

# Museum News

August 1, 2006



Welcome our new board members!

## Ms. Jeannie Leonard and RADM (USN Ret) James Lair

**Jeannie Leonard** has been a business owner and rancher most of her adult life. She is the owner/operator of 3 Quarter Horse Training and Breeding Facilities in Weatherford Texas, Baker City Oregon and Wrightwood California known collectively as the Diamond L Ranch, specializing in Supreme Champion Palomino Quarter Horses.



She attended the University of Southern California studying Marine Biology and Eastern Oregon University where she studied Computer Science, receiving a B.S. in both areas. She also has a vast professional medical and dental background, which she attributes to working with and helping her father in managing his pharmacies for most of her young

adult years.

She went on to work for Scripps Institute in the early 70's working with Naval Research. She has also acquired several different technical medical and dental licenses through the years, as she always wants to stay current in education. She worked as Office Manager and Human Resource Manager for various medical and dental Groups. She worked as Director for the St. Elizabeth Hospital Rehabilitation Wing while attending Eastern Oregon University.

She has also worked for TIC (The Industrial Company) on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Government Security Project #331 – Plaquemine Louisiana, where she was Security Manager, on site Photographer, and Safety Assistant.

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**Admiral Jim Lair** is a native of Los Angeles, California. He enlisted in the Marine Corps reserve in 1957, then entered the Navy through the Naval Aviation Cadet Program and earned his Wings and Commission in December 1961. He made three Western Pacific deployments flying from the Aircraft Carrier, Bennington. He next attended the Naval Postgraduate School and graduated in June 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations.

Flying the A-4 Skyhawk and A-7 Corsair II, Admiral Lair made two Combat Cruises aboard the USS



Ticonderoga, and USS Kitty Hawk flying over 200 Combat Missions over Vietnam. He then attended the School of Command and Staff at the Naval War College and received a MS in International Relations from the George Washington University. He then made a third Combat Cruise aboard the USS Coral Sea and

participated in the evacuation of South Vietnam and was one of the leaders in the recovery of the Merchant Ship Mayaguez.

He commanded Attack Squadron 146, Carrier Air Wing Six during the Lebanon Crisis, the USS Caloosahatchee and the Aircraft Carrier USS America (CV66).

Following his tour as Chief of Staff for Commander US Sixth Fleet he was promoted to Rear Admiral.

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(Jeannie Leonard continued)

She incorporated her own photography business into her horse business where she plans, organizes and implements all aspects of production, marketing and sales along with other sporting events. She has worked in the Multi-Media industry where she has been the Halftime Media Hostess for Reunion Arena/American Airlines Center covering professional Dallas Maverick basketball, Dallas Stars hockey, and Dallas Sidekick indoor soccer games, then, taking on the position of managing the Weatherford office for KFWR Radio Group.

Ever since she can remember she has always been family and community oriented and has served her community and church in many ways to include being a committee leader, on the Board of Directors and President of many different groups, such as U.S.C. Cardinal & Gold Club Life Member, Zonta International, Navy Relief Society, American Quarter Horse Association, National Cutting Horse Association, Palomino Horse Breeders Association past President / Ethics Committee Chairperson, Parker County Republican Women's Association, and Director of Women's Relief Society.

She has several family members and close friends who have been Naval Aviators, and others who are now presently serving valiantly in the military. She has always passionately supported them. One of the reasons she attributes her interest in being Director for the National Vietnam War Museum, is her love and admiration for her family member Admiral William P. Lawrence (Navy Retired) Fighter Pilot who was a P.O.W. in Vietnam for almost 6 years. In memory of Uncle Bill, The National Vietnam War Museum has now become her main project.

(Admiral Lair continued)

He then commanded Carrier Group Two and deployed to the Mediterranean during the Bosnian Crisis.

Rear Admiral Lair's active duty tour was as Director of Operations, Headquarters, US European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. He was responsible for the Air Land and Air Drop Re-supply Missions in Bosnia and enforcement of the No Fly Zone over Northern Iraq.

Admiral Lair has over 8000 flight hours and 1410 Carrier Landings. His personal awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, 4 Legions of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Award, 2 Individual Air Medals, 22 Strike Flight Air Medals and 4 Navy Commendation Medals with the Combat "V" and various campaign awards.

Retiring in 1995, he came to Texas and worked for Lockheed Martin on the Navy variant of the Joint Strike Fighter. He then managed the Flight Safety Learning Center at the DFW Airport. Currently, he's the Acting Federal Security Director for the D/FW International Airport.

*Your contribution of time and money  
are needed today to help  
build this museum.  
Please mail your contribution now  
or go to the web site and make a  
donation using a credit card.*

## Friends of the Museum Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre Raises \$11,000

March 25, the friend of the Museum hosted their annual spring fundraiser. This year, the Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre was held at the Holiday Hills Country Club in Mineral Wells, Texas.

The event was attended by over 250 people and the combined revenue from the event was \$10,000. An anonymous donor contributed \$1,000 on behalf of Jack Lowey so that Jack could become a member of the Founders Association of the Museum.

In addition to the revenue from the event, our local Sam's Club

provided a matching grant of \$1,000.00.

The food was great the entertainment was great and the auctioneer and his crew made the evening a complete success with their exuberance and entertaining auction.

Sponsors for the evening were:

### Chief Inspector

Baum-Carlock-Bumgardner  
Funeral Home

The Mega Health and Life  
Insurance Company

### Inspector

Best Western Clubhouse Inn and  
Suites

Larry and Carole Martin

### Sergeant

Bill and Kathleen Baker

David and Kathy Boswell

First National Bank of  
Weatherford

Weatherford National Bank

(List continues at  
the top of page 3)

(Murder Mystery Sponsors  
continued)

### Constable

Fran Acosta-Carlson M.D.  
Brazos Animal Hospital P.C.  
Col (USA Ret) and Mrs. Camp

Howard and Nelda Horton  
Jack Powell Lincoln-Mercury  
Herb Koenig  
Barry McHnery  
Bob Morris  
Ellyn Ponton

Pat Richardson  
Lavell Roberts  
Shires Garden Center  
Steve and Debbie Smith  
Wallace Voss

## Friends of the Museum announce upcoming events

The Friends of the Museum is a 501(c)(3) Texas Corporation whose mission is to raise funds and public awareness for The National Vietnam War Museum. The Friends publish a quarterly newsletter that is available for annual dues of \$10.00.

The Friends of the Museum focus

their activities in the local area around Parker County and Mineral Wells but also travel to special events to help spread the word about the museum.

Upcoming events are:

August 10-13 USMC/combat Helicopter Assn reunion in Fort Worth, TX.

October 14 - Crazy Water Festival in Mineral Wells, TX  
December - Christmas on the Square in Weatherford, TX  
March 23, 2007 - Spring Fund-raiser at the Worthington Hotel-  
**Mark your calendars now - this will sell out — Invitations will be mailed in January.**

## Construction to begin on first Memorial Garden

The National Vietnam War Museum will begin construction this fall on a memorial garden at the museum site. The northeast

corner of the property will be developed into a memorial garden that will contain a unique labyrinth pathway, a covered seating

area and memorials purchased by donors, including the museum bricks, along with memorial plaques and tablets.

## Founders Association — Join Us!

The Founders Association is comprised of groups or individuals who contribute \$1,000.00 or more before the groundbreaking for the museum. These people share our vision for building the National Vietnam War Museum. The current membership list follows:

Americal Division Veterans Assn.  
American Legion Post 75  
AMVETS of Tyler, Texas  
Jerry Barnes  
Baum Carlock Bumgardner Funeral Home  
Jean Bumgardner  
Jim and Erna Mae Buzbee  
Century Flight Systems  
City National Bank of Mineral Wells  
Deborah Clark  
Diamond L Ranch — Jeannie Leonard  
Bill Eubanks  
Flightline Partners LLC  
Matt M. Greer Sr.  
Robert Huckaby  
McGraw Motors  
Bill & Kathy McLaughlin  
Ray & Joann McQuaid  
Mineral Wells Area Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee  
Mineral Wells Wal-Mart

Don O'Neal  
Pantego Lions Foundation Inc  
Gary & Chris Salisbury  
Sam's Club #8277  
Scott Collins  
Sons of the Legion Squadron 75  
Special Operations Association  
Southwestern Bell Corporation Systems  
St Mark Lutheran Church of Mineral Wells  
Ted Thomas  
TROA — Fort Wolters Chapter  
VHPA—The Fort Wolters Chapter  
VHPA — Washington State Chapter  
The Friends of the Museum  
The Rotary Club of Mineral Wells  
The Terry Murphy Family LP  
The 282nd Assault Blackcats – Hue Section Aug 67—Feb 68  
VFW Post 2399  
Weatherford National Bank  
Weatherford Wal-Mart



P.O. Box 146, Mineral Wells, TX 76068-0146

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Weatherford, TX  
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[www.NationalVNWarMuseum.org](http://www.NationalVNWarMuseum.org)

*Understanding an Era*

Your help is needed to build the museum.  
Contribute online or mail your  
contributions to:

The National Vietnam War Museum  
P.O. Box 146  
Mineral Wells, Texas 76068-0146

*The National Vietnam War Museum was chartered in Mineral Wells, Texas, a small town located about 50 miles west of Fort Worth.*

It's mission is...

To promote an understanding of  
The Vietnam era while  
honoring those who served.



Concept drawing of the Main Entrance to the Museum