



MINNESOTA AAPI
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Event Commemorates 50 Years Since the Vietnam War and Its Legacy Across Southeast Asia

The AAPI Military Ball will honor and celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander servicemembers, veterans, and their families on Nov. 8.

Oakdale, MN - The Minnesota AAPI Veterans Association hosts their AAPI Military Ball on Nov. 8, 2025, at Inwood Oaks, 484 Inwood Ave N, Oakdale, MN. The event commemorates five decades since the Vietnam War, recognizing veterans and the lasting legacy of resilience and unity across Southeast Asia.

“The AAPI Military Ball is a powerful tribute to honor and sacrifice — a time to recognize the courage of our Asian American and Pacific Islander veterans who have proudly served this nation,” said John Yang, Executive Director of the Minnesota AAPI Veterans Association and Staff Sergeant, US Air Force Reserve. “It reflects our deep respect for their service while celebrating the culture and heritage that unite our diverse communities. This event reminds us that our strength lies in our diversity, and through honoring the past, we continue to inspire pride, unity, and leadership for future generations.”

The Military Ball will feature reflections from veterans, as well as a keynote address from Colonel Eduardo Suárez, Director of Culture, Resiliency, and Community Engagement at the Minnesota National Guard. Colonel Suárez enlisted into the Minnesota Army National Guard in 1993 after serving more than four years on Active Duty at Fort Benning, Georgia where he was assigned to the United States Army Marksmanship Unit. He has served in various positions from company to brigade and commanded at the company and battalion level. Past deployments include Bosnia Herzegovina, Iraq, and Kuwait.

“It’s an honor to celebrate with the AAPI Veterans Association and commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War,” said Colonel Suárez. “This event is a reminder that Minnesota veterans are united in our service and sacrifice, as well as in our shared purpose in building a stronger, more resilient, and prosperous Minnesota.”

The program also includes military honors and flag ceremony, as well as a dinner and cocktail reception. Attendees of the ball will enjoy legacy displays, live music, and a silent auction and raffle. Dancing, photo ops, and networking are encouraged.

“This event is a tribute to AAPI veterans who served with honor and dignity, and gives us an opportunity to reflect on their service and sacrifice,” said Yee Hang, President of the Minnesota AAPI Veterans Association and Colonel (Retired), US Army. “It is a bridge-building event that strengthens civic ties and celebrates the continuing impact that the AAPI cultures and communities have on the American story.”

Learn more and register at the event website: <https://mnaapiveterans.org/military-ball/>.

About the Minnesota AAPI Veterans Association

The Minnesota AAPI Veterans Association creates a supportive AAPI community for US Veterans and Vietnam War SGU veterans who have served our country. We provide supportive services and resources that meet their diverse and unique needs. We also strive to foster a culture of respect, gratitude, and solidarity among veterans and the community. Learn more at <https://mnaapiveterans.org/>.

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