



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

DEC 23 2015

Dear Governor Haley:

I invite you to join as a Commemorative Partner with the Nation's program to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Commemorative Partner Program assists in thanking our Vietnam Veterans and their families in their hometowns. We owe these Veterans a special debt of gratitude for their service during a turbulent time in our Nation's history, and our goal is to honor every Veteran.

We would greatly appreciate your state joining us in this effort. Each Commemorative Partner is asked to conduct at least two events each year through 2018 to thank and honor these Veterans. The events can be as simple or as grand as you desire, and can be in conjunction with other recognition events. If your state participates in this program, the information on your events can be included at the Commemoration website (<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com>).

The point of contact for the Commemorative Partner Program is Ms. Yvonne Schilz at (703) 697-4919, or Yvonne.e.Schilz.civ@mail.mil. Alternatively, you may also contact our Commemoration Director, Major General James T. Jackson, U.S. Army Retired, at (703) 697-4902, or james.t.jackson54.civ@mail.mil.

I appreciate your consideration in becoming a Commemorative Partner. We look forward to working in close partnership with the State of South Carolina to recognize the service, valor, and sacrifice of our Vietnam Veterans and their families.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ash Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

