

Museum News

May 2014



5th Annual Updating of the Wall

JUNE 7, 2014 9:45 A.M.
THE NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR MUSEUM
12685 MINERAL WELLS HWY.
(Hwy. 180)
1 MILE EAST OF MINERAL WELLS, TX



Join us as we honor the four men, whose names were added to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington last year, by adding their names to our replica Memorial Wall.

ABE3 Clark D Franklin, U.S. Navy, Carlsbad, NM Panel 15E, Line 94.
SGT Dennis R. Siverling, U.S. Marine Corps, Ladysmith, WI, Panel 18E, Line 23. SPC Raymond C. Thompson, U.S. Army, West Palm Beach, FL, Panel 8W, Line 3. PFC Lester J Veazey, U.S. Marine Corps, Enid, OK, Panel 35E, Line 2.

Also a special welcome home to recovered MIAs:

Air Force Lt. Col. Clarence Finley Blanton of El Reno, Okla., Panel 44E, Line 13, Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Mack Brown of Portsmouth, Va., Panel 1W, Line 90, Air Force Col. Joseph Christiano of Rochester, N.Y., Panel 4E, Line 36, Air Force Chief Master Sgt. William Kevin Colwell of Glen Cove, N.Y., Panel 4E, Line 36, Air Force Capt. Dennis Lee Eilers of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Panel 4E, Line 37, Air Force Maj. Larry James Hanley of Walla Walla, Wash., Panel 16W, Line 29, Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Arden Keith Hassenger of Lebanon, Ore., Panel 4E, Line 37, Air Force Col. Derrell Blackburn Jeffords of Phoenix, Panel 4E, Line 37, Air Force Lt. Col. Wendell Richard Keller of Fargo, N.D., Panel 30W, Line 5, Air Force Maj. Aado Kommandant of Lakewood, N.J., Panel 9E, Line 114, Air Force Capt. Virgil Kersh Meroney III of Fayetteville, Ariz., Panel 30W, Line 6, Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Larry C Thornton of Idaho Falls, Idaho, Panel 4E, Line 38, Air Force Airman 1st Class Jerry Mack Wall of Nacogdoches, Texas, Panel 7E, Line 84, Army Sgt. 1st Class Gunther Herbert Wald of Bergen, N.J., Panel 16W, Line 25.

As usual a variety of vendors will be on hand to provide food, drink and lots of other offerings.

Program of Activities (times are approximate)

- 08:00 - Gates open; vendors set up
DAV Chapter 235 has Egg and Sausage Burritos for sale. Chili Dogs & Frito Pies at lunch.
- 09:45 - Patriot Guard Arrives
- 10:00 - Welcome - Jim Messinger
- 10:05 - Comments from Congressman Mike Conaway Representative
- 10:10 - Invocation—BG James Spivey USA Ret Museum Chaplain.
- 10:20 Post colors - Color Guard Denton VVA Post 920
- 10:25 Pledge of Allegiance
- 10:30 National Anthem - Monica Harvey
- 10:35 Monica Harvey “Lil Sis” Sings “Welcome Home”
- 10:40 - Introductions: Sponsors, special guests, museum board & volunteers
- 10:50 Introduction of Army Guest Speaker by Jim Vines, Commander AMVETS Post
- 11:00 - Remarks by Army Guest Speaker - Cpt Sarah L. Blum USA, Retired.
- 11:10 - Introduction of Marine Corps guest speaker
- 11:15 Remarks by Marine Corps Speaker - Col Mant Hawkins USMC, Retired
- 11:25 - Introduction of Navy Guest speaker
- 11:30 - Remarks by Captain Gilbert J. Miller, USN
- 11:40 - Bagpiper Tune for the USS Frank E. Evans - James Hiley
- 11:45 - The Army Song - Raising of the U.S. Army flag; The Marine Corps Hymn - Raising the Marine Flag; Anchors Aweigh - Raising of the U.S. Navy Flag; Unveiling of the updated Memorial Wall panels
- 11:55 - Rifle Salute - Denton VVA Post 920
- 12:00 - Taps - Denton VVA Post 920
- 12:02 - Visit the Wall, our vendors, and the Visitor Center. Current Exhibit - The Kent State Shooting.

Sponsorships Available!

Become a sponsor of this event—send a check or credit card info to: The National Vietnam War Museum, P.O. Box 146, Mineral Wells, TX 76068. **Seats can be reserved for \$50 each.**

Medal of Honor	\$1000 (6 seats included)
Army Distinguished Service Cross	\$500 (4 seats included)
Navy Cross	\$250 (2 seats included)

Sponsors will have reserved seats in the tent and be recognized at the event and in the museum newsletter.

Friends of the Museum Spring Fundraiser Results

If you missed the fundraiser, you missed one of the best. Aaron's Catering provided a great carved tenderloin with second helpings available to all. Cindy Renee' and Company provided music that many people complimented. I actually heard more compliments at this event than the last 2 or 3 combined.

The silent auction produced over \$3,000 in revenue and the live auction went over \$4,000. All combined yielded a net of \$13,000 for the museum.

The sponsors this year were: **Buffalo** - Richard & Anne Hanson, James & Patrica Key, Tim & April Gorog, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Assn, Betty Boyd Dettre. **Deer** - Palo Pinto General Hospital, Ventamatic LTD, Allan & Helen Jane Werst, First Financial Bank Weatherford, David & Kathy Boswell. **Beaver** - Sanna & Paul Roling, CVMA-TX 23-1, Intaglio Composites, Col Kim Olson USAF (Ret), James & Terri Collins, LTC Gary Christensen USAF (Ret), Fred & Freda Zacher, Wallace Voss, Barry & Annie McHenry. **Rabbit** - Suzy Messinger, Rick & Linda Singleton, Norm & Margaret McMullen, JoAnn Barnhart, Pat Bazzell, Bob & Vicki Poland, Steve & Debbie Smith, Bill & Judy Murphy, Mr. & Mrs Dave Deison, Old School Pizza, Mike & Janet Holland, JC & SJ Campbell, Wayne & Ginny Sanderson, Maj Thomas A. Spencer AUS (Ret), Stanley & Jolene McGowen, Gail Morgan, Butch & D.J. Benson, Lance &

Leann Howerton, Rex & Bonita Payne, R.J. Property Group LLC, Ted & Loree Long, Barry & Michele Walker, Mark & Sherri Benson, Skip & Marty Humphrey Jr, VFW Post 7835.

Auction items came in from Ace Hardware of Mineral Wells, Anonymous, Carole Martin, Christie Bellah, Coors of Mineral Wells, Dave Buschow, Dave Pashby, Don Brunson, Double H Tires of Mineral Wells, Ducks Unlimited, Edd Luttenberger, El Paseo, Mineral Wells, Elliott Electric, Mineral Wells, Friends of the Museum, Friends of the NRA, Furr Building Materials of Mineral Wells, Garrets Jewelry of Mineral Wells, Gloria Luttenberger, Hayward Bellah, Jim Vines, Jimmy Harman, Larry Martin, Linda Butler, Lorraine Pashby, O'Reilly Auto Parts of Mineral Wells, Ralph Proctor, Simms Lumber, Sutherlands of Mineral Wells, Till Hezel, and Tractor Supply of Mineral Wells.

And finally, thanks to all who came out and hand a good time. We raised over \$13,000 for the museum.

Founders Association

New Founders this issue are **David & Kathy Boswell, Melba Mahoney, Donald L. Brunson**. There's still time for you to join. Send a check or credit card info to PO Box 146, Mineral Wells, TX 76068. \$1,000 or more gets you on the list. The Founders are people who share our vision for building The National Vietnam War Museum.

The mission of the museum is:

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

USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) Memorial Dedication June 7

In May, 1969, USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) was dispatched from performing gun fire support off the coast of South Vietnam to participate in a SEATO exercise with 40 ships from 7 nations. The exercise was conducted approximately 100 miles just outside the designated combat zone as a show of force to the North Vietnamese. On 3 June, 1969, during the exercise USS Frank E. Evans collided with the Australian Aircraft Carrier HMAS Melbourne (R21) and was cut in half. The forward section of USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) sank in 1100 fathoms of water within 3 minutes. Seventy-four lives were lost. USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) was struck from the Navy Register in July, 1969.

USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) Association, Inc. is placing markers at appropriate places in each state of record for the lost 74. The Association is also petitioning to have the 74 names added to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall in Washington D.C.

(Summarized from <http://www.ussfee.org/>)

The National Vietnam War Museum is proud to have been selected as the site for the Texas sailors who were lost and has asked to be considered for a marker honoring the entire 74.

USS Frank E. Evans at Sea 1963

Picture from Wikimedia Commons



Eagle Scout Update

Andrew McNay had an army of helpers at the museum Saturday April 12. There were scouts, and Moms and Dads all working from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. There is a beautiful bridge sitting beside the Reflection Garden getting ready to take it's place as the connector to our future garden. We've always planned to move East from the Reflection Garden and Andrew has given us that opportunity. May 3 Andrew will be back with his crew to install the bridge (the concrete footings will be dry). In addition to the bridge work some of his army weeded the current garden providing a helping hand to the Master Gardener crew. Final report on this project will be in the next issue.

www.NationalVnWarMuseum.org

Volunteer Banquet

This years volunteer banquet was held at Tucker Red's in Willow Park. The "Top Ten" were recognized (based on total hours) Charles McCaskill, Jesse Luten, Gary Salisbury, Dave Pashby, Clay Roundtree, Kenny Haines, Boyd Buchholz, Gary Robinson, Rodney Butler, Spencer Gardner. Last year 53 volunteers worked 3,966 total hours.

Coming Events

June 7 - Update the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Activities usually begin around 8:00 am. See details on the front and back pages



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

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5th Annual Updating of the Wall

RESERVED SEATING AVAILABLE

A limited number of reserved seats at the front of the big tent with an excellent view of the ceremony are available for only \$50. To order, please send a check or credit card info to: The National Vietnam War Museum, P.O. Box 146, Mineral Wells, TX 76068. Donor opportunities are on page 1.

When you're moving 35 tons, you call the big crane (130 ton) from Hurd cranes (left photo). Once it's in the air, it's a one man job to turn it around (right photo). LVTP-5 finally gets pointed in the right direction.

