

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

Welcome Home Vietnam Era Veterans



National Training Center Fort Irwin, Ca.



11 Feb 2017





COMMEMORATION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

As we observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we reflect with solemn reverence upon the valor of a generation that served with honor. We pay tribute to the more than 3 million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved. From Ia Drang to Khe Sanh, from Hue to Saigon and countless villages in between, they pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans. Through more than a decade of combat, over air, land, and sea, these proud Americans upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces.

As a grateful Nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots—their names etched in black granite—who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know. We draw inspiration from the heroes who suffered unspeakably as prisoners of war, yet who returned home with their heads held high. We pledge to keep faith with those who were wounded and still carry the scars of war, seen and unseen. With more than 1,600 of our service members still among the missing, we pledge as a Nation to do everything in our power to bring these patriots home. In the reflection of The Wall, we see the military family members and veterans who carry a pain that may never fade. May they find peace in knowing their loved ones endure, not only in medals and memories, but in the hearts of all Americans, who are forever grateful for their service, valor, and sacrifice.

In recognition of a chapter in our Nation's history that must never be forgotten, let us renew our sacred commitment to those who answered our country's call in Vietnam and those who awaited their safe return. Beginning on Memorial Day 2012, the Federal Government will partner with local governments, private organizations, and communities across America to participate in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War—a 13-year program to honor and give thanks to a generation of proud Americans who saw our country through one of the most challenging missions we have ever faced. While no words will ever be fully worthy of their service, nor any honor truly befitting their sacrifice, let us remember that it is never too late to pay tribute to the men and women who answered the call of duty with courage and valor. Let us renew our commitment to the fullest possible accounting for those who have not returned.

Throughout this Commemoration, let us strive to live up to their example by showing our Vietnam veterans, their families, and all who have served the fullest respect and support of a grateful Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 28, 2012, through November 11, 2025, as the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families, and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written over a faint circular watermark or seal.

Program

Welcome.....Narrator

Invocation.....CH (COL) Gary Gross

National Anthem.....SGT Stephanie Jones

MIA/KIA Tribute.....SAMC/OPS GRP/Jeff Moore

Lunch Served

Opening Remarks.....BG Jeff Broadwater

Bill Gang Introduction.....BG Jeff Broadwater

Remarks.....COL(Ret) Bill Gang (CASA)

Introduction of Guest Speaker.....COL Scott Taylor

Guest Speaker.....LTG(Ret) H.G. Pete Taylor

Presentation of Gifts.....BG Broadwater and CSM Edison Rebuck

Pinning Ceremony

Gold Star Mothers Remarks.....Sue Pollard

Tribute to Gold Star Families/If You're Reading This.....Jeff Moore

50,000 Names.....Barbara Ormsby

Closing Remarks.....COL Scott Taylor

God Bless the USA.....Barbara Ormsby

Armed Forces Medley



BG Jeffery Broadwater
Commanding General, National Training
Center, Fort Irwin



Brigadier General Jeffery Broadwater was born in Fort Benning, Georgia and raised in Radcliff, Kentucky. He is a 1989 Distinguished Military Graduate of the University of Kentucky and commissioned as an Armor Officer. He served with 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany as a Scout Platoon Leader where he deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

BG Broadwater served in 3rd Battalion, 73rd Armored Regiment (Airborne) in the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

He has served as Cobra 07, the Senior Armor and Reconnaissance Trainer, and Bronco 07, the Senior Brigade Combat Team Trainer at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Ca. He then attended the National War College in Washington, D.C. and was assigned to the Army Review Boards Agency in Washington, D.C.

BG Broadwater commanded 2nd ABCT, 1st ID which served as the First Regionally Aligned Brigade to AFRICOM. Next, BG Broadwater commanded the Operations Group at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Ca. He then served as the Deputy Commanding General - Support for 1st Armored Division and the CJ-5 for Resolute Support in Afghanistan. He assumed command of the National Training Center, Ft. Irwin, Ca. in Nov of 2016

He is a graduate of the Scout Platoon Leader's Course, Ranger School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the National War College. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Kentucky in Mathematics, a Master of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from the Naval Post Graduate School, and a Master of Science degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the National Defense University. BG Broadwater's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, and Combat Action Badge.

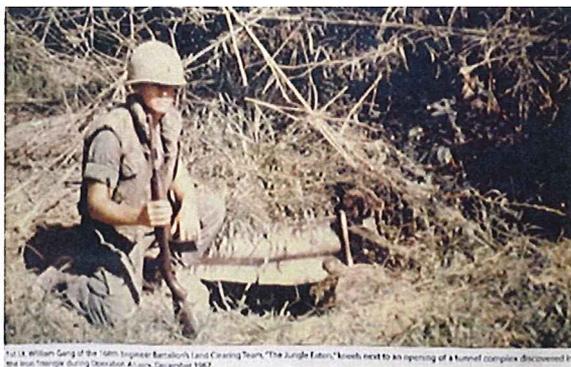
COL (Ret) Bill Gang
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army

As a youth, Mr. Gang emigrated from Canada and took American citizenship so he could get into West Point, where he graduated with the Class of 1966. As a commander in combat operations, Mr. Gang was awarded three Bronze Stars (two with "V" device for Valor), two Air Medals, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross and the Valorous Unit Citation. He later returned to his alma mater to teach nuclear physics. Mr. Gang retired from the Army in 1994 as a Colonel.



In the corporate world, Mr. Gang has held several positions in general management and in sales, mostly in the energy industry, to include management of the federal licensing of 37 nuclear power plants about the world for the General Electric Company and serving as Vice president of Operations for the first joint venture company between the US and the Soviet Union. In 2009, he retired as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Information Systems Laboratories to start his own consulting business. Mr. Gang has served as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army since first being appointed in 2006.

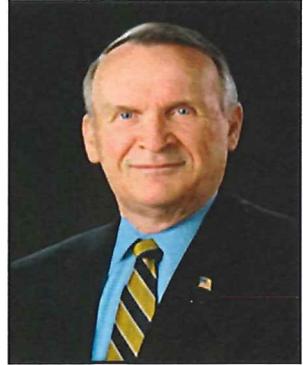
Besides holding an engineering degree from the United States Military Academy, Mr. Gang has a Masters' Degree in Nuclear Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MBA in Finance from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, New Jersey. Today, he resides in Rancho Santa Fe with Kathryn, his wife of 48 years.



1st Lt. William Gang of the 10th Engineer Battalion's Land Clearing Team, "The Jungle Eaters," kneels next to an opening of a tunnel complex discovered in the main temple during Operation Alamo, December 1967.

LTG (Ret) H.G. “Pete” Taylor

Lieutenant General Taylor has more than 33 years of experience as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, having commanded units from Company to Corps level, culminating as the Commanding General of III Corps and Ft Hood, Texas. He served two combat tours in Vietnam and is a recipient of the Combat Infantryman’s Badge. His first tour in Vietnam was with MAC-V serving first as a Regimental Advisor with the 52nd Infantry Regiment, 18th Division Advisory Detachment and then as a Battalion Advisor with the 1st Bn of the 48th Infantry Regt in the Bien Hoa Sector from May 1966 to Aug 1967.



His second tour in Vietnam was initially in the 1st Cav G2 and then Battalion XO and S3 for 1-8 Cav in the 1st Cavalry Division from Jul 1969 to Sep 1970. Commanding combat arms units at multiple levels from Battalion through Corps, LTG Taylor was a renowned trainer of combined arms units. One of his most rewarding commands was serving as the fourth commanding general of the National Training Center at Fort Irwin. From Jul 1986 to Sep 1988, he developed the NTC to become the premier training center for training our Army’s Battalions, Brigades and Divisions to win the nation’s wars, a legacy that serves our Army well even to this day.

Following his retirement from the Army in Dec 1993, he worked in banking, served on the Overseas Basing Commission, worked as a consultant with defense and other Federal and State agencies, and served as a member and founder of several non-profit organizations. He was the founder and is the current Chairman, of the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance and a founder and former Chairman of the Military Child Education Coalition, both of which serve the active military and their families. He also led the community effort to establish Texas A&M-Central Texas in Killeen, bringing better educational opportunities to our soldiers and families at Fort Hood.

General Taylor received a B.S. in Physical Education from Middle Tennessee State University and a Masters in Political Science from Kansas State University. General Taylor is a widower and resides in Harker Heights, Texas. He and his wife had three children: two sons, both active duty Colonels stationed at Fort Irwin, CA and Fort Carson, CO and a daughter, married to a retired Army colonel currently living in Southern Pines, NC. In addition, he has six grandchildren and resides with his retired military working dog named Spike.

Thank you to all charities, motorcycle and classic car organizations and other patriotic businesses who supported this amazing event.



Bob Hope USO



for Families of
Active Military

"Standing Up for Those Who Stand Up for Us"



PAULA. COURTNEY ENTERPRISES U.S.A.

Gold Star Mothers
Blue Star Mothers
Furniture Outlet Barstow
Heavy Arm-Her Roller Derby
Red White and Blue Runners
Mojave Valley United Way

JPL/NASA



IMAGES OF FREEDOM

The starkness of a silhouette
upon a field of black,
The image of one who fought for us
but did not make it back.

P.O.W./M.I.A.
we all know the names,
Prisoner of War/Missing in Action
is their claim to fame.

We must never forget these lost souls
nor the price they paid so dear,
Hold them close in your heart forever --
year after year.

When you see the Stars and Stripes
blowing in the wind,
Say your thanks and your prayers
for each one of them.

We may not have known them --
someone's father, brother, son,
But with each life given
someone's family is missing one.

Stand at the great black wall,
read the names and count the cost,
Our precious freedom gained
for the many lives lost.

Freedom we take for granted
with no thought of our own,
For the P.O.W./M.I.A
who may never come home.

