

# Museum News

August 1, 2007



## Meditation Garden Ribbon Cutting

More than 200 people attended a June 2 ribbon cutting for the National Vietnam War Museum Meditation Garden.

Thanks to our benefactors:

Gazebo - Don O'Neal (in memory of his father) and recognition of O'Neal Distributing Company.

Labyrinth Trail - TTI Inc and Mineral Wells Area Chamber of Commerce

Large trees - Health Markets (5), Robert Scott, Bennet's Brazos Printing, Jerry & Loletta Staggs.

Small Trees - 2nd Aviation Brigade (2), Weatherford National Bank, Fort Wolters Chapter VHPA, Mike & Janet Holland.

Memorial Stone Plaque - Cowboy Stone Carvers, American Legion Post 163, First National Bank of Graford, Best Western Inn and Suites, Richard Hanson, John & Angela Hampton, Teresa & Claude Blackburn, Friends of the

Museum, J. Robert & Doris Causbie, Allen & Helen Jane Werst, Chick Luther.

Other donors - Bob Ford, Barry & Annie McHenry, Jim & Iola Messinger, Adam Runk, Jeannie Leonard.

In-Kind donors— Substantial support was and continues to be provided for maintenance of the garden by: Jim & Iola Messinger, Ralph Lister, Corrections Corporation of America, Stuart Nursery, and Parker County Master Gardener Association.

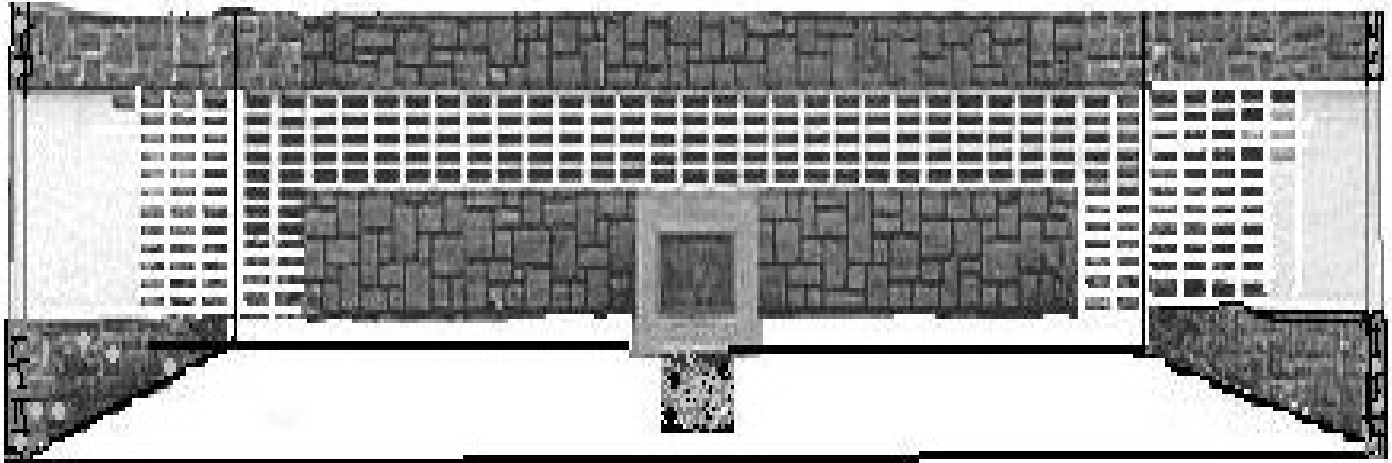
A few things remain to be done. The memorial bricks did not arrive in time for the ribbon cutting and will be placed as soon as they are delivered. A combined recognition plaque needs to be created and erected as well as signage for the garden. Additional trees, and memorial stone plaques may be purchased at any time and added to the garden. Finally, we need volunteers to help maintain and improve the gardens. More gardens are in the planning stages and much construction will continue on site over the next several years, culminating with the museum building. The meditation garden is open 24/7, so please stop by when you get a chance.



The Museum Board of Directors receives a check from the Mineral Wells Area Chamber of Commerce (Amy Kampfer, Ninfa Holly) The chamber sponsored one of the two labyrinth trails in the garden. (photo courtesy of Iola Messinger)

## What's Happening Now?

### The Camp Holloway Memorial Wall 52nd Aviation Battalion Begins Construction



The 52nd Aviation Battalion is building a replica of the Camp Holloway Memorial Wall that they built in Pleiku, Vietnam during the Vietnam War. The wall contains the names of those members of the battalion who paid the ultimate price of war.

Construction began in May with a groundbreaking ceremony and will continue over the next several months. A dedication ceremony is planned for October of 2008 during the battalion's annual reunion. The public will be invited, so watch this newsletter for details and plan to attend this momentous event. The 52nd Battalion is seeking help with this project.

#### How Can You Help?

The total cost of construction is estimated at \$40,000 to \$60,000. Some donated and discounted materials are being provided and volunteers are offering their services to reduce the cost. However, your significant contributions will still be needed to complete the wall.

The Friends of the Museum have volunteered to collect donations for this project. Send checks to Friends of the Museum, P.O. Box 146, Mineral Wells, TX 76068. Be sure to include a note that the donation is for the Camp Holloway Wall. Donations may also be made through the museum's online gift shop at [NationalVNWarMuseum.org](http://NationalVNWarMuseum.org) (click on the gift shop button). Just enter the amount of your donation in the donation box and add a comment telling us that the dona-

tion is for the Holloway wall. Donations are tax deductible.

We also need your help to spread the word that this project is underway. The public will be invited to the dedication ceremony and the 52nd Aviation Battalion would especially like to see family members of those listed on the wall invited to the dedication. For more information, contact Gerry Sandlin by email [gerrysandlin189@hughes.net](mailto:gerrysandlin189@hughes.net) or call 928-344-5613/541-587-4476 or cell 619-507-2213. If we do not answer please call back.

### Museum Donations

#### **igive.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](http://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) If you like, you can download software from igive's web site that will tell you if a store you shop at is associated with igive. A small dialogue box opens and informs you of the percent to be donated.

## What's Next? Rock Creek Link Trail Project

The museum has signed an agreement with the Lake Mineral Wells State Park to create a link trail from the State Park Trail system to the Meditation Garden. Of course this link trail will allow visitors to enjoy all the improvements on the museum property as it develops.

The name Rock Creek was chosen for this link trail because the town of Rock Creek, a once-successful coal-mining town, was formerly located adjacent to the southern edge of the museum property. Settlement in Rock Creek began in the late 1870s. Originally, the village served as a church community for nearby farmers and ranchers. Later, it adopted the name Rock Creek after the railroad that reached the area in the 1880s. In 1891, a post office branch opened to serve the estimated 75 residents.

By the mid-1890s, Rock Creek had been transformed into a thriving mining community. The population reached 400 in 1896 and was estimated at 1,500 during the first decade of the twentieth century. Mining and coal shipment peaked between 1900 and 1910. After 1910, the cost of recovering the coal became prohibitive and the mines closed.

Over the next few years, more and more residents left, until all that remained was the town's cemetery. During World War II, Camp Wolters was extended to cover the original town site of Rock Creek.

The Rock Creek link will be built this year, perhaps this summer depending on the weather.

## Upcoming Events Planned for the Friends of the Museum

September 22 - Ultra Run (Run From the Ducks) - 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.**

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

November - Veterans Day parade - Weatherford - All museum vehicles that have drivers will participate.

February 2 - Tet Reunion - Abilene TX- Gift shop setup

March 29 - Spring Fundraiser - Weatherford

## Spring Fundraiser

Another successful Spring fundraiser thanks to our sponsors:

Chief Inspector

Baum-Carlock-Bumgardner Funeral Home

Health Markets

Edward Blackburne

Mineral Wells Wal Mart

Stan & Lindi Wiley

Norm McMullen

Sergeant

David & Kathy Boswell

Constable

Doris Kinback

Steve & Debbie Smith

Stan Steenbock

Bob Morris

Pat Richardson

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Greggory Bruce, Francis Gerber, Dale & Judy Lee,

W.I. Thurmon, Richard Hanson, David Barksdale,

Ron & Brenda Cook, Mary Creighton, Sid Achee,

BP Matching Fund Program.

We filled the room at the Worthington Hotel in Fort Worth and raised over \$7,000. Next spring promises to be an interesting and different event.

A ventriloquist is the entertainment and our auctioneer is Scott Edmond. Mark March 29 on your 2008 calendar. We expect to have the event at Dos Vaqueros in Willow Park, TX.

## Founders Association Join 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.



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

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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.

*Don't forget!*

*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."*