

Yorktown Day

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Honoring Vietnam Era Veterans

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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 (ended 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 socially-intertwined issues. My Uncle accompanied me and shared his perspective, experience, and feelings when he received his "draft-card." I returned home and decided to visit another exhibit at the National Archives in Washington DC - *Remembering Vietnam*. This stunning exhibit reinforced and complemented NHS' exhibit. 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 Era Veterans

Thanks to many CG-48 Sailors, the Internet search engines have done a superb job propelling our website to the top five Yorktown CG 48 "links to click." As a result of our online presence, the Vietnam War Commemoration Program Office (VWCPO) found us in 2018 before the reunion, made contact, and asked if we would be interested in honoring any of our reunion attendees who are Vietnam Era 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 Era 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 Era 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 17,700 ceremonies. We will add to this important number of the “honored, recognized, and thanked” during our participation in Yorktown Day Celebrations!

When Vietnam Era Veterans returned home they were not well thought of, encouraged not to wear their uniforms, and they were not respected. Vietnam Era Veterans and their families’ sacrifices have been 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/>.

Seven Yorktown shipmates who served during the Vietnam War were honored, recognized, and thanked at the 2018 reunion. If you are a Vietnam Era Veteran and you will be attending ***Yorktown Day 2019 in Yorktown, Virginia***, and you would like to participate in this recognition ceremony, please make contact using our website’s “Contact Us” Tab or ussyorktowncg48association@gmail.com.

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