

**USS Yorktown CG-48 Reunion
July 5-8, 2018 Knoxville, TN**

YKTN Bulletin (5): January, 2018

**Honoring Vietnam Veterans
(Craig Mass, GSM, '83-'88)**



A week before Christmas 2017 I was in New York City (NYC) visiting a fantastic museum, the New York Historical Society (NHS). One of their exhibits (ending April 22, 2018) is *The Vietnam War: 1945-1975*. It is an excellent exhibit providing multisensory education and multicultural perspective. The learning experience was powerful, and as I navigated the labyrinth of the War's history I experienced a vortex of emotions: anger, bewilderment, disappointment, empathy, and sadness. I left the exhibit more informed about the War's influence and impact on Veterans, the families who lost loved ones, the racial divide, civil disorder, and a host of other intertwining social issues. My Uncle accompanied me and shared his perspective, experience, and feelings when he received his "draft-card." I returned home from NYC and visited another exhibit at the National Archives in Washington DC, *Remembering Vietnam*. This stunning exhibit reinforced and complemented NHS' exhibit. If you're in NYC on or before April 22, 2018 then I encourage you to visit the exhibit at the NHS. Listed here are two websites that provide a snapshot of both exhibits.

The NHS, <http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/vietnam-war-1945-1975>

Nat'l Archives, <https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/currently-on-exhibit-remembering-vietnam>

Honoring, Recognizing, and Thanking Vietnam Veterans

Thanks to many of you, the Internet search engines have done a superb job propelling the reunion website to the top five Yorktown CG 48 "links to click." As a result of the online presence the Vietnam War Commemoration Program Office (VWCPO) found us, made contact, and asked if we would be interested in honoring any of our reunion attendees who are Vietnam Veterans. Of course the answer was "absolutely"! The VWCPO was established by Congress (Public Law 110-181, Section 598, January 2008) to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the War and to honor Vietnam

Veterans who served in the military from November 1, 1955 through May 15, 1975. President Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation to continue honoring, recognizing, and thanking Vietnam Veterans and their families through Veterans Day 2025. More than 1.6 million veterans and their families have been publicly thanked and honored at more than 10,000 ceremonies. We will add to this important number of the “honored, recognized, and thanked” at our reunion!

When Vietnam Veterans returned home they were not well thought of, encouraged not to wear their uniforms, and they were not respected. Vietnam Veterans and their families’ sacrifices were unacknowledged for years. Vietnam Veterans were often confronted and shouldered blame because they carried out the orders of superiors and civilian leadership. They were the forgotten generation, until now. I encourage you to learn more about this important program for honoring, recognizing, and thanking Vietnam Veterans by visiting <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>.

Yorktown shipmates who served during the Vietnam War will be honored, recognized, and thanked at the reunion, see reunion agenda for date and time. If you are a Vietnam Veteran and you will be attending the reunion, and you would like to participate in this recognition ceremony, please make contact using the website’s “Contact Us” Tab or ussyorktowncg48association@gmail.com.

**** We are proud to celebrate their Service, Valor, and Sacrifice ****