

Vietnam Bracelet dedication

The Vietnam Bracelet will be unveiled at the Vietnam Memorial on S. Monroe street across from the old Florida State Capitol building on September 17th at 1500 hours (3 P.M.) and will probably last about 30 to 40 minutes. All are invited to attend this historic event. There is limited parking behind the Memorial.

A California student group called Voices in Vital America first created its popular POW/MIA bracelets in 1970. After meeting the wives of missing pilots, organizers wanted to raise awareness about the conflict's prisoners of war and missing in action.

From 1970 to 1976, the group distributed about 5 million bracelets initially costing \$2.50 to \$3, with proceeds to pay for awareness bumper stickers and ads. Each band was engraved with a rank, name and date the person went missing.

People vowed to wear them until that person came home or remains were found. But, eventually, most of the bracelets came off. Some were sent with notes to service members who did return. They were mailed to family or more often left at graves and memorials. Many were stored and forgotten.

