



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



## TEACHERS' TOOLKIT



*Digital Resources for Educators to  
Thank and Honor Vietnam Veterans*



# TEACHER ENDORSEMENTS

*“What an amazing compilation of resources and tools for working with students to teach about the Vietnam War and era. This is a well-organized and detailed listing that will help any individual and/or group who wants to learn more in a successful manner. I would be proud to present your Teachers’ Toolkit to others and discuss opportunities included. Well done.”*

**Andy Demko**

U.S. History Teacher Social Studies Teacher at Jr./Sr. Rainier High School in Rainier, Oregon  
Social Studies Department Liaison  
2010-2011 President, Oregon Council for the Social Studies  
2012-2015 Board Member, National Council for the Social Studies Board Member,  
Rho Kappa Advisory Board (NCSS)

*“The guide you sent looks great, and I look forward to being able to share it. It is well-organized, clear and highly useful. I look forward to using it to enhance my unit on Vietnam.”*

**Susan Tomlinson**

U.S. History and Sociology Teacher at Franklin Central High School in Indianapolis, Indiana  
History Club Sponsor  
Indiana Council for the Social Studies, Past President

*“I think what you have done is outstanding and very comprehensive.”*

**Jerry Martin**

Retired Social Studies Teacher at Manassas City Public Schools (MCPS) in Manassas, Virginia  
Taught a course, “Lessons of the Vietnam War,” at the High School level to Juniors and Seniors  
Currently substitute teach 5th and 6th grade students for MCPS  
Retired LTC USMC (served in Vietnam, 1968-1969)

*“This does meet the goals and objectives of the program and offers a thorough resource that our teachers/aides can use to teach students about the Vietnam War. This is exactly what we are looking for.”*

**Kathryn Kigera**

Interim Director, Out of School Time Programs in Washington, DC

*“What I really like about this is the diversity and variety of the resources that have been compiled. Digital and Social Media, Online exhibits, places to visit, project ideas and more, there is something for every teacher in this toolkit. Well done!”*

**Steve Quesinberry**

Chairman: History and Social Studies Department at Newnan High School in Newnan, GA

*“Educators interested in teaching about the Vietnam War, and especially in those who served our country during this crucial time period in American history, will greatly appreciate the timely and wide-ranging resources and service-learning projects presented to them in The United States of America 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration Teachers’ Toolkit. This is a guide that is appropriate for grades K-12—and beyond!”*

**Lindy G. Poling**

Adjunct Faculty, College of William and Mary School of Education in Williamsburg, VA  
Former “Lessons of Vietnam” and U.S. History Social Studies Chair, Millbrook High School in Raleigh, NC  
Gilder Lehrman North Carolina History Teacher of the Year, 2006  
Veterans of Foreign Wars National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year, 2002

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	3
What is Service-Learning and Recommended Programs.....	4-5
Suggested Service-Learning Activities and Events.....	6
Additional Activities and Events.....	7
List of Annual Holidays and Observances.....	8-12
Related Resources.....	
Websites.....	13-15
Elementary to College Lessons.....	16-18
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) + History.....	19
Online Exhibits.....	20-21
Memorials and Museums to Visit.....	22-23
Oral Histories.....	24
Digital/Social Media (Podcasts/Videos/Blogs).....	25-26
Films (for all ages).....	27-28
Books (for all ages).....	29-31
Classroom Materials (Posters).....	32-36
Commemorative Partner Program.....	37
Contact History & Legacy.....	38

# INTRODUCTION



Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Teachers' Toolkit, developed by the History and Legacy Branch. This toolkit offers educators a comprehensive packet of information to support our national effort to thank and honor our Vietnam veterans and their families. The packet features recommended service-learning projects, and suggested websites and resources for activities and events from notable sources. It is highly recommended that you periodically check the links to ensure the most up-to-date materials are still available.

The History and Legacy Branch's goal is to provide historically accurate materials and interactive experiences that will help teachers and students better understand and appreciate the service of our Vietnam veterans and the history of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. While we do not endorse any particular resource, we encourage you to take advantage of the suggested materials and ideas for use in elementary to college classrooms and afterschool programs so that schools, school districts, and educational organizations can develop programs to thank and honor Vietnam veterans locally and nationally.

In addition, this packet provides you with a brief overview of the Commemorative Partner Program. If you or your school chooses to become a Commemorative Partner, you can access more detailed information via the website, including the procedures necessary to order materials, view a complete list of commemorative partners, or request support for your event. We look forward to partnering with you. Please contact us through our website:

[www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative\\_partners/commemorative\\_partner\\_program/](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners/commemorative_partner_program/)

*Photos courtesy of the U.S. Army, U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Merchant Marines.*



## WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

According to The Education Commission of The States' 2016 policy, "Service-learning is a unique teaching and learning strategy that encourages students to use academic knowledge and skills to find viable solutions to real community needs. It is neither a packaged curriculum nor a cut-and-dried program, and no two service-learning projects are completely alike. Service-learning is an experiential approach that engages students holistically in

their learning, which allows them to identify and address issues in their school and community that really matter to them. [The National K-12 Service-Learning Standards for Quality Service-Learning Practice](#) provides a framework of critical elements that teachers can use to guide projects and ensure rigor, relevance, and student success throughout the learning process. The more involved they are in the process of selecting and mapping out their project, the more likely they are to buy into the work."

Service-Learning provides a myriad of opportunities to foster civic responsibility and community involvement in meaningful ways such as the recommended programs focused on the military and veterans, and more specifically projects that honor Vietnam veterans.

## RECOMMENDED SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

### 1. Character.org (DC)

<http://character.org/key-topics/service-learning/>

Summary: This website provides a wealth of resources dedicated to helping youth become "ethical and engaged citizens" as well as service learning ideas and opportunities to connect with the military and veterans in the Washington, DC metro area.

### 2. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (NC)

<http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/parents/characterdev/Pages/ServiceLearning.aspx>

Summary: This website clearly defines Service-Learning and provides guidelines on how to implement an academic curriculum connected to civic responsibility for K-12 students. In addition, available resources include ideas for service-learning, character education, and volunteering in the community, as well as suggested web links, documents, and textbooks.

### 3. Decatur City Magnet Schools (AL)

[http://www.dcs.edu/webpages/lmiller/service\\_projects.cfm?subpage=292652](http://www.dcs.edu/webpages/lmiller/service_projects.cfm?subpage=292652)

Summary: This website is focused on service projects for elementary age children, including "Valentines for Veterans" and ideas for Veterans Day programs. Other ideas and valuable resources are available on the site.

# RECOMMENDED SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAMS/PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

## 4. HISTORY (NY)

<http://www.history.com/shows/mission-to-honor/articles/take-a-veteran-to-school>

Summary: The HISTORY website provides a sample agenda and “How-To” guide for organizing a “Take a Veteran to School Day” event, as well as many excellent internet resources, activities, and service-learning projects for middle and high school students.

## 5. Illinois Veterans & Community Classroom Project (IL)

<http://www.ilvets.ltc.k12.il.us/ilvets/Home.aspx>

Summary: K-12 students in over 25 Illinois schools participate in preserving the digital stories of the service and sacrifice by men and women who served our country in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, and others. Students have an opportunity to become digital historians and preserve historical resources such as books, journals, manuscripts, slides, maps, photographs, slides, prints, posters, audio recordings, and videos.

## 6. Louisiana 4H (LA)

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/kids\\_teens/projects/citizenship/service\\_learning/parish\\_projects/caddo-parish-cares](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/topics/kids_teens/projects/citizenship/service_learning/parish_projects/caddo-parish-cares)

Summary: The Louisiana 4H-Club supports the state service-learning focus, including veterans programs in their communities and reaching out to men and women in the US Armed Forces serving overseas. The site has many valuable resources, ideas, and materials to aid in planning service learning programs inside and outside the classroom setting.

## 7. Veterans Heritage Project (AZ)

<http://www.VeteransHeritage.org>

Summary: This organization is dedicated to connecting students with veterans to record and preserve their stories of service to our nation and adding them to the Library of Congress for future generations to access. Middle, high school, and college students have an opportunity to learn history from primary sources and skills in communication, writing, technology and project management.

## 8. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Hometown Heroes Service-Learning Project (VA)

<http://www.vvmf.org/hometown-heroes>

Summary: This project provides excellent service-learning opportunities for middle and high school students connected to veterans to plan a commemoration ceremony, collect photos of fallen service members, and/or preserve stories of veterans whose names are inscribed on the Memorial and those who returned from the Vietnam War.

## 9. Westlake Highschool (TX)

<http://virtualvietnam.eanesisd.net/home>

Summary: The Virtual Vietnam Project is a companion research project to Tim O'Brien's book, *The Things They Carried*. Students in the English III AP classes research a person whose name appears on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and create a presentation honoring the individual's life and the time in which they lived. Over 1800 videos are housed on the website honoring the men and women who gave their lives in Vietnam.

## 10. Wildwood School (CA)

<http://www.wildwood.org/page.cfm?p=1559>

Summary: The Wildwood School is dedicated to empowering elementary, middle and high school students to become advocates for community and global involvement, such as veterans' initiatives through curriculum and on-site work experience for 7th and 8th graders.

**Suggestions for project ideas, please refer to the service-learning activities and events listed on pages 6 – 7.**

# SUGGESTED SERVICE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

These suggested activities and events are intended to help educators engage students, elementary to college level, specifically in service-learning opportunities to thank and honor Vietnam veterans within their local communities.

- Thank a member of the military or a Vietnam veteran for his/her service to our country; visit a local veterans' retirement home or nursing home such as the [Armed Forces Retirement Home](#) in Washington, D.C. or Gulfport, Mississippi (e.g., present thank you cards or letters, organize a chorale group to sing songs, write and recite poems, make posters and banners thanking veterans).
- Collect missing photos of service members – inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial – and submit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) to add to the digital collection of photographs, *Wall of Faces*. Refer to the [Hometown Heroes Service-Learning Project](#) for more details and use the VVMF website, library resources, internet articles, school newspapers and local newspapers to locate missing photos and conduct research.
- Conduct interviews with veterans, using the Library of Congress' [Veterans History Project \(VHP\) guidelines](#). Contact VHP directly for resources. Students make a presentation to their class members.
- Partner with a Commemorative Partner to plan and organize a ceremony or reception honoring a local Vietnam veteran(s). Request promotional materials from the [Vietnam War Commemoration](#), such as certificates, stickers, and lapel pins to present to the veteran(s).
- Take a Veteran to School Day Project. Refer to **HISTORY.com** website for a detailed [“How-To” Guide](#) to plan and organize this event.
- Develop a webpage dedicated to telling a story of a hometown hero or local Vietnam veteran(s).
- [Contact a VA hospital](#) and arrange to ask veterans to share their stories. Write an article for a school newspaper, PTA newsletter, or local newspaper.
- Make a video or take a photo and post to social media. Students can post a brief summary of their experience.
- Partner with a local art museum or local artist and develop an art project honoring local veterans (e.g., quilt, painting, sculpture).
- Pick up trash at a veterans cemetery and place or pick up holiday wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia or other national cemeteries. Contact Arlington Cemetery directly or volunteer via [Wreaths Across America](#).
- Volunteer to help at a local or national Veterans Day parade.
- Volunteer at the [United Service Organizations](#), the [American Legion](#), [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#) or other organizations that honor and assist Vietnam veterans.
- Commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29th by volunteering to help homeless veterans at a local shelter. Students can post a blog or make a class presentation about their volunteer experiences.
- Inspired by the [“Step Into Their Boots”](#) campaign, students can get a pair of boots and dedicate them to a fallen Vietnam veteran and conduct one year of volunteer service in honor of the veteran. Identify a name by searching the *Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Wall of Faces* and/or other internet resources.

# ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

These additional activities and events are suggestions that are not specific to service-learning and intended to help students inside and outside the classroom setting by encouraging involvement in programs honoring and thanking Vietnam veterans at every possible opportunity.

- Study Maya Lin's design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and encourage students to design a military memorial of their own honoring a veteran(s) using a free version of [Google Sketchup](#), recyclable materials or model building.
- Encourage students to create their own poster using primary sources, charts, and text. Refer to the Vietnam War Commemoration Poster Series in this Toolkit as a guide.
- Organize field trips to exhibits, memorials, museums, and monuments with the [National Park Service](#) (as applicable), [CloseUp Foundation](#), [Pentagon Tours](#), military service organizations or associations, in order to learn about the service and sacrifices of veterans.
- Encourage school groups to visit local military installations; discuss significance of Vietnam and how it relates to our military history and our country today.
- Invite Vietnam veterans or family members of veterans to visit schools and classrooms to share their personal stories and discuss the significance of the Vietnam War.
- Encourage students/youth to participate in map, essay, video, speech, and poster contests focused on Vietnam such as the one sponsored annually by the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#).
- Produce video-recorded messages to Vietnam veterans and their families and share them via local military installation commanders and community leaders.
- Work with a local radio station to develop Public Service Announcements for events honoring Vietnam veterans that can be aired on local radio and TV stations.
- Explore the story behind Maya Lin's design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial – competition, criticism, and acceptance. Use available resources on the internet, magazine and newspaper articles, and refer to books on Vietnam memorials around the world to learn more about the design, history and stories of veterans who served and sacrificed. For more information, see the Toolkit list of recommended books.
- Plan and organize a 24-hour Read-A-Thon, specifically reading books about Vietnam. Have students write a brief essay, short story, poem or song inspired by the literature.
- Highlight veterans by making a presentation on a classroom service-learning project or school program at an annual conference (e.g., [National Council for the Social Studies](#), [National Council on Youth Leadership](#)).
- Encourage schools, particularly grades 5-12, and local colleges and universities to become a Commemorative Partner, especially those schools with Junior and Senior ROTC programs.
- Research the topic of POWs and MIAs to learn more about the topic as it relates to Vietnam and compare to more recent conflicts. Contact government officials and organizations such as [Sons and Daughters in Touch](#) and [The National League of POW/MIA Families](#).
- Participate in activities at school to commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other military-related holidays throughout the year. Refer to the List of Annual Holidays and Observances on page 9.

**Suggestions for more ideas on events and activities are also located on the Commemoration website at: [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com)**



# LIST OF ANNUAL HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

Please note that dates below are a combination of military and non-military holidays and observances that can be connected to the suggested events and activities throughout the year.

## JANUARY

**January 1 – New Year’s Day**

**Third Monday in January – Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

## FEBRUARY

**February 3 – Four Chaplains Day**

A day set aside to honor the four U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others when the troop ship USAT Dorchester sank during World War II.

Learn more at: <http://www.fourchaplains.org/>

**February 14 – Valentine’s Day**

**Third Monday in February – President’s Day**

**February 19 – Coast Guard Reserve Birthday**

Learn more at: <http://reserve.uscg.mil/>

## MARCH

**Month of the Military Caregiver**

During the Month of the Military Caregiver, Americans recognize and honor military caregivers’ sacrifices and successes.

Learn more at: <http://www.elizabethdolefoundation.org/how-we-help/military-caregivers-week/>

**March 3 – Navy Reserve Birthday**

Learn more at: <https://www.navyreserve.navy.mil/Pages/default.aspx>

**March 5 – Seabee Birthday**

Learn more at: <https://seabeesmuseum.wordpress.com/tag/seabee-birthday/>

**March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day**

# LIST OF ANNUAL HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES (CONTINUED)

## **March 25 – National Medal of Honor Day**

A day set aside to remember the courage and selfless sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients.

Learn more at: <http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/18481/national-medal-of-honor-day-march-25th/>

## **March 29 – Vietnam Veterans Day**

President Trump signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, officially designating March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The day calls for the U.S. flag to be flown, and to show honor and respect to our Vietnam Veterans. Learn more at:

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/military-and-veterans-affairs/vietnam-veterans-day-legislation-and-statutes.aspx>

## **APRIL**

### **Month of the Military Child**

An opportunity to recognize military children and youth for their heroism, character, courage, sacrifices and continued resilience. Learn more at: <http://www.nctsn.org/resources/public-awareness/month-military-child>

### **April 5 – Gold Star Wives Day**

A day set aside to recognize the sacrifices of Gold Star wives.

Learn more at: <http://www.goldstarwives.org/>

### **April 14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday**

Learn more at: <http://www.military.com/air-force-birthday>

### **April 23 – Army Reserve Birthday**

Learn more at: <http://www.usar.army.mil/Featured/Special-Features/Army-Reserve-Birthday/>

### **April 30 – National Military Brats Day**

A day set aside so Americans can say thank you to these patriots, young and grown, for their dedication and sacrifice in the service of their country.

Learn more at: <https://warriorgirl3.wordpress.com/2016/04/30/national-military-brats-day/comment-page-1/>

## **MAY**

### **National Military Appreciation Month**

A month to recognize and show appreciation to the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Learn more at: <http://www.military.com/military-appreciation-month>

### **May 1 – Silver Star Service Banner Day**

A day set aside to honor our wounded, ill and dying military personnel by participating in flying a Silver Star Banner. Learn more at: <http://silverstarfamilies.org/home.aspx>

### **Friday before Mother's Day in May – Military Spouse Appreciation Day**

A day set aside to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices of the spouses of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Learn more at: <https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/military-spouse-appreciation-day/>

### **May 13 – Children of Fallen Patriots Day**

A day to honor the families our Fallen Heroes have left behind – especially their children. It's a reminder to the community that we have an obligation to support the families of our Fallen Patriots.

Learn more at: <http://www.fallenpatriots.org/>

# LIST OF ANNUAL HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES (CONTINUED)

## **Second Sunday in May – Mother’s Day**

### **Third Saturday in May – Armed Forces Day**

A day set aside to pay tribute to men and women who serve in the United States’ Armed Forces.

For a downloadable poster, and to learn more at: <http://afd.defense.gov/>

### **Last Monday in May – Memorial Day (Decoration Day)**

A day set aside to commemorate all who have died in military service for the United States. Typically recognized by parades, visiting memorials and cemeteries.

Learn more at: [http://www.usmemorialday.org/?page\\_id=2](http://www.usmemorialday.org/?page_id=2)

## **JUNE**

### **June 14 – Flag Day**

A day to commemorate the adoption of the United States flag.

Learn more at: <http://nationalflagday.com/default.asp>

### **June 14 – Army Birthday**

Learn more at: <http://www.history.army.mil/html/faq/birth.html>

## **Third Sunday in June – Father’s Day**

## **JULY**

### **July 4 – Independence Day**

### **July 29 – Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corps**

Learn more at: <https://armyhistory.org/u-s-army-chaplain-corps/>

## **AUGUST**

### **August 4 – Coast Guard Birthday**

Learn more at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=130-05-02&category=city-proclamation>

### **August 7 – Purple Heart Day**

National Purple Heart Day honors the men and women who have been wounded or killed in military service. Learn more at: <https://purpleheartfoundation.org/about-us/blog/2015/08/purple-heart-day-day-celebrate-courage-and-sacrifice-combat-wounded-veterans/>

### **August 29 – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday**

Learn more at: <http://www.marforres.marines.mil/>

# LIST OF ANNUAL HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES (CONTINUED)

## SEPTEMBER

### **First Monday in September – Labor Day**

### **September 11 – Patriot Day**

Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001.

Learn more at: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/patriot-day>

### **Third Friday in September – POW/MIA Recognition Day**

A time set aside to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.

Learn more at: <http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/events/recognition-day/>

### **September 18 – Air Force Birthday**

Learn more at: <http://www.military.com/air-force-birthday>

### **Last Sunday in September – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day**

A day set aside to honor the families of our nation's fallen service members.

Learn more at: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/gold-star-mothers-day>

## OCTOBER

### **Second Monday in October – Columbus Day**

### **October 13 – Navy Birthday**

Learn more at: <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/commemorations-toolkits/navy-birthday.html>

## NOVEMBER

### **Military Family Month**

A month to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices of the families of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Learn more at: [https://www.army.mil/article/158106/November\\_designated\\_as\\_Month\\_of\\_the\\_Military\\_Family/](https://www.army.mil/article/158106/November_designated_as_Month_of_the_Military_Family/)

### **November 10 – Marine Corps Birthday**

Learn more at: <http://www.military.com/marine-corps-birthday>

### **November 11 – Veterans Day**

The anniversary date of the signing of the armistice which ended the World War I. Also a day set aside to thank military veterans for their service.

Learn more at: <https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp>

### **Fourth Thursday in November – Thanksgiving Day**

# LIST OF ANNUAL HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES (CONTINUED)

## DECEMBER

### **December 13 – National Guard Birthday**

Learn more at: <http://www.nationalguard.mil/About-the-Guard/How-We-Began/>

### **December 25 – Christmas Day**

### **December 31 – New Year's Eve**

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Alive Day**

Commemorates the day a veteran suffered near-fatal battlefield injuries yet managed to survive.

Learn more at: <http://www.operationward57.org/2012/04/celebrating-alive-day/>

### **National Wreaths Across America (December and January)**

An annual laying of wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery and other veterans cemeteries across the nation and abroad.

Learn more at: <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/#join-us>

### **Red Shirt Friday (RED - Remembering Everyone Deployed)**

Wear a red shirt on Friday to show support of our service men and women.

Learn more at: <http://redshirtfridays.org/>

### **Support Military Personnel**

Organizations that support military personnel and their families in various ways.

Learn more at: <http://militaryfamily.com/helping-heroes/>

Please note that the List of Annual Holidays and Observances is not exhaustive, and may change over time as result of more official holidays being added to the calendar year. Suggestions or ideas for additional observances are welcome.



## RELATED RESOURCES

- Websites, Elementary to College Lessons, STEM + History, Online Exhibits, Digital Media, Vietnam Memorials and Museums to Visit, Oral Histories, Films, and Books

### RELATED RESOURCES WEBSITES:

#### The Vietnam War Commemoration

<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/education/>

**Summary:** The Vietnam War Commemoration website provides resources such as historically accurate materials and interactive resources, posters, fact sheets, primary sources, and maps.

<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/links/?category=Ge4iYsIUOMxGhezscKLo4IfcijN1zhyTgyTZVAWuwuU%3d>

**Summary:** This link lists many websites with resources and information focused on the military and veterans.

#### Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

<http://www.vvmf.org>

**Summary:** The official website for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, founders of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The Memorial includes the names of over 58,000 servicemen and women who gave their lives in service in the Vietnam War. Also, on the grounds of the Memorial is “The Three Servicemen” statue and the Vietnam Women’s Memorial.

#### The National League of POW/MIA (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) Families

<http://www.pow-miafamilies.org/>

**Summary:** The official website for The National League of POW/MIA Families provides information on the League and its commitment to accounting “as fully as possible” for Americans still prisoners, missing, and unaccounted from the Vietnam War.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# WEBSITES (CONTINUED):

### POW/MIA Flag

<http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/powmia.pdf>

**Summary:** Description of the development and significance of the POW/MIA Flag. Congress designated the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day and ordered prominent display of the POW/MIA flag on this day and many other national observances.

### Sons and Daughters in Touch

<http://www.sdit.org/>

**Summary:** The website for Sons and Daughters in Touch provides support to the Gold Star “sons and daughters” and other family members of those who died or remain missing as a result of the Vietnam War. This includes periodic newsletters and promotes healing through networking opportunities and special events, as well as educational outreach to high school and college students by addressing the “historical and emotional legacy of war.”

### Paralyzed Veterans of America

[http://www.pva.org/site/c.ajIRK9NJLcJ2E/b.7535477/k.7D0E/Volunteer\\_Opportunities.htm](http://www.pva.org/site/c.ajIRK9NJLcJ2E/b.7535477/k.7D0E/Volunteer_Opportunities.htm)

**Summary:** Paralyzed Veterans of America is “an organization dedicated to veteran’s service, medical research, and civil rights for people with disabilities.” This site provides meaningful volunteer opportunities that not only make a life-changing difference to veterans, their families, and their communities, but also helps those that serve as volunteers to develop leadership skills and make a positive impact on others.

### The National Museum of the Marine Corps

[http://www.usmcmuseum.com/Education\\_teachers.asp](http://www.usmcmuseum.com/Education_teachers.asp)

**Summary:** The National Museum of The Marine Corps website provides all kinds of resources such as teaching trunks, workshops, lessons, and social study guides aligned with standards of learning, and topics that address issues such as Vietnam, diversity, women, Hispanics, African Americans.

### The John F. Kennedy (JFK) Presidential Library and Museum

<http://www.jfklibrary.org/Search.aspx?nav=Ntk:SearchAll|vietnam|1,N:15>

**Summary:** The JFK Library presents a compilation of research documents, lessons for 9-12th grade students, photos, videos, and transcriptions from audio recordings dating back to the Vietnam era.

### Teaching History

<http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/website-reviews/22992>

**Summary:** The Teaching History website presents nearly 1 million pages of Vietnam War-related research materials. It includes the full text of more than 80,000 documents, 60,000 photos and slides, hundreds of interviews with veterans and other participants, streaming audio and video recordings, and much more.

### The National Archives

<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/vietnam-war.html>

**Summary:** The National Archives provides a diverse collection of materials via web links to resources such as documents, photos, audio and video recordings, military records, collections, chronologies, and maps.

<https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/currently-on-exhibit-remembering-vietnam>

**Summary:** This website provides access to many online resources and materials on the Vietnam War, including downloadable brochures on the exhibition, *Remembering Vietnam*. The exhibit is open to the public and can be seen at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., November 10, 2017–January 6, 2019.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# WEBSITES (CONTINUED):

### **The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans**

<http://nchv.org/>

[http://nchv.org/index.php/service/service/start\\_a\\_homeless\\_vet\\_program/](http://nchv.org/index.php/service/service/start_a_homeless_vet_program/)

**Summary:** The official website of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) provides a plethora of resources and information about homeless veterans in the United States, the programs, and the “people who are working to save their lives and restore their hope.” The second web link explains “How to Start a Homeless Veteran Program” that includes ideas for developing a marketing campaign, partnerships, and facts sheets on homeless veterans and how to advocate for them.

### **Project Look Sharp**

<http://projectlooksharp.org/?action=war>

**Summary:** Project Look Sharp analyzes *Newsweek's* coverage of the Vietnam War, Gulf War and the War in Afghanistan. High school to college-age students will learn core information about the wars in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and Afghanistan, how media influences public opinion of current events, and how to ask key media literacy questions and identify bias in the news.

### **The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation**

<http://www.cmohfoundation.org/>

**Summary:** The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation developed the Character Development Program to incorporate the ideals of courage and selfless service into middle and high school curriculum, and awards STEM scholarships to students.

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars**

<http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education>

**Summary:** Information on the various youth and teacher programs, scholarships, and helpful resources dedicated to addressing topics related to United States veterans of overseas conflicts, as well as sources and monthly webinars discussing character development.

### **Women in Military Service For America Memorial**

<http://www.womensmemorial.org/education>

**Summary:** The official website of the Women in Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc. provides myriad resources to help visitors to the Women’s Memorial to learn about American history, patriotism and women’s rich heritage of service through tours, education programs, education/poster kits containing materials and activities, historical articles, bibliographies, and more.

### **The Virtual Wall**

<http://www.virtualwall.org/>

**Summary:** This website is dedicated to honoring those who died in the Vietnam War. Names of the fallen service members from across the country are listed alphabetically, along with biographical information, photographs, personal remembrances, and poems left by relatives and friends.

# ELEMENTARY TO COLLEGE LESSONS:

## ELEMENTARY

### Dear Vietnam Vet

<http://www.DearVietnamVet.com>

**Summary:** This website encourages the general public to write “thank you” letters to Vietnam veterans for their service and sacrifice. The letters are distributed via mail and/or at special Vietnam veteran events. This is a great school project for elementary to college-level students.

### Enchanted Learning

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/veterans>

**Summary:** The Enchanted Learning website presents ideas for crafts, projects, worksheets, books and print-outs related to honoring veterans.

### The National Education Association

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/veterans-day-activities-gradesk-5.html>

**Summary:** The National Education Association provides lesson plans, activities, and educational resources focused on wartime service and sacrifice for K-5th grade students.

### The New-York Historical Society

<http://vietnamwar.nyhistory.org/>

**Summary:** *The Vietnam War: 1945-1975*, is an exhibition developed by the New-York Historical Society that “examines the causes, progression, and consequences of one of the most controversial events of the 20th century.” The exhibit has more than 300 artifacts, photographs, documents, films, and interactive digital media. In addition, the website showcases special features from the exhibition, along with educational resources for the entire family and up to college-level students. These resources include music from the era, short films, and oral histories from individuals who experienced the Vietnam War firsthand.

### The Nixon Presidential Library & Museum

<http://www.nixonlibrary.gov/forkids/index.php>

<http://www.nixonlibrary.gov/forteachers/resources/index.php>

**Summary:** The Nixon Presidential Library & Museum website provides teachers with lesson plans and primary sources such as photographs, speeches, audio transcripts, audio clips and more in order to specifically engage young children and learn about Nixon and his administration via these two weblinks.

### The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

[http://issuu.com/vvmf/docs/field\\_trip\\_guide\\_for\\_web\\_and\\_mobile](http://issuu.com/vvmf/docs/field_trip_guide_for_web_and_mobile)

**Summary:** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund’s field trip guide is an excellent resource for self-guided or teacher-led exploration of the Memorial (The Wall). The guide includes various onsite activities, as well as activities for the classroom.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SECONDARY SCHOOL

### MiddleSchool.Net

<http://www.middleschool.net/curlink/ss/vietnam/vietnam.htm>

**Summary:** Middle School.Net is a website created “for teachers by teachers” that includes a wealth of resources including lesson plans, activities, quizzes, and other educational materials. Also, highlights weblinks specifically related to service-learning and the study of the Vietnam War.

### The University of North Carolina, School of Education

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/4206>

**Summary:** The UNC School of Education introduces 7th grade students to Vietnam’s geography, climate, culture, history, natural history, arts, economics, and government. Students will view a collection of documentary photographs and use these for making logical observations, drawing conclusions, and as a basis for creative writing. Lesson focuses on Language Arts, Information Skills, and Social Studies.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# ELEMENTARY TO COLLEGE LESSONS (CONTINUED):

### **The National Museum of the Air Force**

<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Upcoming/PressRoom/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/466/Article/630261/museum-announces-sixth-annual-student-writing-competition.aspx>

**Summary:** The National Museum of the Air Force oversees an annual writing competition open to public and private schools and homeschooled 6-12th grade students. It is an opportunity to secure a scholarship and showcase writing skills by answering an overarching question comparing the media coverage of Vietnam to Operation Desert Storm.

### **TeachingVietnam.net**

<http://teachingvietnam.net>

**Summary:** Lindy Poling, a nationally recognized history teacher, shares insights about her Community in the Classroom approach to studying history and her Lessons of Vietnam Program at Millbrook High School in Raleigh, NC. Her website provides engaging lesson plans and valuable resources, including sample interview questions for veterans, recommended films and documentaries, publications, and more than 35 digital copies of the award-winning *Bridges-The Lessons of Vietnam* student newsletter.

### **Teacher Vision**

<https://www.teachervision.com/veterans-day/teacher-resources/6674.html>

**Summary:** Use TeacherVision's cross-curricular Veterans Day lessons, print outs, and resources to help students understand the contributions veterans have made to the country. There are Veterans Day worksheets to honor heroes, facts about flags, pop-up art books to make, literature guides, patriotic songs, historical references, and more educational activities for students of all grade levels.

### **The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, *Hometown Heroes***

<http://www.vvmf.org/hometown-heroes>

**Summary:** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund engaged the Veterans History Project (at the Library of Congress), to create the Hometown Heroes Service Learning Project. Through four separate lesson plans, 6-12th grade students have an opportunity to learn about local veterans who served and sacrificed in Vietnam.

### **The Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University**

<https://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/teachers/pages/teachers04.php>

**Summary:** The Vietnam Center and Archive, Texas Tech University provides 6-12th grade students history resources, exhibits, classroom instruction, educational programs, and publications covering all aspects of the American Vietnam experience. The website has a growing collection of lessons, with plans to add elementary lessons.

### **The Armed Forces Museum**

<http://armedforcesmuseum.com/education-opportunities/>

**Summary:** The Armed Forces Museum offers 5-12th grade students hands on experience with authentic artifacts for in-classroom learning. The Duffle Bag Program is free of charge to teachers and homeschoolers in selected geographic areas. Check directly with the museum for availability.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL

### **National Education Association**

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/60848.htm>

**Summary:** An online exhibition called *Battlelines: Letters from America's Wars* consists of letter text and audio from soldiers of all ranks and their families, from the American Revolution to American involvement in the Iraq war. Each letter includes an image and transcript.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# ELEMENTARY TO COLLEGE LESSONS (CONTINUED):

### National for the Endowment of Humanities, EDSITEment!

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/gulf-tonkin-resolution-and-escalation-vietnam-war>

**Summary:** This website provides a lesson plan on The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and Escalation of the Vietnam War. Myriad photographs, lessons, activities, as well as web resources, video clips, and historical documents are also available.

### The John F. Kennedy (JFK) Presidential Library and Museum

<https://www.jfklibrary.org/Search.aspx?nav=N:4294882426>

**Summary:** The JFK Library provides a lesson plan called, *Military Advisors in Vietnam: 1963 Lesson Plan*. Students have an opportunity to analyze primary sources, discuss US involvement in the Vietnam conflict prior to 1963, and evaluate the “domino theory” from the historical perspective of Americans living in 1963.

### George Mason University, Center for History and New Media

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/mcpstah/lesson-plans/1950-to-present/?planid=15>

**Summary:** *Vietnam Primary Source Analysis*, a lesson plan developed by a high school teacher and made available by George Mason University’s Center for New Media and History.

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/mcpstah/source-analysis/vietnam-war-cartoon/lesson-plan/>

**Summary:** *Vietnam War Cartoon: Voices from the My Lai Massacre*, a lesson plan developed by a high school teacher for AP classes, and made available by George Mason University’s Center for New Media and History.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

### Brown University, The Choices Program

<http://choices.edu/resources/detail.php?id=21>

**Summary:** Brown University developed The Choices Program with specific lessons on Vietnam called, *The Limits of Power: The United States in Vietnam*, “takes students back in history to evaluate how successive U.S. administrations between the late 1940s and early 1970s perceived the situation in Vietnam, weighed the stakes, gauged the options, and implemented policy decisions. In the central activity, students become decision-makers wrestling with four distinct policy options that confronted the Johnson administration in the summer of 1965.”

### The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, *Echoes From The Wall*

<http://www.vvmf.org/vvmf-education>

**Summary:** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund provides an online interactive guide, *Echoes From the Wall Curriculum Guide*, that focuses on four main topics: Social, Military, Media, Politics tackling subtopics such as the draft, film and war, movies and war, protests, medical advancements, news and stories of the war, U.S. involvement, coalitions, and withdrawal. For an electronic version of the curriculum, please refer to the associated Teachers’ Guide at: <http://issuu.com/vvmf/docs/echoesguide>

### HistoryNet. com

<http://www.historynet.com/vietnam-war>

**Summary:** This website provides videos, photos, facts and other relevant information on the Vietnam War, including articles that can be read and viewed online from the *Vietnam Magazine*.

### The U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian

<https://history.state.gov/conferences/2010-southeast-asia/frus>

**Summary:** The Office of the Historian provides online access to their main publication, *Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS)*, the official historical record of major U.S. foreign policy decisions. This site provides access to volumes pertaining to the American experience in Southeast Asia, 1946-1975.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# STEM + HISTORY (MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SECONDARY SCHOOL):

### **The American Helicopter Museum & Education Center**

<http://americanhelicopter.museum/programs/women-aerospace-technology-program>

**Summary:** The American Helicopter Museum & Education Center's Women in Aerospace & Technology Program (WATP) is a collaborative effort developed by the AHMEC and the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania to offer a fun and educational hands-on program where girls explore different topics through hands-on activities and fun interactives related to STEM.

### **The National Museum of the United States Navy**

<http://www.usnavymuseum.org/Education.asp>

**Summary:** The National Museum of the United States Navy located at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. provides lesson plans that “incorporate the rich multimedia found in the Cold War Gallery Virtual Tour to make learning an engaging and fun experience for middle school and high school students.”

### **The Naval Historical Foundation**

<http://www.navyhistory.org/programs/stem-teacher-fellowships/>

**Summary:** The National Historical Foundation in Washington, DC hopes to offer fellowships for high school teachers of science, technology, engineering, math and U.S. History to work in teams developing classroom lesson plans at many more participating Navy museums. Watch for future fellowship announcements at the web link noted above.

### **The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Lesson Plan D - Design a Memorial**

[http://issuu.com/vvmf/docs/hometown\\_heroes\\_slp](http://issuu.com/vvmf/docs/hometown_heroes_slp)

**Summary:** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Hometown Heroes Service Learning Project—Lesson Plan D recommends students “Design a military memorial” using Google SketchUp. This project incorporates science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and history. Refer to the web link to preview a digital copy of the Hometown Heroes curriculum.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# ONLINE EXHIBITS:

### **The Vietnam War Commemoration, *Timeline***

<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/timeline/>

**Summary:** The Vietnam War Commemoration presents an interactive timeline on the Vietnam War. An updated version of the timeline will be available on the website in 2018.

### **The Women in Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

<http://www.womensmemorial.org/timeline>

**Summary:** The foundation provides a Timeline on women in the military from the American Revolution to the Iraq War.

### **The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, *VVMC***

<http://www.vvmf.org/items/>

**Summary:** More than 400,000 items have been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial by visitors as remembrances and tributes. The National Park Service collects, catalogs, and preserves these objects as part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection (VVMC), with curatorial support from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

### **The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, *The Wall of Faces***

<http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/>

**Summary:** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has collected and digitized the photos and biographies of more than half of the 58,000 plus names inscribed on The Wall. Teachers and students can help find and collect the missing photos of the remaining soldiers to complete *The Wall of Faces* or use the information on the website for a classroom project.

### **The Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech State University**

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu>

**Summary:** The official website of The Vietnam Center and Archive supports and encourages research and education regarding all aspects of the American Vietnam experience, as well as collects and preserves the documentary record of the Vietnam War via oral histories, artifacts, and photographs.

### **The Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Presidential Library**

<http://www.lbjlibrary.org/exhibits/the-vietnam-conflict>

**Summary:** The LBJ Presidential Library located in Austin, TX provides a window into President Johnson's life through his daily journal entries, in addition to photographs, select speeches, telephone conversations, video clips, oral histories, and a presidential timeline.

### **The Nixon Presidential Library & Museum**

<http://www.nixonlibrary.gov/virtuallibrary/index.php>

**Summary:** The Nixon Presidential Library & Museum located in Yorba Linda, CA provides a plethora of resources for teachers and students. This includes downloadable lessons, primary sources, and online exhibits such as *Memoirs v. Tapes: President Nixon & the December Bombings*, a multimedia presentation that incorporates documents, tapes, and videos relevant to understanding the decision-making related to the December 1972 bombing of North Vietnam.

### **The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum**

<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/library/>

**Summary:** The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum located in Atlanta, GA is part of the Presidential Library system administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. The museum offers professional development workshops for educators, school tours and programs and myriad resources for teachers and students, grades 2-12.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# ONLINE EXHIBITS (CONTINUED):

### **The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum**

<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/exhibits/vietnam/vietdocs.asp>

**Summary:** The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum located in Ann Arbor, MI provides online access and viewing of the Library's collection of digitized declassified documents, records, press releases and photographs from 1953 to 1977.

### **Digital History**

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraid=18&smtid=1>

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=18&smtID=11>

**Summary:** This site provides a wealth of resources that includes historic documents, multimedia and images from the era, lesson plans, and online textbook to help educators teach about Vietnam.

### **The National Museum of the United States Navy and Naval Historical Foundation**

[http://www.usnavymuseum.org/Ex9\\_LionsDen.asp](http://www.usnavymuseum.org/Ex9_LionsDen.asp)

**Summary:** The National Museum of the United States Navy and Naval Historical Foundation (NHF) in Washington, D.C. provides lesson plans that "incorporate the rich multimedia found in the Cold War Gallery Virtual Tour to make learning an engaging and fun experience for middle school and high school students."

### **The Public Broadcasting System**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/>

**Summary:** The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) presents an online resource for use in the classroom along with the DVD, *Vietnam: A Television History*, the Emmy Award-winning television series. It offers a detailed chronicle of the war and insights into topics such as foreign policy in Southeast Asia, the threat of Communism, the Cold War, the media's role in wartime, portrayals of war in popular culture, and more. This series was produced by PBS and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to teach high school students to think critically about the War.

### **Stars and Stripes**

<http://www.stripes.com/news/special-reports/vietnam-at-50/1965>

**Summary:** The *Stars and Stripes* is an independent news entity that provides information to the U.S. military community, comprised of active-duty service members, DoD civilians, contractors, and their families. This site presents an online interactive exhibit (e.g., timeline, maps, articles, and historic photographs) about the United States active role in the Vietnam War, starting in 1965, and how it impacted America.

### **The U.S. Army Center for Military History**

[http://www.history.army.mil/news/2015/150900a\\_beforeVietnam.html](http://www.history.army.mil/news/2015/150900a_beforeVietnam.html)

**Summary:** This web link highlights the U.S. Army Center for Military History's article, *The U.S. Army Before Vietnam, 1953–1965* in the CMH Publication, along with other related publications on Vietnam. A valuable resource for students learning about the Vietnam War.

### **The U.S. Coast Guard Museum**

[http://www.uscg.mil/history/uscghist/African\\_American\\_Photo\\_Gallery.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/history/uscghist/African_American_Photo_Gallery.asp)

**Summary:** A historic photo gallery of African-American men and women who served in the U.S. Coast Guard from the late 1800s to present times.

[http://www.uscg.mil/history/uscghist/VietnamPhotoIndex\\_D.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/history/uscghist/VietnamPhotoIndex_D.asp)

**Summary:** A historic photo gallery of the U.S. Coast Guard Squadron Three in Vietnam from April 1967 to January 1972.

### **Air Mobility Command Museum**

[http://amcmuseum.org/collections/?fwp\\_eras=vietnam-war](http://amcmuseum.org/collections/?fwp_eras=vietnam-war)

**Summary:** The Air Mobility Command Museum is located on the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. This link provides access to an online collection focused on U.S. Air Force history from WWI to today. A great resource for an up-close look at artifacts from the Vietnam era.

### **U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO)**

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/searchresults.action?st=Vietnam>

**Summary:** This site provides digitized PDF's of government publications on the topic of Vietnam.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# VIETNAM MEMORIALS AND MUSEUM EXHIBITS TO VISIT

### The Vietnam War Exhibit at the Pentagon

<https://pentagontours.osd.mil/Tours/>

**Summary:** *The Vietnam War* is the first and only large-scale historical exhibit at the Pentagon devoted to the history of U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia from 1945 to 1975. The exhibit officially opened to the public in December 2016, and was awarded the 2017 John Wesley Powell Prize for an exemplary display of historic preservation and presentation. To view this award-winning exhibit along with other military displays throughout the building, contact the Pentagon to schedule a 60-minute walking tour at the website.

### The Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History

<http://amhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/>

**Summary:** The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History's *Price of Freedom* exhibit in Washington, DC is open to the public and features artifacts, lessons, and videos about Vietnam.

### The Women's Memorial

<http://www.womensmemorial.org/exhibits>

**Summary:** Dedicated on October 18, 1997, the Women's Memorial is located in Arlington, VA at the Arlington National Cemetery. It is the only major national memorial honoring women who have served in America's defense during all eras and in all services, including an exhibit on Vietnam. Approximately 200,000 people visit the Memorial annually. Admission is free.

### Wisconsin Veterans Museum

<http://www.wisvetsmuseum.com/>

**Summary:** Located on the capitol square in Madison, the museum contains artifacts, an exhibit on Vietnam, and other programs related to military history and Wisconsin's veterans.

### The Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

<http://www.patriotspoint.org/explore/vietnam-exhibit/>

**Summary:** The Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum located in Mt. Pleasant, SC uses state-of-the-art technology to bring the history of the Vietnam War to life in the *Vietnam Experience* exhibit. The museum also uses the USS Yorktown, a historic ship that has a long history of service between 1943 and 1970, as a place for hands-on learning opportunities for elementary to high school level students specifically in history, science, and 21st-century STEM curriculum.

### The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial & Education Center

<http://www.njvvmf.org/educational-resources>

**Summary:** The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial & Education Center in Holmdel, NJ is open for tours and class field trips. Temporary exhibits featured in the theater area and lobby of the Museum, focus on a variety of Vietnam-era themes such as popular culture and military history, in addition to veteran-created art and photography. A resource room, space for workshops, and educator resources such as traveling trunks are available to local schools.

### Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, *The Wall That Heals*

<http://www.vvmf.org/twth>

**Summary:** *The Wall That Heals* is a half replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., designed to travel to communities throughout the United States to assist in the healing process for millions of veterans and their families. You can request The Wall to come to your community by directly contacting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# VIETNAM MEMORIALS AND MUSEUM EXHIBITS TO VISIT (CONTINUED):

### The Newseum

<http://www.newseum.org/tag/vietnam-war/>

**Summary:** The Newseum in Washington, DC has a new provocative exhibit, *Reporting Vietnam* that marks the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, America's first televised war. The exhibit explores the dramatic stories of how journalists brought news about the war to a divided nation with powerful photos and news footage, evocative music and more than 90 compelling artifacts, as well as historic newspapers and magazines that will take visitors back to a divisive era.

### The National Museum of The Marine Corps

<http://www.usmcmuseum.com/vietnam.html>

**Summary:** The National Museum of The Marine Corps is situated on a 135-acre site adjacent to Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia and comprised of interactive exhibits and artifacts that immerse visitors in "the sights and sounds of Marines in action," from the past to the present.

### The Cold War Museum

<http://www.coldwar.org/articles/60s/index.asp>

<http://www.coldwar.org/articles/70s/index.asp>

**Summary:** These two web links provide resources and detailed summaries about significant events during the 60s and the 70s, including the Vietnam era. The Cold War Museum is located in Vint Hill, VA, and open to visitors on weekends and by appointment on weekdays.

### The National Museum of the Air Force

<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit.aspx>

**Summary:** The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force is located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio. It is the world's largest military aviation museum and features more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles, as well as thousands of artifacts in the exhibit spaces.

### National Veterans Art Museum

<http://www.nvam.org/Module/Event/EventExhibitionsList>

**Summary:** Inspired by Tim O'Brien's book, *The Things They Carried*, this permanent exhibit at the museum in Chicago, Illinois presents a unique collection of artifacts and artwork that connect to the physical and emotional weight that soldiers carried during and after the Vietnam War.

### National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/vive/index.htm>

**Summary:** The National Park Service oversees the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, located north of the Lincoln Memorial near the intersection of 22nd St. and Constitution Ave. NW in the District of Columbia. The Memorial is free to visit and open 24 hours a day. Also, check the link for more details on volunteering and planning a visit to the neighboring Korean Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial and Washington Monument.

### The Intrepid Museum

<http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/ontheline.aspx>

**Summary:** The Intrepid Museum in New York City has a new exhibition, *On the Line: Intrepid and the Vietnam War* that explores the events and impact of the Vietnam War through the lens of Intrepid's history. The exhibition includes artifacts, photographs and film clips from the Museum's collection, many of which are on display for the first time.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# ORAL HISTORIES:

### Library of Congress, Veterans History Project

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/about.html>

**Summary:** Library of Congress' Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center "collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war."

### Library of Congress, Native Americans

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/ex-war-nativeamericans.html>

**Summary:** Library of Congress' interviews of Native American men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces from World War II to Iraq/Afghanistan.

### The Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation

<http://vietnamwomensmemorial.org/storytelling.php>

**Summary:** The Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation has collected a number of video interviews of women who served in the US Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. This web link shares their stories as expressed in their own words.

### The Stories of Service - Digital Clubhouse

[http://www.digiclub.org/sofs/index.php?page\\_id=14](http://www.digiclub.org/sofs/index.php?page_id=14)

**Summary:** The Stories of Service - Digital Clubhouse website features stories and short autobiographical video clips about veterans who served in WWII, Vietnam, Korea, and Afghanistan.

### Witness to War

<http://www.witnesstowar.org/>

**Summary:** Search the collection of more than 3,600 videos, photographs, and interviews of those who served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and other theaters.

### Brown University, The Choices Program

[http://choices.edu/resources/scholars\\_vietnam.php](http://choices.edu/resources/scholars_vietnam.php)

**Summary:** The Choices Program produced by Brown University uses historical backgrounds, original documents, and videos of scholars discussing the key decision points leading to U.S. involvement in Vietnam

### The Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University, *Celebrating the Nurses of the Vietnam War*

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/exhibits/whm/nurses.php>

**Summary:** The Vietnam Center and Archive's *Celebrating the Nurses of the Vietnam War* focuses on the young women from all over the nation who volunteered to serve as nurses in the hospitals and medical facilities in South Vietnam. Historic photographs and interviews provide snapshots into the lives of these dedicated service women.

### The Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University, *African Americans*

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/exhibits/blackhistorymonth/>

**Summary:** The Vietnam Center and Archive honors the African American infantryman, medic, pilot, sailor, marine, nurse and soldier for Black History Month by highlighting photographs, artifacts, interviews, newspaper articles, and other historical documents. These young men played a key role in Vietnam by serving their country in a time of war.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# DIGITAL/SOCIAL MEDIA (PODCASTS/VIDEOS/BLOGS):

### The Vietnam War Commemoration

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/aVeBtntfAxP8>

**Summary:** Watch a 5-minute video tribute narrated by actor, Sam Elliot. The Commemoration's main focus is to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and families for their service and sacrifice.

### The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/vietnam-voices/id720274735>

**Summary:** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's *Vietnam Voices* brings experts, academics, military leaders, volunteers, and veterans to share their experiences related to the Vietnam War and era via podcasts for grades 6-12.

### National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=F7122BC7-1DD8-B71C-07CC0CDC91E91CFA>

**Summary:** A National Park Service Park Ranger describes the significance of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial via a brief video clip for all ages.

### The Army Historical Foundation

<https://armyhistory.org/first-lieutenant-sharon-ann-lane/>

**Summary:** The Army Historical Foundation provides an overview of Sharon Ann Lane, one of eight American military nurses who died while serving in Vietnam but the only American nurse killed as a result of hostile fire. The names of all eight nurses are inscribed on The Wall.

### Teacher Vision

<https://www.teachervision.com/holidays/veterans-day>

**Summary:** This site provides teachers with myriad Veterans-related resources such as videos and activities that focus on the history and meaning of Veterans Day for grades 1-12.

### Wisconsin Veterans Museum

<http://blog.wisvetsmuseum.com/>

**Summary:** Blog entries highlight service members' personal stories, photos, and artifacts. To learn more about Vietnam veteran, James Mosel, please read the April 16, 2016 blog, "Grim Reaper."

### Step Into Their Boots

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89WrtbYFP28>

**Summary:** The video describes the *Step Into Their Boots* program of The United War Veterans Council. A program that encourages the participant to serve in their own community by promoting volunteerism and honoring fallen service members by wearing boots and taking the "steps" they can no longer take while raising funds for the families and injured comrades. An excellent way to thank and honor veterans while completing community service.

### The Disabled American Veterans

<http://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/>

**Summary:** The Disabled American Veterans' website posts articles on women veterans, senior veterans, disability compensation, caregiver support, and other current topics of interest. This includes opportunities to volunteer, support and advocate for veterans.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# DIGITAL/SOCIAL MEDIA (PODCASTS/VIDEOS/BLOGS)CONTINUED:

### The Public Broadcasting System, *Last Days of Vietnam*

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/lastdays/>

**Summary:** *Last Days of Vietnam*, an Academy Award® Nominee for Documentary Feature in 2014, produced by Rory Kennedy. In April 1975, “the North Vietnamese Army was closing in on Saigon as South Vietnamese resistance was crumbling. Approximately 5,000 Americans remained with roughly 24 hours to get out.” This site shows the first chapter of the film.

### The Public Broadcasting System, *My Lai Massacre*

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/mylai/>

**Summary:** PBS’ American Experience focuses on the 1968 My Lai massacre, its subsequent cover-up, and the heroic efforts of the soldiers who broke ranks to try to halt the atrocities, and then bring them to light. This film is appropriate for high school and college level students.

### TeachingVietnam.net

<http://lindypoling.com/lindy-poling-blog/>

**Summary:** Lindy Poling, a nationally recognized history teacher, shares insights about her Community in the Classroom approach to studying history and her Lessons of Vietnam Program at Millbrook High School in Raleigh, NC. Her website provides engaging lesson plans and valuable resources, including sample interview questions for veterans, recommended films and documentaries, publications, and more than 35 digital copies of the award-winning *Bridges-The Lessons of Vietnam* student newsletter.

### Watch.Know.Learn.org

<http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Category.aspx?CategoryID=1858>

**Summary:** This site is specifically geared towards providing teachers with educational videos, including access to over 100 brief videos and speeches on the Vietnam War. Teachers should check to ensure the videos are age appropriate.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/VietnamWar50th>

Twitter – <http://www.twitter.com/vietnamwar50th>

[#VietnamLegacies](#)

## RELATED RESOURCES

# FILMS:

(Recommend teachers check films for age appropriateness)

***American Medevac*, (PBS, 2017).**

In 1971, CBS News correspondent Morton Dean and cameraman Greg Cooke flew on a medevac mission to document the rescue of three wounded soldiers from a rice paddy in Vietnam. This documentary tells the story of the strong bond these three soldiers formed, and their reunion more than 40 years later.

***Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam*, (HBO, 1988).**

A collection of letters, newsreels, and home movies compiled from people who served in Vietnam.

***Gold Star Children*, (2008).**

An award-winning documentary, written and directed by Mitty Griffis Mirrer, tells the compelling stories of American children who lost a parent to war while serving in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq.

***In the Shadow of the Blade*, (Arrowhead Films, 2004).**

“The film follows the cross-country journey of a restored Vietnam War UH-1 Huey helicopter to capture the stories of people affected by the war three decades after its end.” The official website, <http://intheshadowoftheblade.com> provides educational resources in conjunction with the film, including a recommended teacher’s guide, discussion questions, and research projects.

***Into Harm’s Way*, (The Documentary Group, 2011).**

This documentary and first person chronicle featuring a 1967 West Point graduate, sharing honestly about war-time experiences and how the Vietnam War continues to impact “the American psyche” until this day.

***Last Days of Vietnam*, (2014).**

Produced by Rory Kennedy, this documentary details the last days leading up to exit of thousands of Americans and South Vietnamese and the eventual fall of Saigon in 1975.

***Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision*, (1994).**

An Academy Award winning documentary written and directed by Frieda Lee Mock that explores the story of The Wall and the creative work of the architect, Maya Lin.

***Return with Honor*, (PBS, 1999).**

The story of American Airmen held as prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

***The Vietnam War*, (PBS, 2017).**

The 10-part, 18-hour documentary, directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, tells the profound story of the Vietnam War using still and moving images, audio recordings, and television broadcasts, incorporating over 80 personal accounts from both sides of the epic conflict.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# FILMS (CONTINUED):

(Recommend teachers check films for age appropriateness)

### ***To Heal a Nation*, (1988).**

The true story of Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Jan, who served as an Army infantryman in the War, returns a broken man, and struggles to make sense of loss that comes from war. However, with the help of his loving wife Becky, he begins to find a new life for himself, and a personal goal to build a memorial to remember the more than 58,000 men and women who served and sacrificed.

### ***Vietnam in HD*, (HISTORY, 2011).**

This documentary format tracks key events of the Vietnam War and their impact on the war effort and the American public. Presented in High Definition video format, HISTORY incorporates vintage footage and narration veterans and Hollywood actors.

### ***War Letters*, (PBS, 2011).**

Adapted for TV by PBS and based on Andrew Carroll's book, "War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars," this film brings to life eyewitness accounts and reflections on personal war-time experiences from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other more current conflicts.

### ***We Were Soldiers*, (2002).**

A Vietnam War film that dramatizes the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley on November 14, 1965. A film based on the book *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*, by Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore and Joseph L. Galloway.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

*Always to Remember: The Story of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.* Ashabranner, Brent.  
Scholastic, 1992.

*Pepper's Purple Heart: A Veterans Day Story.* Henry, Heather French.  
Cubbie Blue Publishing, 2003.

*Portrait of a Tragedy: America and the Vietnam War.* Warren, James A.  
Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1990.

*The Vietnam Memorial (Cornerstones of Freedom).* De Capua, Sarah.  
Children's Press, 2003.

*The Vietnam Veterans Memorial (American Symbols & Their Meanings).* Ferry, Joseph.  
Mason Crest Publishers, 2002.

*The Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Library of American Landmarks).*  
Sevastiades, Patra McSharry.  
PowerKids Press, 1994.

*The Wall.* Bunting, Eve.  
Clarion Books, 1992.

*Veterans Day, 2nd Edition.* Ansary, Mir Tamim.  
Heinemann, 2001. Also in Spanish.

*Veterans Day (Pebble Books).* Schuch, Mari C.  
Capstone Press, 2003.

*Veterans Day (American Holidays).* Worsley, Arlene.  
Weigl Publishers, 2006.

*Veterans Day: Remembering Our War Heroes (Finding Out About Holidays).* Landau, Elaine.  
Enslow Elementary, 2002.

*Vietnam Veterans Memorial (We the People).* Rosinsky, Natalie.  
Compass Point Books, 2006.

## RELATED RESOURCES

### ADDITIONAL BOOKS:

Please note that the list of films and books are not exhaustive, and more books will be added accordingly.

*After Tet: The Bloodiest Year in Vietnam.* Spector, Ronald H.

Vintage Books, 1993.

*America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975.* Herring, George C.

McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1979.

*A Piece of My Heart.* Walker, Keith.

Ballantine Books, 1991.

*Carried To The Wall.* Hass, Kristin Ann.

University of Chicago Press, 1998.

*Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam.* Edelman, Bernard, ed.

ReAnimus Press, 2014, 1985.

*Fortunate Son: The Autobiography of Lewis B. Puller, Jr.* Puller, Lewis B. Jr.

Grove, 2000.

*Haunting Legacy: Vietnam and the American Presidency from Ford to Obama.*

Kalb, Martin and Deborah Kalb.

Brookings Institution Press, 2011.

*Historical Atlas of the Vietnam War.* Summers, Harry G.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1995.

*Home before Morning: The Story of an Army Nurse in Vietnam.* Devanter, Lynda Van.

University of Massachusetts Press, 2001.

*Letters on The Wall: Offerings and Remembrances from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.*

Sofarelli, Michael.

Collins Publishing, 2006.

*Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War.* Marlantes, Karl.

Grove/Atlantic, 2011.

*Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America.* Doss, Erika.

University of Chicago Press, 2010.

*Offerings at The Wall: Artifacts from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection.*

Allen, Thomas B.

Turner Publishing, 1995.

*Out of Fire and Valor, The War Memorials of New York City.* Snyder, Carl.

Bunker Hill Press, 2005.

*Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered from All Sides.* Appy, Christian, G.

Viking, 2003.

## RELATED RESOURCES

# ADDITIONAL BOOKS (CONTINUED):

*Shrapnel in the Heart: Letters and Remembrances from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.*

**Palmer, Laura.**

Vintage, 1988.

*The Mourner's Song: War and Remembrances from Iliad to Vietnam.* Tatum, James.

The University of Chicago Press, 2004.

*The Things They Carried.* O'Brien, Tim.

Mariner Books, 2009.

*The Tragedy of Vietnam.* Hearden, Patrick J.

Purdue University, 2012.

*The Vietnam War: A Concise International History.* Lawrence, Mark A.

Oxford University Press, 2010.

*The Vietnam War in Popular Culture [2 volumes]: The Influence of America's Most Controversial War on Everyday Life.* Milam, Ron, ed.

Praeger, 2016.

*The Wall: Images and Offerings from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.* Lopes, Sal, ed.

Collins, 1987.

*To Heal a Nation.* Scruggs, Jan and and Joel L. Swerdlow.

Harper Paperbacks, 1986.

*Vietnam, A History.* Karnow, Stanley.

Penguin USA, 1997.

*Vietnam: The History of an Unwinnable War, 1945-1975 (Modern War Studies).*

**Prados, John.**

University Press of Kansas, 2009.

*War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondences from American Wars.* Carroll, Andrew.

Scribner, 2001.

*Warriors Remembered: Vietnam Veterans – Welcome Home.* Nahas, Albert J.

IBJ Book Publishing, 2010.

*We Were Soldiers Once ...and Young: Ia Drang - The Battle That Changed the War in Vietnam.* Moore, Lt. Gen. Harold, G. and Joseph L. Galloway.

Random House Publishing Group, 1992.

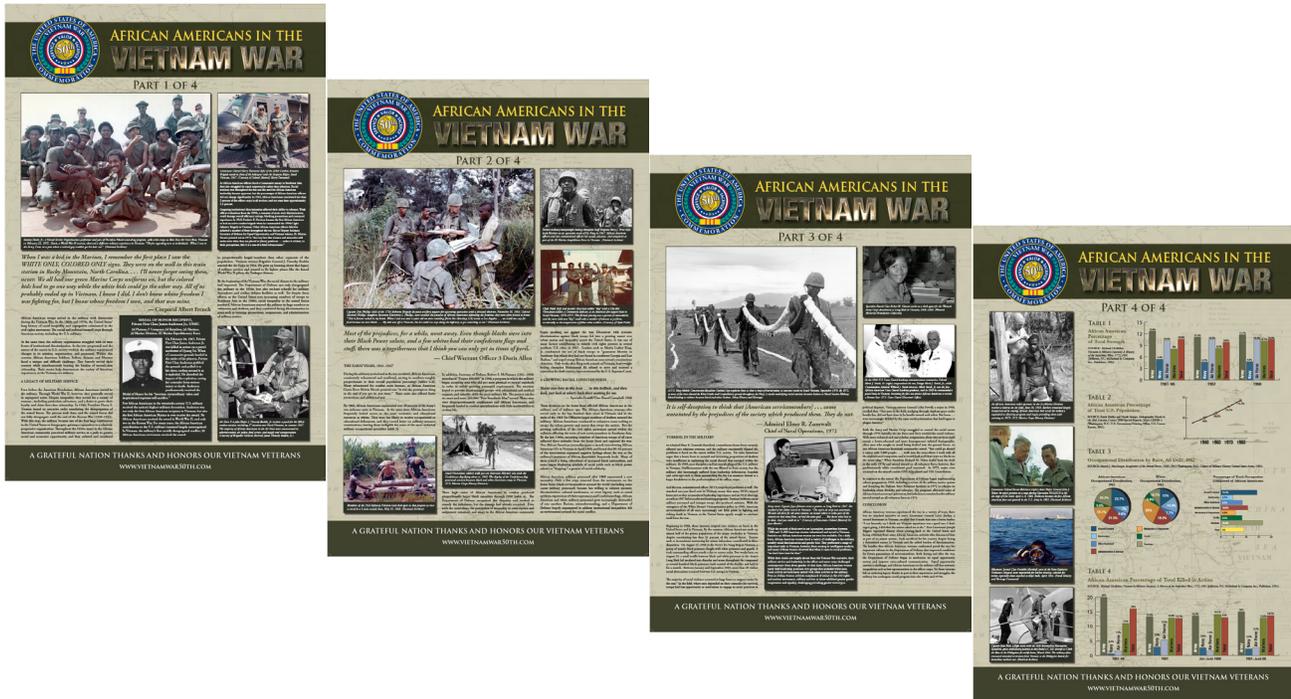
*Zumwalt: The Life and Times of Admiral Elmo Russell "Bud" Zumwalt, Jr.* Berman, Larry.

Harper Collins Publishers, 2012.

# CLASSROOM MATERIALS

- A variety of materials are available online for teachers, students and the public, including fact sheets, pins and flags, brochures, and posters, as shown below.

*Please check the Commemoration website regularly for new poster series.*



## AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE VIETNAM WAR

African American troops served in the military with distinction during the Vietnam War. In the 1960s and 1970s, the United States' long history of racial inequality and segregation culminated in the civil rights movement. The social and political turmoil crept through American society, including the U.S. military.

See Posters at: <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/education/posters/>

# CLASSROOM MATERIALS (CONTINUED):

- Posters



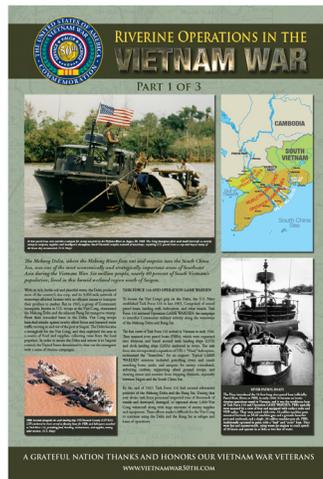
## MILITARY NURSES IN VIETNAM

Whether stationed with training units, in hospitals, on planes, or aboard ships, in the Pacific Theater or the United States, military nurses served with distinction throughout the Vietnam War caring for U.S. military personnel, Allied troops, and civilians.

See Posters at: <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/education/posters/>

# CLASSROOM MATERIALS (CONTINUED):

- Posters



## RIVERINE OPERATIONS IN THE VIETNAM WAR

With its rich, fertile soil and plentiful water, the Delta produced most of the country's rice crop and its 3,000-mile network of waterways afforded farmers with an efficient means to transport their produce to market. But in 1965, a group of Communist insurgents, known to U.S. troops as the Viet Cong, dominated the Mekong Delta and the adjacent Rung Sat mangrove swamp. From their concealed bases in the Delta, Viet Cong troops launched attacks against nearby allied forces and harassed water traffic moving in and out of the port at Saigon. The Delta became a stronghold for the Viet Cong, and they exploited the area as a source of food and supplies, collecting taxes from the local populace. In order to secure the Delta and restore it to Saigon's control, the United States determined to clear out the insurgents with a series of riverine campaigns.

See Posters at: <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/education/posters/>

# CLASSROOM MATERIALS (CONTINUED):

- Posters



## U.S. SERVICEWOMEN IN THE VIETNAM WAR

Women in the United States military during the Vietnam War held diverse and important roles supporting the war mission. Many servicewomen stationed in the combat zone served with distinction. Women line officers, staff officers, and enlisted personnel performed a range of military occupational specialties in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

See Posters at: <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/education/posters/>

# CLASSROOM MATERIALS (CONTINUED):

- Posters

**THE UNITED STATES ROAD TO WAR IN VIETNAM**

**1945**  
SEPTEMBER 2  
Ho Chi Minh, a Vietnamese nationalist who administers the work of Mao and Lenin to establish a socialist state in the north, issues the Declaration of Independence, borrowing language from the U.S. Declaration and stating, "we members of the Provisional Government, representing the whole Vietnamese people, declare that from now on we break off all relations of colonial dependence with France." Although France initially acknowledges this Declaration of Independence, the war is not yet over and because of a deep rift between France and the U.S. the government backed Viet Minh forces.

**1950**  
JANUARY 14  
The People's Republic of China formally recognizes the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and begins sending military advisors, financial supplies and equipment to the Viet Minh. Later in January, the Soviet Union extends diplomatic recognition of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

**1950**  
FEBRUARY 27  
President Truman signs National Security Council Memorandum 48, recommending "that all possible steps be taken to check further communist expansion in Southeast Asia."

**1950**  
MAY 8  
United States announces that it is "accepting conventional and military equipment to the armed forces of South Vietnam and to France in order to assist them in carrying out their military operations in the power that peace and democratic development."

**1950**  
SEPTEMBER 17  
United States establishes the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), headed by a Major General, to manage American military aid to South Vietnam in the aftermath of the French-Vietnam War, and Cambodia to combat communist forces.

**1954**  
MAY 7  
The French defeat French forces and the Viet Minh at Dien Bien Phu, forcing France to withdraw from Indochina. The Geneva Accords are signed, dividing Vietnam into North and South Vietnam, with a commitment to free elections by 1956. The Viet Minh forces are ordered to withdraw from the Viet Minh zone of control, and the Viet Minh forces are ordered to withdraw from the Viet Minh zone of control.

**1954**  
MAY 20  
The French defeat at Dien Bien Phu leads to the Geneva Accords which end the war in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia and divide the country into North and South Vietnam with a commitment to free elections by 1956. The Viet Minh forces are ordered to withdraw from the Viet Minh zone of control, and the Viet Minh forces are ordered to withdraw from the Viet Minh zone of control.

A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS OUR VIETNAM WAR VETERANS  
WWW.VIETNAMWAR50TH.COM

**THE UNITED STATES ROAD TO WAR IN VIETNAM**

**1954**  
SEPTEMBER 1  
Southwest Area Study Operation (SASO) initiated a military mission to check communist expansion, and include France, Great Britain, United States, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

**1955**  
NOVEMBER 1  
France relinquishes its military advisory responsibilities in South Vietnam, and the United States assumes the role. The responsibility flows on its own into the United States through the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), headed by MAAG, Vietnam and center at MACV, Cambodia, MACV, Vietnam becomes the main conduit for American military assistance to South Vietnam and the operations responsible for advising and training the South Vietnamese military.

**1961**  
NOVEMBER 1  
In the face of South Vietnam's failure to deal with the communist insurgency and the increasing possibility that the country might be overtaken, President Eisenhower orders the deployment of Defense Robert McNamara to Vietnam to assess the situation. The general concludes that the situation is dire and that the United States must take action to prevent a communist takeover of the country.

**1961**  
NOVEMBER 21  
President Kennedy substantially increases the level of U.S. military assistance to Vietnam. National Security Action Memorandum 111 dated November 21 states that "The U.S. Government is prepared to pay for the Viet Nam Government in a sharply increased post office to avoid further developments in the manner to South Vietnam."

**1961**  
DECEMBER 1  
Kennedy's decision results in sending the CMV Com to South Vietnam with two battalions of advisors, including 12 OV-10A Stinson observation helicopters and 4000 of ground crewmen to operate and maintain them. Less than two weeks later the helicopter force is U.S. Army general combat support in Republic of Vietnam Army operation zone of support.

**1962**  
FEBRUARY 3  
General Paul H. Heflin creates and commands Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Headquarters, MACV, directed by the commander of the war support Military Assistance and Advisory Group, Vietnam.

A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS OUR VIETNAM WAR VETERANS  
WWW.VIETNAMWAR50TH.COM

**THE UNITED STATES ROAD TO WAR IN VIETNAM**

**1963**  
NOVEMBER 23  
President Lyndon B. Johnson is sworn in as President. Following the assassination of President Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson is sworn in as President. Johnson is sworn in as President. Johnson is sworn in as President.

**1964**  
AUGUST 4  
On August 4, 1964, North Vietnamese torpedo boats attack the USS Maddox, a Navy destroyer off the coast of North Vietnam. Two days later a second attack is reported on another destroyer, although it was not confirmed. The second attack did not occur. In the wake of these attacks, President Lyndon Johnson requests that Congress authorize the use of military force to prevent further attacks. Congress votes overwhelmingly in favor of the resolution on August 7. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution states that "Congress approves and supports the determination of the President, as Commander in Chief, to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further attacks."

**1965**  
MARCH 8  
U.S. military air strikes against North Vietnam. The strikes are the beginning of the Vietnam War.

**1965**  
MARCH 8  
U.S. military air strikes against North Vietnam. The strikes are the beginning of the Vietnam War.

**1965**  
MARCH 8  
U.S. military air strikes against North Vietnam. The strikes are the beginning of the Vietnam War.

**1965**  
MARCH 8  
U.S. military air strikes against North Vietnam. The strikes are the beginning of the Vietnam War.

**1965**  
MARCH 8  
U.S. military air strikes against North Vietnam. The strikes are the beginning of the Vietnam War.

A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS OUR VIETNAM WAR VETERANS  
WWW.VIETNAMWAR50TH.COM

## 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.

See Posters at: <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/education/posters/>

# THE COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER PROGRAM MISSION

The Commemorative Partner Program is an organizationally based, hometown-centric, veteran-focused program designed for federal, state and local organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families where they live and work. It is the primary vehicle by which our nation thanks and honors our Vietnam veterans and their families. Commemorative Partners participate by planning and conducting events or activities that recognize Vietnam veterans and their families' service and sacrifice. Commemorative Partners must commit to conducting two events or activities each year for a three-year period.

Commemorative events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war, the losses suffered by many and the sacrifices of all who served. Events or activities should meet one or more of the congressionally articulated objectives (below) of the program, and as a minimum, with an emphasis on the first:

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.

*It costs nothing to become a Commemorative Partner.* Organizations simply submit a completed application and Statement of Understanding (SOU). To obtain an application, organizations can visit [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com) then click on the Commemorative Partner Program tab for further information on how to apply. Once a completed application and SOU are submitted, the approval process should take no longer than 30 days. Partners are kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved, organizations will receive a starter kit consisting of a commemorative flag, Commemorative Partner certificate, and other materials. Additionally, they will have authorization to use The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner seal for approved purposes and access to the Commemorative Partner Portal to order additional materials for events.

- For questions regarding the application process: [WHS.VNWar50th\\_CPP@mail.mil](mailto:WHS.VNWar50th_CPP@mail.mil)
- For online application forms: [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)



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



COMMEMORATION

A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS YOU

**Second Edition, May 2018**

This Toolkit was prepared by the History & Legacy Branch at the Vietnam War Commemoration. Any questions or comments, please contact Sharon M. Deane at 703-697-4967 or [sharon.m.deane.civ@mail.mil](mailto:sharon.m.deane.civ@mail.mil), or Mark Franklin at [mark.r.franklin.civ@mail.mil](mailto:mark.r.franklin.civ@mail.mil) or 703-697-4849.