

Museum News

September 2009



Unveiling of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

Over 2,000 people attended the unveiling ceremony on May 30. We now have a permanent replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in place for anyone to visit 24/7.

A DVD of the event was made by a local videographer and is available for \$20.00 from the museum. Send a check to P.O. 146, Mineral Wells, TX or go to the online gift shop and enter Unveiling DVD in the comment line and \$20.00 in the charge line.

In the picture below, you can see cars parked under the bridge, beside the highway and our 12

acres full of cars and motorcycles. In the center of the picture, you will see an American flag that is hanging from the leg of Dana Bowman as he parachutes in to begin the event.

Joe Galloway gave an inspirational presentation. Music was provided by the Hog Leg Band and Tory Powers. The Liberty Bell was on hand for all to ring, and hundreds of Patriot Guard Riders encircled the event. Governor Perry sent a special message as did Congresswoman Kay Granger. The Travis Elementary School cadets sang the Armed Forces Medley and the Star Spangled Banner while the colors were presented. The presentation of the colors included the South Vietnamese color guard presenting the South Vietnamese colors. A large contingent of



Photo Courtesy of Terry Evans

the local Vietnamese community turned out to honor our fallen comrades.

We want to thank our donors for making this event and the wall possible: The primary donors for the wall were Baum-Carlock-Bumgardner Funeral Home, The Brazos Foundation, Kirk Horton, Richard Signs and Cranes, Betty Boyd Dettre, and Friends of the Museum.

Sponsors of the garden. Carl E. Kessler Family Foundation. Community Foundation of North Texas.

Flag donors. American Aerial Sales Material and Equipment Donors: Antelope Oil & Tool, Award Oil Company, Bowden's Guaranteed Hydromulch, Margaret & Glenda Bullard, Roy Burns, Alan & Leah Davis, Harvey Davis, Jamie French, Frank McInroe, Dwayne Simpson, Joe & Margaret Young.

Special visitors at the unveiling were: BG Nate Vail, USA Ret, BG Jim Spivey USA Ret., Colonel Luan Phan ARVN Ret, and Major Tien Pham SVMC Ret. Colonel Tony Pounds and his wife Audrey representing Sheppard Air Force Base, Col Larry Patterson USA Ret, LTC Greg Cheney USA not retired, and Dr Ronny Collins, Supt MWISD.

Event sponsors were: Patron - John & Monica Chesnut, and First Financial Bank. Builder - Baum-Carlock-Bumgardner Funeral Home, Frances Hobby, Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, Choi & Jeanette Nguyen, and Allan and Helen Jane Werst. Engraver - Howard Horton and Doris Kinback. Supporter - Bar Double Ought Ranch, Kurt Noll, Jerry Lampier and Goodson Golf Cars.

Ice was provided by the Mineral Wells Ice Company and water by Brazos Valley Spring Water Company (Eventide).

In June and August we planted 87 of the 96 trees that will surround the wall. I hope that all of you can visit our wall in the future to see what a beautiful area it is.



The wall, photo courtesy of Terry Evans

TRIBUTE - Expressions of Loss and Remembrance by Vietnam Veterans

The month of June featured our exhibit TRIBUTE - expressions of loss and remembrance by Vietnam Veterans at the Fort Worth Community Art Center. The event was well attended and provided the community with a wonderful exhibit highlighting various tributes created by veterans of the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy.

The exhibitors were John Hinton, Mike Peterson, Aurence Hancock, Roberto Sifuentes, Craig L. White, the 1st Battalion of the 9th Marine Regiment, Helen White, Mel Lutgring, Rick McCarty, Luis Gonzales, Jonathan Myer, Dick Jonas, Charles D. Jones, Geoffrey Steiner, Dennis E. Wood, Rockland County NY VVA Chapter 333, George Claxton, Max Loffgren,

The exhibition was made possible in part by grants from Humanities Texas, the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Puffin Foundation Ltd, and donations from The Friends of the Museum, and Pat Lemmon.

We have created a catalogue of the exhibit which includes full color pictures of the exhibits and stories of the exhibitors. The catalogue is available to anyone for \$5.00 a copy. Send a check or money order to The Friends of the Museum, P.O. Box 146 Mineral Wells, TX 76068.

A special thanks to Colette Lemmon, our Curatorial Consultant who was responsible for finding the exhibitors, writing grants, creating the story line, and supervising the set up and tear down of the exhibit. The exhibit can be re-built at other venues and we would love to hear from any of you that know of a venue that would host the exhibit. We are currently looking at possible locations in Colorado, Louisiana, and New York.



Left, people enjoy the opening ceremony entertainment
Right, Visitors to the exhibit. (Photos courtesy of Wayne Sanderson)

We can do more with your help

The museum has acquired a mobile home that was the home of the Secret Service at the ranch of then President George W. Bush. This building is 2500 square feet of space that is being remodeled into a Visitor Center (see Artists' Concept on the back page).

When completed this building will house a small exhibit space (about 500 square feet), a reception area, two offices, storage for artifacts, a conference area and full kitchen in addition to the reception area and small gift shop.

Visitors will be able to purchase items, view the interior exhibits and receive a briefing on the plans for the future developments of the museum.

We will be displaying our donors and the Memorial Plaques that have been purchased and can be purchased for a donation of \$1,0000 (see the web site for details www.NationalVNWarMuseum.org).

You will be able to come visit us in inclement weather and have an indoor facility. Donations are being accepted for this project. Send donations by check or money order to The National Vietnam War Museum, P.O. Box 146, Mineral Wells, TX 76068. Or if you prefer, go to our online gift shop and complete the order form with a dollar amount that you enter and use your credit card or PayPal for payment.

We hope to open the center in 2010. Volunteers are working hard to complete the center.

Coming Events

October 3, 2009 - Museum will co-host a half marathon with Clark Gardens. Contact Clark Gardens for details to enter or come by the museum site that morning to volunteer and watch.

October 10, 2009 - Crazy Water Festival, Mineral Wells. The Friends of the Museum will have their movable gift shop on display. Come by and help or buy something and see the free festival.

November, 2009 - Veterans Day parade in Weatherford. Museum volunteers will drive/ride in our new 2 1/2 ton truck.

Friends of the Museum

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 newsletter three times a year that is available for annual dues of \$10. To get the newsletter send a check to Friends of the Museum, P.O. Box 146, Mineral Wells, TX 76068. Or go to the Museum web site, click on the gift shop link and scroll down to the order form.

Founders Association

Founders Association continues to grow. New members since our last newsletter are:

Virginia Lee Upham
Al & Linda Molinaro
Heli-Tex Properties Ltd
Del Belanger
David Marquez
LTC Charles H. Dunn USA Ret
Bruce & Mary Smith
Phil Myhra
Jim & Iola Messinger
Vietnam Helicopter Crewmembers
Association International

The Founders Association consists of groups or individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more before the groundbreaking for the main museum building. These people share our vision for building the National Vietnam War Museum.

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.

A special stone honoring our veterans can be placed in the Mediation Garden for a donation of \$250. The first line on the stone is engraved: In Honor of Those Who Served. You may add a second line with your name or an organizations name.



The mission of the museum is:

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

www.NationalVNWarMuseum.org



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

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Artist Concept Visitor Center

