



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2022 – Issue 5

Tuesday, April 5

Dear Commemorative Partners,

Today is [Gold Star Wives Day](#), a day for our nation to offer profound respect to those those who have borne unimaginable sorrow – to recognize the immense loss and honor individual sacrifices endured by spouses and families of our fallen warriors.



The term “Gold Star” dates back to World War I, when families hung banners with blue stars representing immediate family serving in the Armed Forces. If that service member died in combat, the star was changed from blue to gold. Governed by 10 U.S.C. § 1126, the [Gold Star Lapel Button](#) (above right) was established by Congress in 1947 as a symbol of their sacrifice and is presented to the service member’s next of kin. It is a 1/4-inch wide gold star embossed on a 3/4-inch purple sphere and is surrounded by gold laurel leaves in a 5/8-inch wreath. Its underside inscription reads “The United States of America Act of Congress August 1966” with space for the recipient’s engraved initials. Recognized initially in 2010, Congress began passing annual resolutions in 2013 that recognize 5 April as Gold Star Wives Day.



Above, Gen. David H. Berger, commandant, U.S. Marine Corps presents a commemorative lapel pin to Vietnam War Gold Star wife Mrs. Carol Ellinger.

On **National Vietnam War Veterans Day**, during a national joint wreath-laying ceremony at the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#), Gen. David H. Berger, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, presented a commemorative “*In Memory Of*” Lapel Pin to Vietnam War **Gold Star wife**, Mrs. Carol Ellinger. Her husband, U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Franklin Max Ellinger, was killed in action August 12, 1968. During that same ceremony, Adm. Michael M. Gilday, chief of



Above, Adm. Michael M. Gilday, chief of naval operations, U.S. Navy, presents a commemorative lapel pin to Vietnam War Gold Star wife Mrs. Ann Smith.

naval operations, U.S. Navy, presented a commemorative “*In Memory Of*” Lapel Pin to Vietnam War **Gold Star wife**, Mrs. Ann Smith. Her husband, U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. James Andrew Smith, was killed in theater October 26, 1966. View that remarkable 29 March live-streamed ceremony [here](#).

[National Vietnam War Veterans Day](#) reverberated far and wide across America in 2022, as nearly **11 hundred events** took place on and around 29 March during which more than **100 thousand** Vietnam veterans and their families were honored! Remarkably, we discovered nearly **36 thousand** media mentions of 29 March last month, and more than **130 thousand** social media engagements! From the [White House](#) to notable veteran supporters such as **Mr. Gary Sinise**, who recorded [his own 29 March tribute](#) ... Vietnam veterans and their families are hearing “Welcome Home” and receiving recognition they so richly deserve.

We close, echoing the words of Gold Star wife Cindy Stancliff, who honored Vietnam veterans by saying, *You did not return to a welcoming committee or parade, however, you returned and continued to serve this Nation as Great Americans ... THANK YOU for your service and WELCOME HOME!*
~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!