

Military, Law, and more ...

Thank you to the Memphis Safe Task Force and National Guard!

Sec. of War Hegseth, Veterans Affairs Sec. Collins, Gold Star families, and others recognize National Vietnam War Veterans Day at Vietnam Memorial

**By Matthew Olay
Dept. of War (DoW)**

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Doug Collins, Veterans Affairs secretary, were joined by dozens of former service members — the majority of them having served during the Vietnam War — Gold Star family members, and others at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington today [March 29, 2026] for a ceremony in recognition of National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Signed into law by President Donald J. Trump during his first administration in 2017 and taking place every March 29 to commemorate when the last U.S. combat troops left Vietnam in 1973, National Vietnam War Veterans Day is a national observance that recognizes veterans who served during the war.

During his remarks, Hegseth stressed the importance of not only never forgetting the roughly 58,000 men who lost their lives during the conflict — as well as the more than 1,500 who are still missing in action — but to also always remember the sacrifices they made.

"We will always remember what they gave. ... Those 58,000, the vast majority [being] volunteers from big cities and small towns — city boys and country boys — shoulder to shoulder, fighting for each other; we will always remember the courage they showed," Hegseth said.

He added that it's important to remember the context of the time, and that the Americans who



fought in Vietnam were effectively Cold War-era warriors who were meant to try and stymie the spread of communism in Southeast Asia.

Unfortunately, Hegseth said, U.S. politics, politicians and the inability for a sizable segment of the American public to separate service members from the war itself led to many of them feeling unappreciated upon their return stateside.

Because of that, Hegseth continued, it was that generation of Vietnam War veterans that worked to make sure no future returning veterans would have to endure the same treatment.

"And I can say as a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan ... it is those warriors who looked to us, that generation — Vietnam, specifically — that looked at us and

said, 'Welcome home,'" Hegseth said.

He spoke about how the current generation of veterans — primarily veterans of the War on Terrorism — will be at the ready to welcome back veterans currently serving in armed conflict, like those serving in Operation Epic Fury, thanks to the precedent set by the generation of Vietnam War vets.

"There will be debates all across the nation, but what we know is that we will have the backs of those warfighters. We will ensure that they are celebrated, that their sacrifice is honored, [and] that every part of our society recognizes that they are the real 1% — the special Americans, willing to raise their right hand and commit to something greater than

themselves," Hegseth said.

During his remarks, Collins credited Vietnam War-era veterans with helping to bolster and strengthen the VA from an almost completely ineffective bureaucracy 50 years ago to the more robust and effectual institution it is today.

"The Vietnam veteran[s] changed the VA more than any generation [that] has been around. ... They stood up and helped shape us into the VA we are today. ... The vet centers that I think are the greatest thing in the world, because they help every veteran — no matter where they are — and they say, 'You have a home here,'" Collins said.

"Thank you to this generation who could have stopped, who could have got mad, who could

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have got bitter, and who could have turned away from the very country that had sent it. But thank God you remembered why you raised your right hand, why you went; because when you came home, you looked forward. And it is that forward [thinking] that brings us here today," he told the veterans in the crowd.

The ceremony concluded with Hegseth, Collins and other special guests laying wreaths at the memorial wall's base.

Many of those in attendance appreciated the words spoken by both secretaries.

"I think it's important to recognize all veterans of Vietnam ... because, for so long, we kept it to ourselves and didn't tell anybody. Both secretaries [explained] that quite well today," John Riling III, who served a tour in Vietnam as an Army military policeman from 1970 to 1971, and who now serves as the vice president of Vietnam Veterans of America, said following the ceremony.

"I thought [the remarks touched] the Vietnam [War] generation; which is not just those that served in Vietnam, but all over the world at that time," he added.

U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn leads colleagues in introducing Veterans Bill of Rights Act

For the Record...

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senators Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), and Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.) introduced the Veterans' Bill of Rights Act in January which would ensure veterans are informed of the rights they have under current law across all U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities and programs:

"Navigating complex statutes, regulations, and internal policies can be confusing, leaving veterans unsure of what to expect or what questions to ask about the resources available to them," said **Senator Blackburn**. "The Veterans' Bill of Rights Act would ensure veterans are clearly informed of their existing rights regarding VA health care, benefits, and services."

"As a combat veteran, I'm proud to help establish the Veterans' Bill of Rights to deliver those who proudly served our country in uniform the information, support, and care they need to live a healthy, successful life," said **Senator Sheehy**. "Veterans deserve to know exactly what benefits and services are available and how to access them when they return home, and this bill will empower veterans by increasing transparency, streamlining bureaucracy, and holding the VA accountable to its core mission of serving veterans."

"Veterans shouldn't have to wade through red tape just to understand the rights they've already earned through their service," said **Senator Tillis**. "The Veterans' Bill of Rights Act makes those rights clear and consistent across the VA, so veterans know what to expect and can focus on getting the care and benefits they deserve."

"Alabama is home to more than 400,000 veterans, and I always hear from them about how tough it is to navigate bureaucratic VA

Please see sports-military 3

The 'E' in DEI is for Equity, a Marxist Term. Research before you believe.

-A commentary from The Mid-South Tribune-

A report from the Memphis Safe Task Force: 50 arrests, 1 juvenile, 3 illegal guns recovered; TBI offers \$32,500 for info leading to arrest of suspect in traffic stop shooting

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 27, 2026— The Memphis Safe Task Force on Thursday [March 26] executed 50 criminal arrests, including one juvenile, and recovered three illegal firearms.

Of note: **Katruan Phillips, 21**, was arrested in the 2600 block of Durby Circle on a warrant for criminal attempted first-degree murder, reckless endangerment with a deadly weapon, possession with intent to distribute, unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a firearm during the commission of felony, and employment firearm with intent to commit a felony. Officers recovered a firearm. Phillips is a suspected gang

member.

Nelson Sanford, 21, was arrested in the 5300 block of Scottsdale Avenue on a warrant that was issued for first-degree murder. MSTF developed information on where Sanford was residing and MSTF members performed a call out and Sanford surrendered without incident. Officers recovered a handgun with a switch, 40-caliber ammunition, and marijuana.

Ongoing manhunt: The MSTF is asking the public's help and, along with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, offering a combined reward of up to \$32,500 for information leading to the cap-

ture of a man suspected of shooting a Memphis Police Department officer Feb. 27 during a traffic stop.

Danell Maxwell, 40, of Memphis, is wanted for attempted first-degree murder, aggravated assault, and employment of a firearm during the commission of a dangerous felony, per an arrest warrant issued Feb. 28. He was added to the Tennessee Most Wanted list the same day. Maxwell is Black, stands 5 feet 10 inches and weighs approximately 180 pounds. He has brown eyes and black hair. He was last seen wearing dark clothing and an orange and green reflective vest. He should be

considered armed and dangerous.

Since the launch of the Memphis Safe Task Force initiative, officers have made 7,574 arrests, including 45 for homicide, 833 for controlled substances, 664 for firearms violations, and 98 for sex offenses. Of those arrested, 214 were juveniles and 789 were known gang members. The task force has seized 1,237 illegal firearms. These enforcement actions reflect a sustained commitment to reducing violent crime and removing dangerous weapons from Memphis neighborhoods.

Begun in September 2025, the MSTF is a multi-agency initiative to combat violent crime in

Memphis. Composed of federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as the Tennessee National Guard, the task force is focused on arresting violent criminals, clearing warrants, seizing firearms, and locating missing children. Since the operation began, the MSTF has located 150 missing children.

Anyone with information about wanted fugitives is encouraged to submit it via the USMS Tips app. For more information about the U.S. Marshals please visit www.usmarshals.gov.

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