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 229,000 Georgians served in the Vietnam War, 1,584 were killed in action and 8,534 were wounded in action. There were 21 Ex-PWDs and 38 individuals still unaccounted for, U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense reports 1,581 total casualties of the Vietnam War with Home-State-of-Record of Georgia.

Growing American anti-war sentiment generated numerous protests in Georgia, the largest of which occurred in the fall of 1965, 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 D.C. in 1980. The Wall has become one of the most visited memorials in our nation's capital, with an estimated 5.5 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 traveled 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 Milledgeville, 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 era is eligible to receive a personalized certificate including the veteran's name, rank, branch and date of service. As of 630/17, 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-VMP-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 issues they are facing in their reintegration to civilian life. The staff is composed of combat veterans from several eras, as well as families members of combat veterans. This benefit is prepaid through the Veteran's military service.

PREMIERES
SUNDAY | SEPT 17 | 8PM

VIEWER RESOURCE GUIDE

THE VIETNAM WAR
A FILM BY KEN BURNS & LYNN NOVICK

Funding for THE VIETNAM WAR provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, MacArthur Foundation, National Geographic Society, Ford Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. McArthur Foundation, Time Warner Foundation, Time Warner Inc., The Rockefeller Foundation, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is the official non-profit partner of the American Experience series. Day One Media, History Channel, PBS, and WETA are the production partners. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The National Endowment for the Humanities is a federal agency of the government of the United States of America. The National Endowment for the Humanities does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, handicap, or type of assistance. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is not a part of the United States government.

Bank of America Humanities Division, Ken Burns Institute, National Geographic Society, PBS, WETA, Day One Media, History Channel, Corporation for Public Broadcasting.
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
(1958 - 1961)

Vietnamese revolutionaries led by Ho Chi Minh and 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 puppet regime in the south.

Airs: 9/17

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: 9/17

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: 9/17

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: 9/17

Episode Six: Things Fall Apart
(January 1968 - July 1968)

On the eve of the Tet 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: 9/17

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: 9/17

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 provokes antiwar protests with tragic consequences.

Airs: 9/17

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 he has agreed to a peace deal. American prisoners of war will finally come home—to a bitterly divided country.

Airs: 9/17

Episode Ten: The Weight of Memory
(March 1973 - Onward)

While the Watergate scandal rivets America’s attention and forces President Nixon to resign, the Vietnam veterans continue to suffer 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: 9/17

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. 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 Tet, 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