

# Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH AREA | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Vietnam Vets to Receive Special Recognition at Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony

This year's Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony will celebrate all military veterans and will feature a special dedication to Vietnam veterans, as part of the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Lt. General Jack Klimp, USMC, (Ret.) will serve as Grand Marshal for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual parade and will present a Department of Defense (DOD) authorized [Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin](#) to each Vietnam veteran present at the ceremony. The purpose of the pin is to recognize, thank and honor United States military veterans who served in the Vietnam War. Any veteran who served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam conflict is eligible to receive one lapel pin.

According to Beaufort County Veterans Affairs Officer Carl Wedler, the goal of the parade and ceremony mirrors his office's mantra - "honoring all who served."

"Sometimes in a military town like Beaufort, we can easily forget that less than one percent of Americans serve in the nation's armed forces," Wedler said. "So when you take the time out of your schedules to celebrate our veterans, it's always a meaningful experience. This year, we are delighted to welcome Lt. Gen. Jack Klimp and honored to celebrate our Vietnam vets. We look forward to a wonderful day for the community to come out and enjoy the celebration."

The parade - presented by the [Beaufort County Veterans Affairs Office](#) and the Veterans Day Planning Committee - kicks off the County's celebration of military veterans on Friday, November 11 at 9:30 a.m. and will follow the City of Beaufort downtown parade route. The parade will be followed by a Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. in the Beaufort National Cemetery located at 1601 Boundary Street. The keynote speaker for this year's Ceremony will be Col. Peter Buck, USMC, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. The Parris Island Marine Band will again be featured at this year's ceremony.

### About Lieutenant General Jack W. Klimp

[Lt. Gen. Jack W. Klimp](#) served in the United States Marine Corps for thirty-three years. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a bachelor's degree and also holds master's degrees in Public Administration and National Security and Strategic Studies. During his career in the Marine Corps, he held multiple command and staff positions including operational tours in Vietnam, Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Somalia where he commanded Task Force Mogadishu. He also served as Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. From 1993 to 1995 he served as the Commanding General at Parris Island. Since retirement from the Marine Corps, he has led a number of nonprofit organizations as president and CEO and serves on a number of boards of directors. His personal awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (with Combat V), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement Medals and the Korean Samil Medal.



Photo credit: S. Larson



Photo credit: M. McCarthy

### About Colonel Peter Buck

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[Col. Peter Buck](#) graduated from Concordia University in 1987 and was subsequently commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Course. He was designated a Naval Aviator in July 1989 and served as Commanding Officer in Okinawa Japan. He earned his master's degree in Military Studies from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and a master's degree in Strategic Studies from Air War College in Alabama. Following graduation from Top Level School, he reported to United States Northern Command, where he served as Executive Officer for the Joint Training and Exercise Directorate and Deputy Executive Officer to the Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command. He served as Chief of Staff, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing from January 2013 until assuming Command of Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina in February 2014. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit (One Gold Star), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (Three Gold Stars), Air Medal (Numeral "1"), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.





## [The United States Vietnam Lapel Pin](#)

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

### Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

*"A Lasting Memento of the Nation's Thanks!"*

**Front**  **Back** 

**Purpose:** To recognize, thank and honor United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

**Eligibility:** Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

**Presentation:** These lapel pins will be presented in a dignified manner to each Vietnam veteran during public events held in their communities by Commemorative Partners. Accompanying remarks should reflect the nation's thanks for their service and sacrifice. In the rare instance when an honoree cannot attend a public event, the pin may be presented during a private ceremony.

**Symbolism:**

- **Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned with distinction on numerous military insignia.
- **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.
- **Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.
- **Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.
- **Stars** - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.
- **Message** - "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. Also, the official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative, and this lapel pin is the nation's lasting memento of thanks.

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