

Vietnam Veterans Day in Georgia



A Salute to Georgia's Vietnam Veterans

North Wing, State Capitol
10 a.m., March 30, 2015



Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association
Proud ★ Professional ★ Patriotic





*Department of Veterans Service
Floyd Veterans Memorial Building
Atlanta, Georgia
30334*

PETER WHEELER
COMMISSIONER

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March 30, 2015

The war in Vietnam is long over, but the struggle of Vietnam veterans continues.

Upon returning home, some struggled to recover from wounds, both visible and invisible, to heal their bodies and their spirits following the war.

Many struggled to reintegrate into a society that was not the same as the one they left behind.

Most struggled to receive a simple acknowledgment of their service, a recognition of their sacrifice ... a Thank You.

I believe, as a nation, we have largely corrected that oversight, and I hope we never forget ourselves this way again.

Today we acknowledge, recognize, and thank every Soldier, Marine, Sailor, Airman, and Guardsman who ever served.

Today we honor the service of every man and woman who put on a uniform and answered their country's call to service.

Vietnam veterans, we salute you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Wheeler".

PETE WHEELER
Commissioner

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Musical Prelude	West Atlanta / Douglas Choral Society
Welcome	Master of Ceremonies Dan Holtz, Assistant Commissioner Georgia Department of Veterans Service
Presentation of Colors	Honor Guard Georgia Army National Guard
National Anthem	West Atlanta / Douglas Choral Society
Pledge of Allegiance	State Representative Bill Hitchens, Vice Chairman House Defense & Veterans Affairs Committee
Recognition of Distinguished Guests	Pete Wheeler, Commissioner Georgia Department of Veterans Service
Why We Are Here	Video Presentation Narrated by Sam Elliott
A Musical Salute to Veterans	West Atlanta / Douglas Choral Society <i>with Audience Participation (See Program Insert for Lyrics)</i>
Introduction of Speakers	Assistant Commissioner Holtz
Speakers	Claude M. Kicklighter, Army LTG (Ret.) Director, Office of Commemorations United States Department of Defense Honorable Nathan Deal Governor of Georgia
Musical Postlude	West Atlanta / Douglas Choral Society <i>with Audience Participation (See Program Insert for Lyrics)</i>
Certificate of Honor Unveiling & Presentation	Governor Deal and LTG Kicklighter
Group Photo	Vietnam Veterans in Attendance

AVVBA
Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association
Proud ★ Professional ★ Patriotic
Founded in 1981

The Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association (AVVBA) is an organization of more than 300 Atlanta area business men and women who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict from 1963-1975. AVVBA's purpose is to promote patriotism and activities of a patriotic nature among the local business community; to recognize those who served and honor those who gave their lives in the Vietnam War; and to promote a positive image of the Vietnam Veteran.

On past Memorial Days the Association has honored with memorial monuments 27 individuals from the Atlanta area who died during combat in Vietnam. Each monument is dedicated with a service typically attended by surviving family members and is located at a place meaningful to each of the honorees.

The Association's community service to our military includes support to the Georgia USO since 2005 with more than 13,700 volunteer hours and cash donations exceeding \$124,000. The annual "Birdies for the Brave" charity golf tournament, a PGA Tour Charity hosted by the Horseshoe Bend Country Club in Roswell, has generated more than \$100,000 in donations to national wounded veterans support organizations.

Additional community service programs where AVVBA members volunteer their time and talent include: Hire Heroes, USA, a national nonprofit dedicated to creating job opportunities for U.S. military transitioning to the private sector; mentor support for veterans in the court systems in Fulton and Cobb Counties due to substance abuse and other non-violent criminal activities; and pro bono legal clinics providing free legal services for veterans through the VA Medical Center in Decatur, Georgia.

The AVVBA Foundation, a 501(c) (3) charitable corporation, raises money to provide college scholarships for our military service men and women returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, to help give them an educational start in life. This is one generation of veterans helping the next. Although membership in AVVBA is limited to those veterans who served in Vietnam, we invite and welcome the support of all who share our goals. For more information please visit www.AVVBA.ORG



Veterans Day 2014



Remembering the Fallen



Honoring our Veterans



Serving the Troops