



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



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Friday, December 1

Dear Commemorative Partners,



As we enter a new month, the [National Guard](#) celebrates 387 years of dedicated service to our Nation on **December 13**. “*Always Ready, Always There,*” remains their long-standing inspirational motto, guiding them daily.

More than 50 years ago, our United States Army and Air Force branches deployed National Guard units and individual Guardsmen to Vietnam and around the world in support of combat operations. According to the Guard’s [Remembering the Vietnam War](#), by the end of the war, over 9,000 Guardsmen served in-country, with over 100 making the ultimate sacrifice in service of their Nation. Above left, KC-97G Stratotankers of the 108th Air Refueling Squadron, 126th Air Refueling Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, are shown refueling five North American F-100C Super Sabres of the 121st Tactical Fighter Squadron, 113rd Fighter Group, District of Columbia Air National Guard. This refueling was during Operation [READY GO](#), the first nonstop trans-Atlantic deployment of U.S. Air National Guard fighters to Europe in August of 1964. Read more about the historical contribution and efforts of the Guard during the Vietnam War via this [spotlight](#).



National Guard Bureau Chief, Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson greets North Carolina Helicopter Pilots Association members during “Welcome Home” May 11-13, 2023.



Vice Chief of Space Operations, U.S. Space Force Gen. David D. Thompson with Medal of Honor recipient Melvin Morris and his wife at Welcome Home.

Moving from our Nation’s oldest serving troop force to the youngest, our [United States Space Force](#) ushers in its 4th birthday on **December 20**. This newest service branch was created on December 20, 2019, when the Fiscal Year 2020 [National Defense Authorization Act](#) was signed into law. Our Space Force servicemembers protect and defend American interests on the earth and in orbit, serving all over the world, and stand ready every day, living by their mantra *Semper Supra*, or “*Always Above.*” You can read more about the [mission](#), [leadership](#), and [history](#) of the Space Force via multiple [fact sheets](#).

Looking ahead to 2024, if you are in the National Capital Region, plan to join us on Saturday, January 13 at the Washington National Cathedral for a special 4 p.m. service titled, [A Celebration of Character & Courage](#). Hosted by the Air & Space Forces Association, 40 organizations have come alongside to support this event honoring the service, courage and legacy of Vietnam veterans and Gold Star Families, and to renew the commitment to account for those heroes who remain missing. For more information, please view the [flyer](#). To attend in person, plan to [register](#), or visit the host’s [live-stream page](#) to attend virtually.

Finally, enjoy special birthday salutes on our homepage, as we pay tribute to our National Guard and Space Force servicemembers all this month. To our [Guardsmen](#) and [Guardians](#), thank you for your service!

~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

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