

Museum News

February 1, 2008



Museum to Build Vietnam Memorial Wall

Construction continues on Memorial Gardens at The National Vietnam War Museum. Volunteers have begun preliminary work preparing the site for a replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

The size and construction techniques are similar to the Moving Wall™, but this wall will be a permanent fixture on the museum grounds.

It will be built in a forest of Arizona Cypress trees accessed along a pathway of decomposed granite. Fundraising is proceeding well with 49 percent of the funds already pledged. If you are

interested in donating to this project, you may send checks to the museum: ATTN: Vietnam Memorial, P.O. Box 146, Mineral Wells, TX 76068, or log onto our Web site NationalVNWar-Museum.org, and click on the gift shop link.

Donations may be made through the gift shop using the order form and payment can be accomplished with credit card or PayPal.

Special donor categories have been established as follows:

Sponsors of the Wall - Initial funding—donors contributing \$10,000 or more will have their names on a large consolidated bronze plaque. The plaque will be placed at the entrance to the Vietnam Wall replica. It will recognize the Individuals or groups as the sponsors of the wall.

Bridge donor - \$10,000 - This donation will be

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Artists concept of the Vietnam Memorial Wall replica to be built in 2008 at
The National Vietnam War Museum.

What's Happening Now?

Empty Chair Exhibit

In keeping with Phase 1 of our plan, a reconstructed Memorial Wall from Camp Holloway (originally established at the base camp at Pleiku) is currently being installed on the museum grounds by the unit that maintained it in Vietnam (52nd Aviation Battalion). A dedication ceremony is scheduled for the fall of 2008.

This memorial is one of many special memorials built by Vietnam Veterans in honor of Vietnam Veterans and has become the spark for an exhibit sponsored by the museum called *The Empty Chair* exhibit. The exhibit will include field of battle commemorations, Geoffrey Steiner's Living Memorial, POW/MIA car, dog tag memorial at the Veterans Art Museum in Chicago, Agent Orange quilt squares, Aurence Hancock's artwork and other nontraditional expressions of remembrance will compliment & contextualize this moving event. While the Camp Holloway Wall will be a permanent part of the museum landscape, the exhibit will take its message to urban and rural communities in Texas and beyond.

The Community Arts Center gallery, a dignified 1600 square foot space in downtown Fort Worth, has been selected as the exhibit's inaugural setting. The Center is located in the cultural district in close physical proximity to a number of established museums. Public parking and handicapped accessibility are readily available.

The Arts Center is located at 1300 Gendy Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

This exhibit will highlight Vietnam Memorials created for Vietnam Veterans by Vietnam Veterans. with the emphasis on individual memorials. As an example, the National Vietnam Memorial will not be an exhibit because of its national scope. The Camp Holloway Memorial Wall however is being built by Vietnam Veterans and is dedicated to the Vietnam Veterans of Camp Holloway and will therefore be included in the *Empty Chair* exhibit.

How can you help?

Planning for the exhibit is in its preliminary phase and we are looking for sponsors to support this exhibit. The budget is approximately \$35,000. A sponsor will be a group or individual donating \$10,000 or more for the event. Donated funds will be placed in escrow and refunded if the event does not occur. It is planned for June 2009.

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(Vietnam Memorial Garden from page 1)
recognized on a plaque by the bridge.

Sponsors of the Garden - Donors of \$5,000 or more but less than \$10,000 will have their names placed on a similar plaque at the entrance to the forest. It will recognize them as sponsors of the garden.

Tree donors—\$1,000 or more and less than \$5000 will be recognized on a combined plaque at the entrance to the forest.

Flags - Donors of \$500 or more but less than \$1000 will be recognized as flag donors on a plaque near the flags. Multiple donors are permitted, as many flags will be purchased over the years.

Memorial Plaque - \$250 individual or organization - "In Honor of Those Who Served" engraved on a stone tablet with donors name.

All donors will be recognized in the museum newsletter.

Spring Fundraiser March 29, 2008

If you received this newsletter, you should also have received your invitation to the 2008 fundraiser. The invitations were mailed the first of January. If you didn't get an invitation, come out anyway. Invitations are not required. However, this event is normally sold out before it starts, so please don't procrastinate.

This year's fundraiser promises to be an interesting and different event. We have hired Steven Landis as our primary entertainment. Steven is an accomplished magician and ventriloquist and will bring some of his talkative friends to visit with us. The dinner is at Los Vaqueros West Restaurant which is located in Willow Park, TX just west of Fort Worth. Take I-30 or I20 west (or I20 East) to exit 418. Take the service road on the north side of the interstate west about a mile. The restaurant is set back from the road a little, but its sign is easy to see. Our party is in the special building behind the main restaurant.

Cocktails are available at the cash bar beginning at 6:00 PM. Dinner will start at 6:30 PM and the show at 7:15 PM.

After Steven is finished, we'll bring out our favorite auctioneer Scott Edmond. Scott has been the auctioneer for this event, 5 of the 7 years we've hosted it. If you haven't been to one of his auctions, this is a good time to show up. If you have been to one, this one will be better!

(Empty Chair continued from page 2)

Please contact Jim Messinger, messinger@wc.edu, or 940-664-3918 if you are interested in sponsorship of this event.

Other donation opportunities will be announced in our August newsletter.

Founders Association Join Us!

Understanding an Era

Your help is needed to build the museum.

Contribute online NationalVNWarMuseum.org or mail your contributions to: The National Vietnam War Museum, P.O. Box 146, Mineral Wells, Texas 76068-0146

Three new Founders have joined us after the fundraiser invitation was sent out, so their names will not appear on the invitation. Our newest members are:

The Brazos Foundation

Kirk Horton

Bert Rice

Thanks to all our founders! The museum gets closer to completion every time someone else joins us.

The Founders Association comprises 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

Thanks to all our supporters!

Together we have cleared the land, built a beautiful garden, and a parking lot. But this is just the beginning. 2008 will bring more projects to completion!

Thank you!

Rock Creek Link Trail Project Complete!

Last summer, the museum completed the connection from the museum grounds to the Lake Mineral Wells State Park Trailway. Interested people can use the trail to access the museum, or use the museum entrance to enjoy the hiking/biking trail. Lake Mineral Wells State Park is the most visited state park in Texas. The museum enjoys a great joint relationship with the park

Camp Holloway Memorial Wall project

This project has proceeded slowly for a number of reasons, but volunteers from the 52nd Aviation Battalion continue their efforts. They plan to finish the wall in the Spring, and have scheduled a dedication ceremony for November 8, 2008 at 11:00 am. Mark your calendars now and watch for detailed news in the August newsletter.

Upcoming Events

March 29 - Spring Fundraiser - Weatherford

July 1-4 - VHPA reunion, San Antonio

September 27 - Ultra Run (Run From the Ducks 2nd Annual) - Clark Gardens (near Mineral Wells). We need volunteers to count laps at this event. 8am - 4pm. Call 940-664-3918 if you can help for 2 hours or more or e-mail: messinger@wc.edu.

October 14 - Crazy Water Festival - Mineral Wells - Gift shop setup.

November 8 - Dedication ceremony for the Camp Holloway Memorial Wall

Museum Donations

igive.com & giveline.com

Want to donate someone else's money to the museum? Do you shop online? Now you can donate to the museum simply by shopping online. Depending on what store you buy from, a percentage of what you spend will go to the museum. Here's how it works:

- 1) Go to www.igive.com Use this web site to begin your shopping. All stores connected to igive will donate a percentage of your purchases to the museum. More than 800 stores are associated with igive and more sign up each month.
- 2) Don't like igive? Go to giveline.com and do a similar thing.



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

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Museum Bricks laid

2007 was a busy year for museum volunteers. The memorial bricks were finally delivered and the first 383 bricks were in place August 1, 2007.

The brick company had several delays due to equipment breakdowns, but are now producing bricks on a regular basis for us.

If you donated a brick before November 18, 2007, it has been engraved and placed in the ground at the garden.

If you know your brick number, brick 406 was the last one placed. We expect now to produce and install bricks within 90 days of ordering.

www.NationalVNWarMuseum.org

The mission of the museum is:

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



(left to right) Ralph Lister, Joe Skarda, Jim Messinger, and Gary Salisbury complete the installation of the first 383 bricks in the Meditation Garden under the hot August sun. (photo by Iola Messinger)

Space is still available in the Meditation Garden for bricks, plaques or tablets to memorialize family members, friends or organizations that served in the Vietnam war."