



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

1 September 2023 / Volume 4, Issue 7

VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar

Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance: September 11, 2023

From The American Presidency Project, [Proclamation 10445—Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, 2022](#):

"On September 11, 2001, ordinary Americans performed extraordinary acts of heroism. Firefighters and police officers rushed into crumbling buildings and raging fires to save others. EMTs, construction workers, colleagues, and strangers tended to the wounded. Passengers and

crewmembers gave their lives to thwart another attack. And a generation of women and men answered the call of duty by joining our Armed Forces to defend our freedom and our democracy.

"These patriots—people of undaunted courage, uncommon resolve, and unwavering perseverance—are forever ingrained in our national character. They are reminders that we are a great country because we are a good people. On this Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, we pay tribute to the heroes and victims who lost their lives on September 11, and we recommit ourselves to the spirit of unity, patriotism, and service that carried our Nation through in the days that followed.

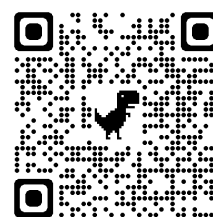


<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/stories/patriot-service-remembrance-day.html>



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<https://www.vfw.org/>

VFW Post 8555 Spotlight



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Biden awards Medal of Honor to Army helicopter pilot who rescued soldiers in a Vietnam firefight

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden awarded the [Medal of Honor](#) to [Capt. Larry Taylor](#) on Tuesday, honoring the Army pilot who risked his life during the Vietnam War by flying into heavy enemy fire to save four members of a reconnaissance team from almost certain death as they were about to be overrun.

On the night of June 18, 1968, then-1st Lt. Taylor flew his Cobra attack helicopter to rescue the men after they had become surrounded by the enemy.

“It was pitch black. No moon. No stars. No light beyond the glow of Lieutenant Taylor’s cockpit control, when he heard a whisper coming through his radio, ‘We’re surrounded,’” Biden said, adding, “Lieutenant Taylor knew the risks, but he was ready.”

Taylor, a Tennessean who is now 81, recalled in an interview last week that he had to figure out how to get the men out, otherwise “they wouldn’t make it.”



David Hill, one of the four Taylor saved that night, said his actions were what “we now call thinking outside the box.”

Taylor arrived in minutes at the site northeast of what is now Ho Chi Minh City. He asked the team to send up flares to mark their location in the dark. Taylor and a pilot in an accompanying helicopter started firing their ships’ Miniguns and rockets at the enemy, making low-level attack runs and braving intense ground fire for about a half-hour.

But with both helicopters nearly out of ammunition and the enemy continuing to advance, Taylor surveyed the team’s intended escape route to a point near the river and concluded that the men would never make it.

He had to think of something else.

Now running low on fuel and almost out of ammunition himself, Taylor directed his wingman to fire the rounds left in his Minigun along the team’s eastern flank and return to base camp, while Taylor fired his remaining rounds on the western flank. He used the landing lights to distract the enemy, buying time for the patrol team to head south and east toward a new extraction point he had identified.

After they arrived, Taylor landed under heavy enemy fire and at great personal risk. The four team members rushed toward the helicopter and clung to the exterior — it only had two seats — and Taylor whisked them away to safety. He was on the ground for about 10 seconds.

Hill and the others were on a night mission to track the movement of enemy troops in a village near the Saigon River when they were discovered by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops. An intense firefight ensued and soon they were running out of ammunition. They radioed for help.

“I finally just flew up behind them and sat down on the ground,” Taylor said by telephone. “They turned around and jumped on the aircraft. A couple were sitting on the skids. One was sitting on the rocket pods, and I don’t know where the other one was, but they beat on the side of the ship twice, which meant haul a--. And we did!”

During the medal ceremony, Biden said that Taylor’s aircraft was “hit multiple times” and that, according to “Army standards, he could have left the fight.” At one point, the president said, Taylor was directed to withdraw but “he refused to put his own life above the lives of those in need.”

“That’s valor,” Biden said. “That’s our nation at its very best.”

<https://apnews.com/article/medal-of-honor-biden-taylor-vietnam-army->

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 VPR VJ Day
3	4 Labor Day	5	6 Food Distribution	7	8	9
10	11 VPR Patriots Day VFW Meeting	12	13	14	15 VPR POW/MIA Recognition Day	16
17	18 Air Force Birthday	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 VPR VFW Birthday	30

OCTOBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Food Distribution	5	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day VPR Start of OEF VFW Meeting	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 VPR Women In Military Service	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Fried Chicken Dinner	30	31				