

# TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

Vietnam veterans can take pride in being recipients of the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM), an award symbolizing honorable service and great sacrifice.

Created by Executive Order No. 11231 on July 9, 1965, it covers the period through March 28, 1973. It includes service in the Southeast Asia Theater—Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and adjacent waters of the South China Sea. It also recognizes 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of temporary duty in Vietnam.

Campaigns waged in Vietnam between July 1, 1958 and July 3, 1965, are covered by the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM). Veterans who qualified for both medals had the option of



choosing the VSM over the AFEM, if they so desired.

An estimated 2.6 million veterans earned their VSMs on South Vietnam's soil. Others served offshore or in neighboring countries, bringing the total to 3.4 million. Some 58,235 Americans died in the war; 153,362 were seriously wounded. VFW has welcomed Vietnam veterans into its ranks since 1962, shortly after the AFEM was announced. Over a dozen Vietnam veterans have led the organization as commander-in-chief. Vietnam veterans now lead the VFW at all organizational levels.

Besides championing the Vietnam-era GI Bill and other relevant legislation such as Agent Orange laws, VFW contributed \$300,000 to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Campaign	Inclusive Date	
Advisory	March 15, 1962 - March 7, 1965	Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Defense	March 8, 1965 - Dec. 24, 1965	Counteroffensive, Phase VII
Counteroffensive	Dec. 25, 1965 - June 30, 1966	Consolidation I
Counteroffensive, Phase II	July 1, 1966 - May 31, 1967	Consolidation II
Counteroffensive, Phase III	June 1, 1967 - Jan. 29, 1968	Ceasefire
Tet Counteroffensive	Jan. 30, 1968 - April 1, 1968	
Counteroffensive, Phase IV	April 2, 1968 - June 30, 1968	
Counteroffensive, Phase V	July 1, 1968 - Nov. 1, 1968	
Counteroffensive, Phase VI	Nov. 2, 1968 - Feb. 22, 1969	
Tet '69 Counteroffensive	Feb. 23, 1969 - June 8, 1969	
Summer-Fall 1969	June 9, 1969 - Oct. 31, 1969	
Winter-Spring 1970	Nov. 1, 1969 - April 30, 1970	
		<i>Note: These are the Army campaign designations. Other services vary in some of their titles and dates. A Bronze Service Star device was awarded for each campaign credit, or a Silver Service Star device for every five campaigns. Those who were in Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of Saigon during April 29-30, 1975, received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.</i>



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