

Vietnam War Veterans To Be Honored at Fall 2017 Ceremony

Veterans' organizations in Virginia Beach are developing plans for a joint ceremony for all the eligible Vietnam veterans in the city to honor their service, and they need to identify veterans and their family members to help plan the event. This special ceremony is being planned for fall of 2017 in support of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War, as outlined in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.

"Veterans from the Vietnam era faced different conditions than today's military veterans, and we want to make sure they each get the recognition they deserve for their service," said John J. Uhrin, III, himself a retired Naval commander who served in Vietnam. He is leading the event organizing effort which includes gauging the interest of veterans and their families in attending a commemoration event.

"We need veterans who served on active duty during November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, to visit <http://www.vietnamvet50thvabeach.org> by the end of July 2017 to register interest, because we need that to determine what sort of event to plan," said CDR Uhrin.



About the Program

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





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



The Commemoration is providing Vietnam Veteran lapel pins to commemorative partners for dignified public presentations to living U.S. military veterans who served during the Vietnam War period as a lasting memento of the nation's thanks. Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

There are other categories of commemoration that are authorized for these events. They are for the most part for surviving spouses of the Vietnam Veterans. These categories and the certificates and pins that will be presented are shown to below:



	<p><u>Former, Living American Military POW</u> The Former POW certificate and lapel pin are for former, living American military POWs from the Vietnam War as listed by the Department of Defense. If the former POW is deceased, the lapel pin may be presented to the surviving spouse.</p>
	<p><u>Unaccounted For</u> The Unaccounted For certificate and lapel pin are for the immediate family members (parents, spouse, siblings and children) of American military personnel listed as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War by the Department of Defense.</p>
	<p><u>In Memory Of</u> The In Memory Of certificate and lapel pin are for the immediate family members (parents, spouse, siblings and children) of a veteran who is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.</p>
	<p><u>Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse</u> The Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse certificate and lapel pin are for the surviving spouse at the time of death of a veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location.</p>