

# 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

**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 on **March 28, 2021 at 14:00 – 15:30, Sparks Marina Park, 300 Howard Dr, Sparks, NV**. More details on the website: <https://vvareno989.org/>

