

Putnam Veterans SITREP

Volume 16 Issue 2



“WE’RE THE BEST AMERICA HAD”

★ VIETNAM ★ VETERAN



BROTHERS WHO FOUGHT WITHOUT
★ ★ AMERICA’S SUPPORT ★ ★

BROTHERS WHO RETURNED WITHOUT
★ AMERICA’S WELCOME ★

★ BROTHERS WHO WILL ALWAYS BE ★
“THE BEST AMERICA HAD” ★

AN E-MAIL SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY VETERAN'S SERVICE AGENCY

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY



Why is Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29th?

The Vietnam War was one of the most challenging conflicts in American history, lasting from November 1, 1955, until April 30, 1975.

Over 2.7 million American service members were deployed, and more than 58,000 made the ultimate sacrifice. The war deeply affected not only those who fought but also the nation as a whole.

March 29th was designated as National Vietnam War Veterans Day because it marks the date in 1973 when the last U.S. combat troops left Vietnam and the remaining prisoners of war were released.

In 2012, President Barack Obama issued a presidential proclamation calling for its observance, and in 2017 the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act was signed into law by President Donald Trump, establishing it as an official national day of recognition.

Challenges Faced by Vietnam Veterans Returning Home

For those who served in Vietnam, finally returning home wasn't the celebration it should have been. Unlike the veterans of previous wars, Vietnam veterans returned to a country divided over the conflict, where public sentiment was often indifferent, or even hostile.

Many were met with silence instead of gratitude, making the already difficult transition back to civilian life even more challenging.

Aside from the public's reaction, **Vietnam veterans faced significant challenges, including difficulties accessing healthcare, finding employment, and coping with the lasting effects of combat.**

Many carried with them, the invisible wounds of war — post-traumatic stress, survivor's guilt, and the heavy toll taken by battlefield experiences. Resources for veterans were limited, leaving many to carry this weight on their shoulders in silence.

Even in the face of these challenges, Vietnam veterans have shown incredible resilience. Over the years, they have not only overcome these hardships but have also become leaders in advocating for better treatment of all veterans. **Their determination led to major improvements in VA healthcare, the recognition of conditions like PTSD, and the establishment of support networks that continue to help military service members today.**

How to Honor Those Who Served on Vietnam Veterans Day

If you want to show your appreciation for those who served, there are plenty of meaningful ways to recognize our Vietnam Veterans.

- **Attend a commemoration:** Drop by local ceremonies or events dedicated to honoring Vietnam Veterans to express your appreciation and show support.
- **Visit a memorial:** Pay tribute to our Veterans at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial or a local monument dedicated to those who served in Vietnam.
- **Support Veterans' organizations:** Find groups that provide support to Vietnam Veterans and donate or volunteer.
- **Educate yourself and others:** Taking some time to learn about the Vietnam War and share its history can help to ensure that the sacrifices of those who served are never forgotten.

VIETNAM VETERANS OPEN MIC EVENT

IN HONOR OF VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2026

Guardian Revival's Dwyer Vet2Vet of Putnam and Encore's band of veteran musicians invite you to **commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day** at a special **Open Mic Event**.

Those who served during the Vietnam War era are encouraged to share their written words, reflections, music, poetry, or any **personal expression of their experiences during the Vietnam War**. Friends and family members are also invited to attend and share how the Vietnam War shaped their own lives and experiences.

All are welcome to join us in **honoring these stories, listening, and reflecting together**.

WHO:

We welcome all active and retired guardians and their families. **RSVP is required.**
Active Military, Veterans, Reserves, National Guard, Law Enforcement, Fire & Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, Dispatchers, Corrections, and Federal Agents

WHEN:

Saturday, March 28 from 2 - 4 PM ET

WHERE:

Guardian Revival HQ,
Veterans Memorial Building
423 Main St, Beacon, NY 12508

Guardian Revival is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that improves the mental health & well-being of military, veterans, and first responders — our guardians — and their families, at no cost to them.

The Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Project of Putnam is administered by Guardian Revival and provide events, information, and resources for veterans, with a focus on connection.



**JOSEPH P. DWYER VETERANS
PEER SUPPORT PROJECT
OF PUTNAM COUNTY**



GUARDIAN REVIVAL

RSVP TODAY:

qrco.de/vetopenmic

Questions? Please email us at dwyerputnam@guardianrevival.org or call 845-372-4929



Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Mazzone's Albany Room

Empire State Plaza Concourse

Please join us for a special program on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 for the exhibition "Mail Call: Letters From/To Vietnam" on view in the Vietnam Memorial Gallery.

The event will be held at Mazzone's Albany Room, located on the Empire State Plaza north concourse. The doors will open at 1:30 p.m. for light refreshments and the program will begin at 2:00 p.m.

The program is a multimedia presentation featuring veterans discussing film clips from the HBO documentary, "Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam," and sharing their thoughts and experiences.

Benjamin Pomerance, Deputy Counsel for Department of Veterans' Services, will host the event, with remarks from representatives of the Office of General Services along with special guest panelists:

- ◆ Ned Foote, Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council President
- ◆ Karl Rohde, Agency Director of Putnam County Veterans Services
- ◆ Bruce Pentland, Benefits Advisor for New York State Department of Veterans' Services

This exhibition commemorates 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War (United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration), honoring the voices and words of those who served. Thank you for your continuous support of these special exhibitions and programs.



The Bulletin Board



DONALD B. SMITH GOVERNMENT CAMPUS
110 OLD ROUTE 6, BLDG. #3
CAROLINE, NY 10512
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-4
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
845-808-1620

KARI IMMEDI, DIRECTOR
TANYA PENNIEJA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

FAMILY

Ice Skating

Looking for a perfect family winter outing? Join us at Brewster Ice Arena for an unforgettable day of ice skating, laughter, and fun — free for the whole family!

MARCH 14, 2026 @ 1:30 - 3:00 PM

WHERE: Brewster Ice Arena
63 Fields Lane, Brewster, NY 10509

WHO: Veterans and their immediate family
(all ages welcome)



GUARDIAN STRONG!

HOSTED BY LEVEL UP ATHLETIC CLUB
BENEFITING NON-PROFIT GUARDIAN REVIVAL

A FITNESS EVENT FOR AWARENESS, HOPE, AND HEALING

Saturday, March 21 @ 9 AM - 12 PM

Level Up Athletic Club

1961 US-6 Carmel Hamlet, NY 10512

\$45 registration includes participation in the workout and t-shirt, with 100% of proceeds going to Guardian Revival

Guardian Strong brings the community together through fitness to **honor those who serve** as military, veterans, and first responders — and to **raise awareness & hope** around mental health and suicide prevention. Level Up is proud to partner with local non-profit Guardian Revival, which offers support, events, and resources. **Because no one should fight these battles alone.**

REGISTER NOW



DAVE GRANLUND