

The Vietnam War's Effects on American Society

St. Augustine National Cemetery

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

**Department
of History**



Tour Stops

1- Flagstaff

2- Section C

3- Leadley Henning
Ogden and William
Thomas Jr. : MA1-F
and MA6

4- Adolph M. Guidi:
B694-A (North side)

5- Bazzle J. Rice:
B670-A (South side)

6- Randolph
Eubanks: B618
(Southeast side)

7- Tom Davis Jr. :
B567 (North side
near sidewalk)

8- Theodore Walter
Wengert: A346

9- Rostrum



Proper Cemetery Behavior (Stop 1)

Location: **Flagstaff**

Best practices and behavior inside cemeteries

- As we move throughout the cemetery, please keep a few things in mind.
 - We are here to learn about and honor men and women that sacrificed all for our freedom
 - Use your inside voices as you learn and tour
 - Be sure to not walk on any of the graves. Use the sidewalks or the grass to pass between headstones.
 - Please do not jump, climb, sit or stand on any of the headstones or monuments at the cemetery.
 - You may touch headstones and monuments, but be respectful while doing so. You may even sit next to a headstone.

Each grave represents a person(s) who helped to build the community and nation in which you live.

Proper Cemetery Behavior (Stop 1)

Location: **Flagstaff**

Our Purpose

- To honor the life, service, and legacy of the men and women buried in this cemetery.
- To learn about the Vietnam War and its effects on legislation (laws), civil rights, and music.
- To also learn about life after the war, POWs and MIAs.



Image Credit: UCF VLP Team

Historical Context (Stop 2)

Location: **SECTION C (UNDER TREE)**

The Cold War

- Began in late 1940s and ended in 1991
- Capitalist United States versus communist Soviet Union
 - Both sides wanted to spread their ideology and counter the other
- Named the Cold War because the United States and Soviet Union never actually fought physical battles against each other.
 - Instead, they fought “proxy wars”, supporting other countries that did the actual fighting.

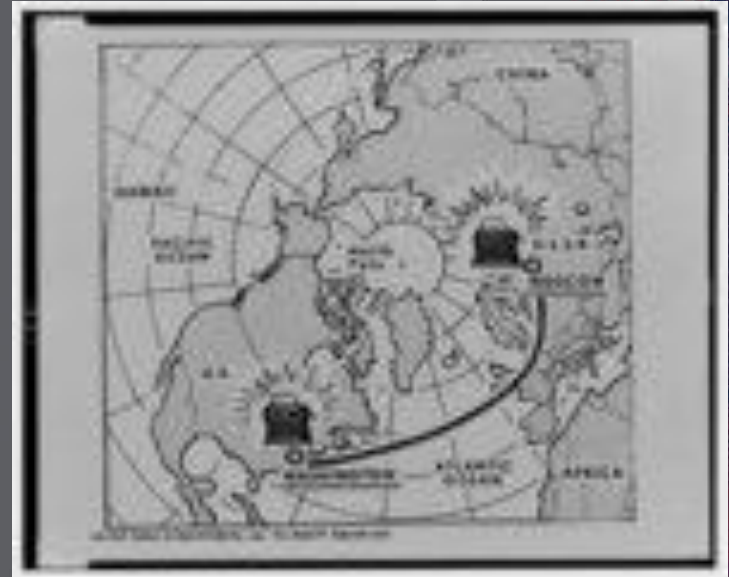


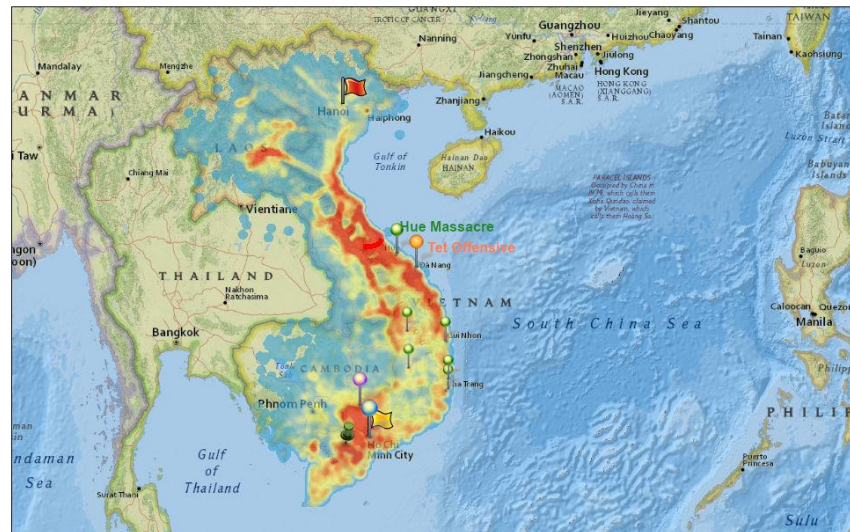
Image Credit: Cold War-era Map (*Library of Congress*)

Historical Context (Stop 2)

Vietnam War

- Vietnam is a country in Asia located just south of China
- Fought from 1954 to 1975
 - Civil war was already happening since 1946, though
- North Vietnam was communist, and South Vietnam was anti-communist
 - United States started helping South Vietnam in 1954
- Took place in multiple countries within Southeast Asia

Vietnam War Map



6/13/2024

1:11,894,805
0 95 190 380 mi
0 155 310 620 km
US AIR FORCE THE RANDOLPH TRUST NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ESRI GARDINER HERE UNER/INCOM USGS NASA ESA METY NACAN GIBCO NOAA

Image Credit: Vietnam War Map (ESRI ArcMapViewer; UCF VLP Team)

Historical Context (Stop 2)

Public Perception

- The Vietnam War was a divisive topic in the US.
 - Some people supported it and some didn't.
- The war also overlapped with the civil rights movement.
- Large scale acts of violence also contributed to negative views of the war.
 - Kent State shooting and My Lai massacre



Image Credits: *(Library of Congress)*

Historical Context (Stop 2)

Veterans

- No matter the reasoning for the war, millions of people served their country in the US military during the war.
- Today, we are here to learn about Veterans who served in the Vietnam war (how they weren't so different from us) and how they served.



Image Credits: *(Library of Congress)*



Stop and Talk:

What are some reasons that you think someone would decide to join the military?

Music During the War (Stop 3)

Location: MA1-F

Veterans Music Choices

- Veterans listened to music that talked about home.
- Music was one of the best ways for Veterans to learn about the Civil Rights Movement back at home while they were away.
- Everyone enjoyed the musical fusion of different culture's harmonies and rhythms, music brought all nationalities together.

Protest Music

- People back home protested the war through their music and lyrics; some songs became incredibly popular.



Jimi Hendrix in concert



Aretha Franklin in concert
Image Credits: *(Library of Congress)*

Col. Leadlay H. Ogden

Location: MA1-F

Early Life

- Born on March 12, 1918 in Washington D.C.
- Lived in New York and then Jacksonville before joining the military
- Worked for the National Gunito Contracting Company as a civil engineer before his service

Military Service

- Served in WWII in the Army as part of the 101st Ordnance Battalion
- Worked as a specialized systems proprietor
- Served at the Inspector General's office at the Army Ordnance Missile Command during Vietnam

Post-service

- Worked as a real estate salesman
- Passed away on December 12, 1995



Leadley Ogden's headstone at SANC
Image Credit: UCF VLP Team

Capt. William Arthur Thomas Jr.

Location: **MA-6**

Early Life

- Born on January 23, 1940 in St. Augustine, FL
- Parents were born in and from St. John's County, FL
- Worked at a service station

Military Service

- Enlisted in the US Air Force in 1962
- Served as a Captain in the 18th Tactical Fighter Wing as a pilot in Okinawa and South Vietnam
- Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal
- Passed away on April 21, 1972, during a flight check on an F-105D Thunderchief
 - The aircraft broke apart and fell into the Pacific Ocean



William Thomas Jr.'s headstone at SANC



F-105D Thunderchief
Image Credit: National Museum of the USAF

Vietnam Memories (Stop 4)

Location: **B-694**



Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Image Credits: *(Department of Defense)*

Vietnam Memorial

- Located in Washington, D.C., project was approved in 1980
- Features names of servicemen and women who died in service in the Vietnam conflict
 - Three Servicemen statue and Women's Memorial were added later

Virtual Wall

- Wall of Faces
 - Profiles and pictures of soldiers listed on the physical wall
- In Memory
 - Honors Vietnam Veterans who died after the war



Three Servicemen Statue
Image Credits: *(Library of Congress)*



The Vietnam Women's Memorial
Image Credits: *(Library of Congress)*

Examples of Vietnam War Veteran Pins



Vietnam Veteran hat, with five pins displayed

*Image Credit: Amanda Burchins;
UCF VLP*



US Army 63rd Engineer
Battalion pin (red pin)

*Image Credit: Amanda Burchins;
UCF VLP*



From left to right:
Cu Chi pin (location of service)
Army Corps of Engineers castle pin
Bien Hoa pin (location of service)
Corporal rank insignia

Image Credit: Amanda Burchins; UCF VLP

Col. Adolph M. Guidi, Jr.

Location: **B-694A**

Early Life

- Born in 1935 in New York
- Moved to St. Augustine, FL at the age of ten

Military Service

- Enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on January 18, 1957
- Part of 33rd Tactical Fighter Squadron
 - Stationed at Takhli Royal Air Force Base in Thailand

- Retired after 26 years in USAF on August 31, 1983

Legacy

- Joined Valiant Air Command (air museum) after retirement
- Killed during an airshow in Keystone Heights, FL, on June 29, 1991



Col. Guidi's headstone at
SANC

*Image Credit: UCF VLP
Team*



STOP

Stop and Talk:

What are some of the thoughts and feelings that you have when you visit a memorial?

Multi-War Vets and Coming Home (Stop 5)

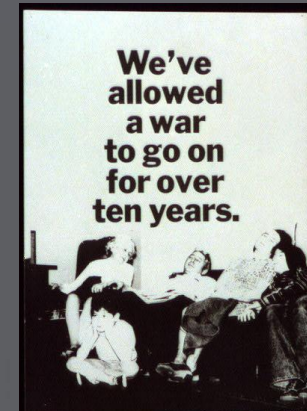
Location: **B-670A**

- Estimated 171,000 soldiers served in all three wars: WWII, Korea, and Vietnam wars
- Treatment of soldiers was very different between WWII and Vietnam
 - There was no “welcome home” for Vietnam Veterans
- Reasons for the change:
 - Never-ending conflict
 - Longest war in U.S. history until Global War on Terror
 - Anti-war sentiment
 - Vietnam seen as a lost war
 - High costs to taxpayers
 - Protests of the war became big on college campuses
 - Protesting the draft
 - Protesting harm to Vietnamese civilians



Vietnam War protesters in Atlantic City, NJ in 1964

Image Credits: *Library of Congress*



Advertisement poster ca. 1971

Image Credits: *Library of Congress*

Multi-War Vets and Coming Home (Stop 5)

MGY Sgt Bazzle J. Rice

Location: **B-670A**

Early Life

- Born in California on March 16, 1923
- Moved to Utah as a young child

Military Service

- Enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on July 9, 1942
 - Member of USMC Mormon Battalion
- Served during WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War
 - Stayed on US military bases; no overseas fighting
- Discharged from USMC on April 30, 1971

Legacy

- Died in Clay County, FL on May 29, 1991



MGY Sgt Rice's headstone at
SANC

Image Credit: UCF VLP Team



Stop and Talk:

How do you think people would feel if they were told that they were required to join the military (drafted) and fight in a country on the other side of the world? How would you feel?

The Draft and New Legislation (Stop 6)

Location: **B-618**

- So-called “draft dodgers” attempted to avoid being drafted so they wouldn’t have to fight.
 - Some tried to find exceptions like getting married or becoming a “conscientious objector” that thought war was wrong.
 - Some enlisted in a military branch that was less likely to be sent to Vietnam.
- Voting age was also changed during Vietnam with the 26th Amendment.
 - People disliked having to fight in a war but not being able to vote; Congressional action changed the voting age from 21 to 18.

The Draft and New Legislation (Stop 6)

Randolph Eubanks

Location: **B-618**

Early Life

- Born on April 11, 1948 in Cocoa, FL
- Parents Rev. Goldie M. & Hattie Eubanks (5th of 6 kids)
- Played basketball on Monroe High School team, graduated in 1966
- Father was involved in the civil rights movement

Military Life

- Enlisted in the Army January 9, 1968
- Rank was Specialist Fourth Class
- Served in Company C, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry as a light weapons infantryman
- Killed on February 23, 1969, during an attack on his military base

Post-Service

- Memorialized on The Wall of Faces at Vietnam War Memorial

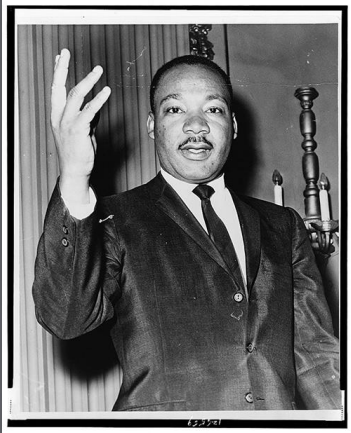


Randolph Eubanks headstone
at SANC

Image Credit: UCF VLP Team

Civil Rights and the Vietnam War (Stop 7)

Location: **B-567**



- Civil rights groups like the NAACP first supported the war.
 - NAACP supported it partially because they wanted to get civil rights laws passed.
 - Support changed to opposition as the war continued
 - Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Muhammad Ali were notable opponents.
- Black activists believed resources should be spent to help the African-American community instead.
 - Some activists believed the United States was discriminating against Vietnamese like they had been discriminated against.

Image Credits: Library of Congress

Civil Rights and the Vietnam War (Stop 7)

- Some civil rights activists believed serving could improve their standing.
- Others were angry with how many more minorities were drafted over white soldiers.
 - Only 2% of African-Americans served as officers out of hundreds of thousands of soldiers.
- Many soldiers returned to run for political office or to fight for civil rights including:
 - Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.
 - Frederic Davison
 - Colin Powell
 - Elizabeth A. Allen



Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.
Image Credit: Library of Congress

Civil Rights and the Vietnam War (Stop 7)

SSgt. Tom Davis, Jr.

Location: **B-567**

Early Life

- Born November 6, 1936 in St. Augustine, FL
- Mother was Annie L. Davis, raised by grandparents Leroy & Marie Williams
- Oldest of three brothers

Military Life

- Enlisted in the US Army April 24, 1967
- Served as Staff Sergeant in Company A, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment
- Stationed in South Vietnam, Thua Thien Province, South Vietnam as an armor crewman
- Killed on March 25, 1968

Post-Service

- Awarded a Purple Heart



Tom Davis Jr.'s headstone at SANC

Image Credit: UCF VLP Team



STOP

Stop and Talk:

Do you think servicemen in Vietnam felt the effects of the Civil Rights movement? Why?

POWs and MIA (Stop 8)

Location: **A-346**

Some did not die in war, instead,

- POW = Prisoner of War
- MIA = Missing in Action
- POWs in Vietnam
 - 766 Americans known to be POWs
 - American POWs in North Vietnam were treated horribly
 - Torture was common
 - Communist propaganda was used
 - Poor health conditions
 - The Hanoi March (July 1966)
- POW/MIA Flag
 - Developed in 1971 by Mrs. Michael Hoff
 - Created to remind every American of the missing and captured soldiers of Vietnam



USAF TSGT Stanley Byron displays
POW/MIA flag at Incirlik Air Base in
Turkey

Image Credits: *National Archives*

POWs and MIA (Stop 8)

Maj. Theodore W. Wengert

Location: **A-346**

Early Life

- Born in the Bronx, New York on October 4, 1920
- Son of German immigrants

Military Service

- Joined U.S. Air Force during WWII
- Navigator of a plane that went down over Yugoslavia/Hungary during a bombing mission on November 17, 1944.
 - Wengert survived and gave report on crash and fate of his fellow soldiers.

Legacy

- Married Doris M. Kortrey in New York in 1950.
- Died in New Jersey on March 21, 2014.



Maj. Wengert's headstone at SANC
Image Credit: UCF VLP Team

Memorializing Vietnam Veterans (Stop 9)

Location: **Rostrum**

- Memorializing Veterans was one way people dealt with their grief after losing someone to the war. The nation also was sad.
- One tradition involves putting coins on a grave to show others you visited the grave.
 - Dates back to ancient Rome
 - Different coins represent how close you were to the buried person
 - Penny - visited as a stranger
 - Nickel - went through bootcamp with them
 - Dime - served together
 - Quarter - present when they died



Image Credit: UCF VLP Team



STOP

Stop and Talk:

What are some other ways we can honor and commemorate the lives of Veterans?