



1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022-3087

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: November 16, 2015

TO: City Council

FROM: Jon Maginot, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager

**SUBJECT: COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE VIETNAM WAR PROGRAM**

The City Council received a request from the U.S. Department of Defense inviting the City to become a Commemorative Partner for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The letter is attached and details the requirements for becoming a Commemorative Partner.



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER

9010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-9010

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

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CITY OF LOS ALTOS
CALIFORNIA

ADMINISTRATION

The Honorable Jan Pepper
Mayor of Los Altos
1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022

Dear Mayor Pepper:

I write to invite you and the City of Los Altos to join the more than 8,000 states, communities, businesses, and organizations who have become a Commemorative Partner for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Commemorative Partner Program assists in thanking our Vietnam Veterans and their families in their hometowns. We owe these Veterans a special debt of gratitude for their service during a turbulent time in our Nation's history, and our goal is to honor every Veteran, consistent with the primary objectives established by Congress for this Commemoration in Public Law 110-181. Just as we honored Veterans who served in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War, we are determined to thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans for their service, valor, and sacrifice more than 50 years ago.

We would greatly appreciate your City joining us in this effort. The only requirement for a Commemorative Partner is to conduct at least two events per year from 2015-2018, during which you take the opportunity to distinctly thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans and their families. The events can be as simple or as grand as you desire, and in conjunction with other events you've already planned. If your City participates in this program, the information on your events can be included on the Commemoration website (<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>).

The point of contact for the Commemorative Partner Program is Ms. Yvonne Schilz who can be reached at (703) 697-4919 or yvonne.e.schilz.civ@mail.mil. Alternatively, you may also contact our Commemoration Director, Major General (Retired) James Jackson at (703) 697-4902, or james.t.jackson54.civ@mail.mil.

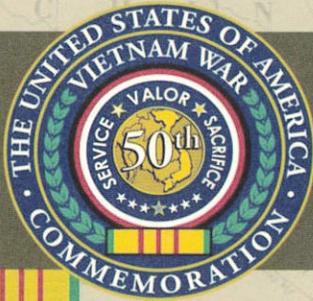
I appreciate your consideration in becoming a Commemorative Partner. Enclosed is information regarding the Commemoration. We look forward to the chance to work in close partnership with the City of Los Altos to recognize the service, valor, and sacrifice of our Vietnam Veterans and their families.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Rhodes
Director

Enclosure:
As stated



Fact Sheet

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

In accordance with Public Law 110-181 SEC.598, Congress authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and "in conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War."

To that end, The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration was formed. The congressionally-mandated objectives for the Commemoration are:

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 nongovernmental 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.

One of the major ways the Commemoration plans to accomplish these objectives is by recruiting Commemorative Partners throughout America. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' groups, and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families.

It costs nothing to become a Commemorative Partner. Commemorative Partners participate by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize and honor the service, valor, and sacrifice made by Vietnam Veterans and their families. America has a strong tradition of honoring veterans and their families on key dates, such as Memorial Day, National POW/MIA Day, and Veterans Day. Commemorative Partners may consider using those days to specifically highlight the men and women who served during the Vietnam era and their families, former Vietnam prisoners of war, the families of unaccounted for personnel, and the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Currently, there are more than 5,200 Commemorative Partners throughout America. Join the nation, get involved and become a Commemorative Partner today! Visit the Commemoration website for more information, stories about other partners, and application forms at www.VietnamWar50th.com.

Current as of February 2014

www.VietnamWar50th.com



Fact Sheet

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner Program

The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families. Commemorative Partners participate in the Commemoration by planning and conducting events and activities that recognize Vietnam Veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice. Commemorative Partners must commit to conduct two events each year from 2015-2017.

Commemorative events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Events or activities should meet one or more of the congressionally-mandated objectives of the program, and as a minimum, with an emphasis on objective one:

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 nongovernmental 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. To become an official Commemorative Partner, organizations must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding. To obtain an application go to www.VietnamWar50th.com and then to the Commemorative Partner Program webpage for further information on how to apply. Once an application is submitted, the approval process should take no longer than 30 days. Partners are kept informed of an application's status through electronic notifications. Once approved, the Commemoration will provide the Commemorative Partner with a starter kit composed of materials for developing and implementing their programs. Commemorative Partners receive a commemorative flag, Commemorative Partner certificate and other materials, and authorization to use The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner seal for approved purposes.

- For questions regarding the program application process: WHS.VNWar50th_CPP@mail.mil
- For 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



Fact Sheet

The United States of America
Vietnam War Commemoration

Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin *... a lasting memento of the nation's thanks!*

- **Purpose:** To recognize, thank and honor United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War period.
- **Eligibility:** Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.
- **Presentation:** These lapel pins will be presented in a dignified manner to each Vietnam veteran during public events held in their communities by Commemorative Partners. Accompanying remarks should reflect the nation's thanks for their service and sacrifice. In the rare instance when an honoree cannot attend a public event, the pin may be presented during a private ceremony.
- **Symbolism:**
 - **Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor and dedicated service to our nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned with distinction on numerous military insignia.
 - **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.
 - **Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity and strength.
 - **Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.
 - **Stars** - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.
 - **Message** - "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer, along with the Commemoration's name.

