

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

By John Walter

On March 28, 2017, President Donald J. Trump, signed into law The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating every March 29 as *National Vietnam War Veterans Day*. March 29 was chosen to be celebrated in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day Military Assistance Command Vietnam was deactivated.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day joins six other military-centric national holidays codified in Title 4 of the United States Code §6 (i.e., Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Navy Day, Veterans Day).

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration honors all 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.

The following Nevada Stamp Study Society members have provided their military service dates to be saluted on March 29:

Gary Atkinson, USA, 1973-1980

Richard Dreiling, USN, 1957-1987

Harvey Edwards, USN, 1973-1979

Paul Glass, USAF, 1960-1986

Howard Grenzebach, USAF, 1960-1964

Charles MacLeod, USA, 1969-1972

Barbara Mathews, USN, 1973-1974

Scott Mathews, USN, 1973-1982

David Parsons, USAF, 1970-1972

George Ray, USMC, 1955-1959

Richard Simmonds, USAF, 1964-1985

James Steckley, USCG, 1963-1967

John Walter, USAF, 1969-1989

Vern Watts, USA,

Robert Wolf, USN, 1952-56 and USA, 1962-79

Additional Background: U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950s, grew incrementally through the early 1960s and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965. The last U.S. personnel were evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975.

This national commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by the President to thank and honor our Nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

Congress outlined a total of five objectives for this U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration, with the primary objective being to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation, with distinct recognition of former prisoners of war and families of those still listed as missing in action. The four remaining objectives highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war; pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens; highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war; and recognize contributions by our Allies.

The local Chapter 989 Vietnam Veterans of America and sponsoring organizations are having a ceremony to honor Vietnam Veterans who served during the Vietnam War era and recognizing those Nevadans who died on March 28 at Truckee Meadows Community College, 7000 Dandini Blvd, Reno, NV 89512. The event is free and open to the public from 1 - 3 p.m. More details on the website: <https://vvareno989.org/>



The Vassar Post Office has a new philatelic display for the month of March to celebrate National Vietnam Veterans Day. Here are a few of the pages / items on display.

Vietnam Soldier's Mail

Both letters were sent from Cua Viet, South Vietnam.
Both have the same circular postmark: U.S. Navy 14009 Br. Unit



Sent on April 2, 1961 to a commercial address in Waltham, Mass 02154



Sent on Nov. 28 (unknown year) to Marquette Michigan 49855

Vietnam Soldier's Mail

During wartimes the postal administration authorize active duty service members and designated individuals to send mails for free by writing "Free" or "Soldier's Mail" (or equivalent) on the item of mail in lieu of paid postal franking, or by using appropriate free franked postal stationery.

Unless otherwise designated, such mails are serviced by both the military and civil postal systems that accept them as First Class letter mail.

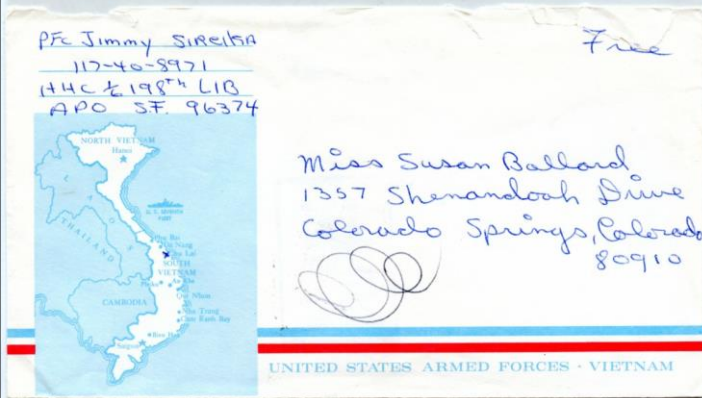
Reference: 39 U.S.C. 3401(a) U.S. Postal Service Armed Forces & Free Postage.



Sent from Phan Rang Air Base, South Vietnam
By Airman First Class Peter Kraut to his parents in Riverside, CA
Postmarked Nov. 17, 1966

Vietnam Soldier's Mail

Envelope provided by the military, sent "free".
Sent from Chu Lai, South Vietnam to Colorado Springs, CO.
No date was on the cover.



Vietnam Soldier's Mail

Envelope provided by the military, sent "free".
Sent from Qui Hhon, South Vietnam to Stockton, CA post office
No date was on the cover.

