 2008 by President George W. Bush.

As chairman of the Vietnam War Com-

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memorations Advisory Committee, Senator Hagel's committee will provide advice, vision, and oversight to the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, as events are planned in hometowns all across the nation. The Committee will also advise on the development of an education program to preserve the legacy of our Vietnam War veterans.

The Congress directed the Department of Defense to develop a plan and assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans for their service, valor and sacrifice. The Congressional language and objectives follow below.

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 coordinate with other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War."

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

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. 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. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

## **Pentagon Ceremony Remembers Sacrifices of POWs, MIA Families**

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21, 2012 – At every federal building and post office today, a simple black and white flag flew along with the national colors as a reminder of the sacrifices and valor of former prisoners of war and those still missing in action.

At the annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony here, Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter pointed to the POW/MIA flags flying at the Pentagon and said he hoped they would cause Americans to pause and think of the 83,000 Americans still missing from the wars of the last 100 years.

Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr., the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and special guest former Sen. Chuck Hagel were among those attending.

Former prisoners of war and the families of those still missing in action were present as well. "We honor your courage and strength," Carter said. "Courageous men and women throughout American history have answered the call to serve. And just as they committed themselves to serve this country, so this country will never tire and never rest until each and every one of [the MIA] are returned home."

But this is not something that only concerns older wars. "Our most pressing concern at this moment," Carter said, "is for Army Sergeant Beau Bergdahl, who was captured by enemy forces in Afghanistan in June 2009. We're doing everything possible to locate and bring him home and keeping his family fully informed."

Winnefeld, too, spoke of the new techniques and new science that allows the department to find and identify those listed as missing in action and to give them the recognition and honors they deserve. "Today more than 8,000 remain listed as missing in action from the Korean War," he said. "Names that are a testament to the inscription on the Korean War Memorial that, 'Freedom is not free.'"

Still the U.S. government will not rest, he said, noting it has used technological advances to bring closure to the families of those missing from that war. "Just last month, the remains of Cpl. Clarence Huff, a Marine from Brunswick, Ohio, who was reported missing in action since the India Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment of the 1st Marine Division, came under fire near the Chosin Reservoir in December 1950, returned to Ohio and were given a proper burial with full military honors," Winnefeld said. This is thanks to the efforts of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, the admiral said.

Hagel, a Vietnam veteran, said former POWs and the families of those missing in action have continued to shape America "and have given inspiration and grace to a nation."

The ceremony was held under clear blue skies on the Pentagon lawn and ended with a joint service fly-by with both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

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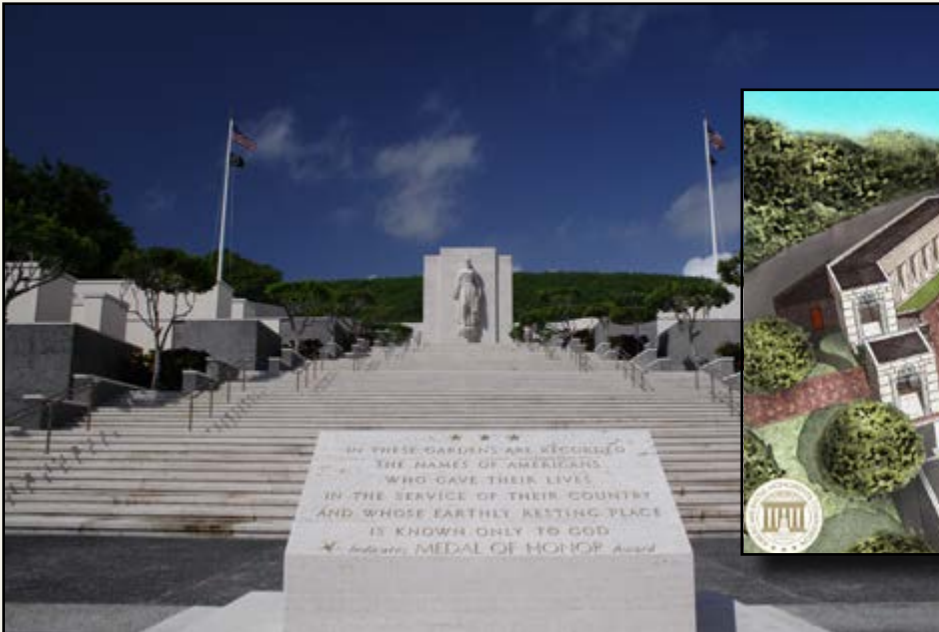


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## Hawaii Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication



To further honor the sacrifice of the 2,504 members of the U.S. armed forces missing in action from the Vietnam War memorialized at the Honolulu Memorial, the American Battle Monuments Commission, in coordination with the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, will dedicate two new pavilions and mosaic maps on Veteran's Day, Sunday, November 11, at 10 a.m. Hawaiian time.

"This is the only federal memorial to the Vietnam War built solely with federal dollars," said ABMC Secretary Max Cleland. "This is the perfect time to dedicate these maps as we enter the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War."

Located on the grounds of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the Honolulu Memorial was established by the American Battle Monuments Commission to honor the sacrifices and achievements of American armed forces in the Pacific during World War II and the Korean War. It includes names of 18,096 individuals missing in action or lost at sea from World War II and the names of 8,200 individuals

listed as missing from Korea. The memorial grew in 1980 to include the missing of the Vietnam War. As part of the memorial, there are large mosaic maps explaining the major military campaigns in the Pacific during World War II and Korea. This year, two mosaic maps will be added to complete the memorial and help tell the story of those individual Americans who served in Vietnam.

Constructed by The Armbruster Company of Glenview, Ill., the two maps show the overall theater of the Vietnam War and the sites of major battles fought during the conflict. At a cost of \$523,000, the mosaic maps are unique works of art that are vibrant in colors keeping in tradition with the World War II and Korean War maps at the memorial. Conceptual art was designed by Mrs. Mary Jacobs of Glenelg, Md., who also created the artwork for the original World War II and Korean War mosaics at the memorial.

The maps will be housed in one of two elegant pavilions being constructed from Travertine stone quarried from Idaho. The Honolulu District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is managing the

\$4.973 million construction project for ABMC. The pavilions are being built by the Innovative-Mira Joint Venture, Honolulu. The project architects are Fung and Associates Inc., also of Honolulu.

The second new pavilion will house porcelain panels depicting ABMC commemorative sites in the Pacific and providing an orientation to the Honolulu Memorial. The panels were designed by Gallagher & Associates of Silver Spring, Md. and are being fabricated by Winsor Fireform of Tumwater, Wash.

"This was a tremendous federal effort involving several agencies," said Cleland. "We are working with the Corps of Engineers to add new pavilions to an ABMC memorial located within a National Cemetery Administration cemetery of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The maps and text were reviewed and vetted by the military service historians and the architecture was reviewed and approved by the National Commission of Fine Arts—this is a true joint effort."

The design and planning phase of this project began in June 2009 and actual construction was started this past May.

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# Commemorative Partner Program Launches

The Vietnam War Commemoration is proud to announce the launch of our Commemorative Partner Program.

Organizations that agree to hold events twice a year during the years of 2015, 2016 and 2017 to thank and honor Vietnam Veterans and their families can become a Commemorative Partner and receive the official flag of the commemoration, a certificate signed by the Secretary of Defense and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, a poster outlining the commemoration objectives and a signed Presidential Proclamation that was issued by President Barak Obama. Organizations wishing to become a Commemorative Partner or interested in learning more about the Vietnam War Commemoration, including events in your communities, can visit our website at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com> and submit their application online.

Events honoring Vietnam Veterans in hometowns across

America are already being planned, some of these including: Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home celebration at Fort Sam Houston, Texas Nov. 7; Dedication of a Vietnam War Memorial at the Punchbowl National Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii Nov. 11; The New York City Veterans Parade Nov. 11; Veterans Day Ceremonies in Chicago, Ill. Nov. 12.

The Secretary of Defense named The Honorable Chuck Hagel to serve as the Chairman of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee. The Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War was announced by President Barack Obama during a ceremony hosted by Secretary Panetta at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Memorial Day 2012.

To read President Obama's proclamation, visit [http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/assets/1/7/Signed\\_Pres\\_Proc2.PDF](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/assets/1/7/Signed_Pres_Proc2.PDF)



Ann Mills-Griffiths accepts the Vietnam War Commemoration flag from LTG Mick Kicklighter as the National League of POW/MIA Families becomes a Commemorative Partner in the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary. For more information on the National League of POW/MIA Families, visit <http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/>, and to become a Commemorative Partner of the Vietnam War Commemoration visit - [http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative\\_partners/](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners/)



Director of The Texas Tech Vietnam Center and Archive Stephen Maxner and Chancellor of the Texas Tech University System Kent Hance discuss their new Commemorative Partnership with Director of the Vietnam War Commemoration Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Mick Kicklighter and Mr. Mark Franklin, Chief of History and Education for the Vietnam War Commemoration.

## Upcoming and Recent Events:

### Branson, Missouri, Veterans Day Parade (79th annual)

November 5-11 Branson, MO  
[http://downtownbranson.org/?page\\_id=2618](http://downtownbranson.org/?page_id=2618)

### Salute to Coast Guard Vietnam Veterans

November 8 Coast Guard Island Alameda, CA  
<http://bit.ly/T0BZBF>

### Northern Utah Veterans Parade/Rally

November 10 Ogen, UT  
<http://bit.ly/Yfq6OH>

### 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War "Welcome Home" Reception

November 10 New York, NY  
<http://bit.ly/Rzi2nV>

### The 33rd Annual Veterans Day Banquet

November 11 Riverside, IA  
<http://bit.ly/TjmfvQ>

### Honolulu Memorial in Hawaii

November 11 Honolulu, HI  
<http://bit.ly/U4C0Lw>

### NYC Veterans Day Parade Television Broadcast

November 11 Madison Square Park, NYC, NY  
<http://bit.ly/VlgNCP>

### Rosco Veterans Memorial Park and Museum hosts Vietnam Veterans

November 11 Roscoe, NY  
<http://bit.ly/Tzt0fu>

### University of Iowa Veterans Association

November 12 Iowa City, IA  
<http://bit.ly/Yfolvt>