

VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM FAQs

Q. What is the Vietnam War Commemorative Program?

The Vietnam War Commemorative (VWC) Program is our nation's long-overdue effort 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.

All five branches of the military participate to recognize our Vietnam Veterans, and routinely host events to present veterans with certificates, lapel pins, and a genuine display of gratitude for their service.

Q. What does (or can) the Coast Guard do to thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans?

Units and associated organizations (Alumni, veterans groups, local special interest chapters, etc.) may host an event, large or small, to welcome home our Vietnam veterans and extend a thank you on behalf of a grateful nation.

You are limited only by your imagination! The VCW, or, Vietnam War 50th, the official Department of Defense sponsor of the program, has held events at the American Legion, on various military installations, and at major league sporting events. How you choose to arrange your event – formal or informal – is completely up to you. As long as the respectful message gets across: thank you and welcome home!

The VCW provides a Lapel Pin as a token of thanks to each veteran. More information for surviving spouses is available on their website (below).

Q. As a Coast Guard unit, am I limited to honoring only Coast Guard Vietnam Veterans?

No! It is highly encouraged to invite as many veterans from all services as possible. Many Coast Guard civilians were prior service, and many of our present-day Coast Guard members have family members who served. Cast your net wide – according to the Veterans Administration (V.A.), we are losing approximately 500 Vietnam Veterans every day. And those numbers include those we have on record. It is unknown how many have passed away that are not accounted for on V.A. rolls.

Q. Who is considered a Vietnam Veteran?

The VCW is providing Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins 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.

Service Academy graduates who did not receive their commission prior to May 15, 1975 are not eligible for the lapel pin, nor are members of the Merchant Marine.

Q. When planning an event, do you require proof of service?

No, proof of service is not required. For the purpose of planning your event, it is recommended that veterans provide their respective branch of service and years of active duty during the 1955-

1975 recognition period. This is to facilitate the reading names during the lapel pin presentation, should you choose to do so. The VWC asks only that you report the total number of pins presented as part of a brief after-action report.

Q. Who is our Coast Guard point of contact for the VCW?

Lieutenant Emily Brockway, CGHQs Office of External Outreach & Heritage, is the primary point of contact for all Coast Guard Vietnam Commemorative events. She is also the CG Liaison to the Department of Defense’s Vietnam War Commemoration Office.

CGHQs Office Phone: 202-372-4641
CG Email: Emily.h.brockway@uscg.mil

Units may plan a recognition event independently, but LT Brockway can assist with:

- Program examples
- Coordinating official Coast Guard Resources (CG Art Program, CG Band, CG Honor Guard – all if available)
- Lapel Pins
- Posters, Stickers, Proclamations, and other VCW materials
- After Action Reports

Useful Websites:

<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>
<http://www.coastguardcombatvets.org/>

