

Museum News

January 2015



JRB Welcome Home

Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base (Carswell Field), Texas has begun primary coordination to conduct an annual program for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War from 2015 - 2025. It is this installation's intent to reach out to each and every Vietnam Veteran in Texas and surrounding states in order to publicize the commemoration and invite all interested veterans and their families to be our guests for future events.

This particular email is primarily meant to establish communications with all Texas Veteran-based military support organizations as a means to inform you of upcoming events. It is also intended to identify one local North Texas representative from each organization and offer the opportunity to serve on our planning committee. This will enable each organization to have an equal voice in planning, coordination and implementation of NAS Fort Worth JRB's proposed FY'15 event.

BACKGROUND. NAS Fort Worth JRB has been authorized by the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Commemoration objectives, as established in the legislation, are:

To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war (POW) or listed as missing in action (MIA), for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States; and

to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal Agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.

To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

PURPOSE. The Commemoration's intent is to assist a grateful Nation in recognizing and thanking Vietnam War veterans and their families, the fallen, the wounded, former POWs, MIAs and the unaccounted for, the home front, our allies, Federal agencies, and governmental and nongovernmental organizations that supported those that served; and to achieve the Commemoration objectives established in the legislation.

The commemoration will be Vietnam veteran-focused to honor their service, valor, sacrifices, and their families.

The Commemoration will be predominantly hometown-centric but will include international, national, and regional elements. Events will be conducted as commemorations, not as celebrations, and will involve the American public at every



possible opportunity. Examples of commemoration activities and events will be discussed during NAS Fort Worth JRB's planning committee meetings, held monthly on base. Every attempt will be made to avoid commercialization or to create an atmosphere that would distract from the dignity and solemnity of these events and to ensure that activities and events are fiscally, legally, and ethically sound.

This Commemoration offers NAS Fort Worth JRB and the surrounding communities an opportunity to plan and support commemorative events that help educate and directly involve the American public. It will attempt to provide the American public with a clearer understanding and appreciation of the history of the Vietnam War and the lessons learned. As the Department commemorates the service, valor, and sacrifice of all who served, those individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who are missing in action and those still unaccounted for must also be remembered with dignity and respect. Throughout all phases, the Commemoration will support the commitment of the Nation to achieve the fullest possible accounting for missing U.S. personnel and those Vietnam veterans who have not yet returned.

57th AHC 5K Run 2K Walk

The 57th Assault Helicopter Company has elected to sponsor a 5K run and a 2K walk (for those who don't run) with the proceeds benefiting the museum. If running and/or walking are of interest to you, you can sign up for the event at:

www.runforthe57thahc.com

The event is May 16 in the Possum Kingdom Lake area and is in conjunction with a reunion for the 57th AHC.

Thanks 57th for thinking of us.

Volunteer Banquet

The annual volunteer banquet location has changed to Rail Head Smokehouse in Willow Park, TX. It seems the other venue, Tucker Red's, went out of business.

Founders Association

New Founders this issue are **Donald & Beverly Nelms, Tim & April Gorog, and Katie Daniels**. 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.

14th Annual Fundraiser Hosted by the Friends of the Museum

The invitations will be in the mail the first week of January, about the same time this newsletter is mailed. If you get both, you are in good shape. The information should be the same: March 28, 2015 at the Holiday Hills Country Club. Tickets are \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door **if any are left**. **Please reserve early as we expect a larger than normal attendance this year**. We'll have a buffet of fried catfish, chicken cordon bleu, side dishes, and cheesecakes for dessert. Cash bar, silent and live auctions and special entertainment by comedian Dean Lewis .

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.

Happenings at the Museum

Drought - Mineral Wells and the area are in severe drought and that has had an adverse effect on the museum gardening plans.

Water tank donor needed - Our Master Gardner advisors are looking for a rainwater collection tank (2500 gallon). That could hold sufficient water to carry us through a small drought, and we want to get the rainwater system established before the next rain. If someone is interested in donating a tank, we would be proud to accept it.

New irrigation system - The new drip irrigation system for the Service gardens was completed just before the drought entered Stage 4. When it rains again, the system is ready to be turned on to water the Semper Fi and Navy gardens. As the other service gardens are built, the system will expand to cover them. The other three service gardens (Air Force, Army, and Coast Guard) are awaiting members of those services to begin their respective projects.

Semper Fi Garden - Plans for completing this garden are on hold as the Mineral Wells area is in a major water crisis. Lake Palo Pinto is 10% capacity and that represents less than 6 months supply. As a result, no outside watering can take place. We don't want to plant things without water. We'll get back to this project when the water supply is restored.

Navy Garden - The marker for the 74 sailors lost in the sinking of the Frank E. Evans is out of the print shop and should be installed soon (this year). Plans can then be developed for plantings and other items.

The mission of the museum is:

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

www.NationalVnWarMuseum.org

Andrew McNay and crew



Andrew completed his bridge project for the Eagle Scout award, and we had a short dedication ceremony attended by his supporters. Well done, Andrew. We're now ready to start the next phase.

Southern Airways Memorial Dedicated August 30

At 3:00 pm Saturday, August 30, the Southern Airways Association dedicated a memorial to Southern Airways. The weather was uncooperative with respect to wind, but the ceremony proceeded without incident. This memorial is an additional attraction at the main gate to Fort Wolters, TX.

Coming Events

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| January 17 | Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon |
| March 28 | Friends of the Museum Annual Fundraiser |
| May 16 | 57th AHC 5K run 2k walk |
| May 7 | JRB Welcome Home |
| June 6 | Update the Wall |



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

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Candle Tree plant outside the Visitor Center has garnered the most interest this season of all our plants - just over 6 feet tall and over 12 feet wide.

