

Georgia and the Vietnam War

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that there are 752,882 veterans currently living in Georgia, 31% of whom (234,669) are veterans of the Vietnam War.

The Georgia Department of Veterans Service reports 228,000 Georgians served in the Vietnam War; 1,584 were killed in action and 8,534 were wounded in action. There were 21 Ex-POWs and 30 individuals still unaccounted for. U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense reports 1,581 fatal casualties of the Vietnam War with Home-State-of-Record of Georgia.



Growing American antiwar sentiment generated numerous protests in Georgia, the largest of which occurred in the fall of 1969, when thousands of students gathered on state campuses as part of the national “moratorium” remembering those killed in Southeast Asia. The U.S. Congress authorized the building of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC in 1980. The Wall has become one of the most visited memorials in our nation’s capital, with an estimated 5.6 million visitors annually.



In 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund unveiled a half-scale replica of The Wall, designed to travel throughout the U.S.. Since that time, *The Wall That Heals* has travelled to more than 400 cities and towns throughout the nation. *The Wall That Heals* includes the replica and mobile Education Center. *The Wall That Heals* exhibition visited Johns Creek, Georgia in early 2017, and will be in Metter, Georgia in October 2017.

To see the Wall of Faces and for more information about submitting a photo, visit www.vvmf.org/thewall



Resources for Veterans in Georgia

The Georgia Department of Veterans Service provides veterans and their families with benefit assistance, appeals support, veterans education and training, nursing homes and memorial cemeteries. In conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War, the Georgia Department of Veterans Service in partnership with the Office of Governor Nathan Deal, created and launched the Vietnam War Certificate of Honor program in Spring 2015. Every Georgia veteran with honorable service during the Vietnam War is eligible to receive a personalized certificate including the veteran’s name, rank, branch and date of service. As of 6/30/17, the Department has held 270 official ceremonies statewide and issued 18,500 State Certificates of Honor.

In an effort to further preserve the legacy of those who sacrificed all in Vietnam, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is committed to finding a photo to go with each of the 58,000+ names on The Wall through the Virtual Wall of Faces project. There are currently 1,584 Georgia veterans pictured on the Wall of Faces.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs operates community-based Vet Centers across the country, providing a broad range of counseling, outreach and referral services to combat Veterans and their families. There are seven Vet Centers in Georgia. 1-877-WAR-VETS is an around the clock confidential call center where combat Veterans and their families can call to talk about their military experience or any other issue they are facing in their readjustment to civilian life. The staff is comprised of combat Veterans from several eras, as well as families members of combat Veterans. This benefit is prepaid through the Veteran’s military service.

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THE VIETNAM WAR

A FILM BY KEN BURNS & LYNN NOVICK



PREMIERES
SUNDAY | SEPT 17 | 8PM



THE VIETNAM WAR

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GPB is proud to present Ken Burns' and Lynn Novick's 10-part, 18-hour documentary series telling the epic story of one of the most controversial events in American history as it has never before been told on film. Historic resources include rarely seen archival footage from sources around the globe, photographs taken by some of the most celebrated photojournalists of the 20th Century, and secret audio recordings from inside the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations.

Episode One: *Deja Vu* (1858 - 1961)

Vietnamese revolutionaries led by Ho Chi Minh end nearly a century of French colonial occupation. With the Cold War intensifying, Vietnam is divided in two at Geneva. Communists in the north aim to reunify the country, while America supports Ngo Dinh Diem's untested regime in the south.

Airs: 9/17/17



Episode Three: *The River Styx* (January 1964 - December 1965)

Fearing Saigon's collapse, President Johnson escalates America's military commitment, authorizing sustained bombing of the North and deploying ground troops in the South.

Airs: 9/19/17



Episode Five: *This Is What We Do*

(July 1967 - December 1967)

Hanoi lays plans for a massive surprise offensive, and the Johnson Administration reassures the American public that victory is in sight.

Airs: 9/21/17



Episode Seven: *The Veneer of Civilization*

(June 1968 - May 1969)

Public support for the war declines. After police battle with demonstrators in the streets of Chicago, Richard Nixon wins the presidency, promising law and order at home and peace overseas.

Airs: 9/25/17

Episode Nine: *A Disrespectful Loyalty*

(May 1970 - March 1973)

South Vietnamese forces fighting on their own in Laos suffer a terrible defeat. Massive U.S. airpower makes the difference in halting an unprecedented North Vietnamese offensive. After being re-elected in a landslide, Nixon announces Hanoi has agreed to a peace deal. American prisoners of war will finally come home—to a bitterly divided country.

Airs: 9/27/17

1961

1963

1965

1966

1968

1970

1972

1973

1962

1964

1967

1969

1971

Episode Two: *Riding the Tiger* (1961 - 1963)

President Kennedy inspires idealistic young Americans to serve their country and wrestles with involvement in South Vietnam. As the Diem regime faces a growing communist insurgency and widespread Buddhist protests, a grave political crisis unfolds.

Airs: 9/18/17



Episode Four: *Resolve* (January 1966 - June 1967)

As an antiwar movement builds in the U.S., hundreds of thousands of soldiers and Marines discover that the war they are being asked to fight in Vietnam is nothing like their fathers' war.

Airs: 9/20/17

Episode Six: *Things Fall Apart*

(January 1968 - July 1968)

On the eve of the Tết holiday, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces launch surprise attacks on cities and military bases throughout the south, casting grave doubt on Johnson's promise that there is "light at the end of the tunnel."

Airs: 9/24/17



Episode Eight: *The History of the World*

(April 1969 - May 1970)

President Nixon begins withdrawing American troops. News breaks of an unthinkable massacre committed by American soldiers, and an incursion into Cambodia reignites antiwar protests with tragic consequences.

Airs: 9/26/17

Episode Ten: *The Weight of Memory*

(March 1973 - Onward)

While the Watergate scandal rivets Americans' attention and forces President Nixon to resign, the Vietnamese continue to savage one another in a brutal civil war. When hundreds of thousands of North Vietnamese troops pour into the south, Saigon descends rapidly into chaos and collapses. For the next 40 years, Americans and Vietnamese from all sides search for healing and reconciliation.

Airs: 9/28/17



Georgia's Vietnamese Community

- The 2010 U.S. Census reports the Vietnamese population reached 1.5 million, the fourth largest among Asian population groups in the United States.
- Georgia ranks sixth in the nation for the size of its Vietnamese population, with just over 45,000. Atlanta reports the ninth largest Vietnamese population of a metropolitan area in the country, with 37,000. Buddhists, Catholics and Protestants are all represented in the state's Vietnamese community and the groups have collaborated to resettle refugees and conduct traditional holiday celebrations.
- The most important Vietnamese cultural celebration is Tết, or the Lunar New Year. Its date fluctuates between late January and early March. It is a three-day event and celebrations consist of singing, dancing, games, food, etc.

For more information and resources, and to share your own story, please visit www.gpb.org/vietnam