

Museum News

September 2013

The NATIONAL
VIETNAM WAR
MUSEUM

Happenings at the Museum

People are always asking what's going on at the museum. Usually I'm too busy to remember it all, so I tried to make some notes that would help me get it together for this end of the year issue.

Eagle Scouts

An Eagle Scout (Dustin Rollings) project began our Reflection Garden that now contains the seven flags of the countries besides us who were involved in the Vietnam War. The museum volunteers and the Master Gardeners have added decorations to the original work. Now another scout (Andrew McNay) preparing for his Eagle Scout award has volunteered to add the bridge to the garden that was in the original master plan. Eventually, the Reflection Garden will encompass all of the green area west of the Meditation Garden. Perhaps another scout will show up to tackle the next phase. In addition to that project, we have a third scout who has volunteered to begin building our picnic area, west of the Visitor Center.

Semper Fi Garden

The Marine Corps League in Granbury has installed a beautiful flagpole in the Semper Fi Garden and work is in progress for a Marine Corps Emblem embedded in granite. Still too early to share exactly what that will look like, but the garden continues to grow.



Navy Garden
The garden dedicated to the Navy has begun the design process. The museum board approved the first item at the July meeting when JC

Campbell approached them with the story of his ship the USS Frank E. Evans. It seems the USS Evans was on a mission, outside the official waters of the Vietnam War when a terrible accident resulted in the loss of 74 crewmembers. The ship started the mission in Vietnam waters and returned to Vietnam waters, but because the men were lost outside the official war zone, the names of those seamen are not permitted to be included on the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

J.C. and fellow shipmates are challenging that decision but rather than waiting they are placing memorials around the country in each state that was represented. The museum will receive a marker with the names of the Texans lost in that incident, and we have requested that we be considered for the larger marker that includes all 74 names. This memorial will be a great beginning for a garden at the museum dedicated to the Navy. We need a name for this garden and some Navy folks to help with design and construction.

Continued on page 2

Happenings (continued)

Welcome aboard Navy!

I hope that now you Air Force Airmen, and Coastguardsmen are wondering where your garden is. We have spaces for you, but we don't know enough about you to plan your garden. Come visit us and tell us what you want. We'll help you build something that we can all be proud of.

Fort Wolters Gate

Technically, the gate project is not part of the museum. It's about a mile away from the museum grounds, but both helicopters belong to the museum and many of the museum volunteers helped with the gate restoration project. A few weeks ago, we had a serious storm with hail the size of baseballs. The helicopter bubbles are made of old plexiglass and don't stand up well to baseball size hail. Both helicopters sustained serious damage. David Kessler and B.J. Ashley Sr. volunteered to take them down, repair them, and put them back on their pedestals. They had a little help with the taking down and putting back up but they are back in place as off August 21.

Thanks to all who are helping make things better in and around the museum!

The mission of the museum is:

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

End of the Year in Sight

2013 is fading fast. Now is a good time to think about tax deductible donations for 2013.

You can see some of the activities that we are working on in this newsletter. We are also acquiring artifacts, creating exhibits, maintaining and improving the grounds. We're all volunteers and we have lots of projects waiting for more volunteers and/or more funding.

Perhaps you would like to restore a Gama Goat? Maybe an OV-10 or an AMTRAC? We have those things, and they need work. If you aren't in the area or not handy with tools, perhaps you can spare some cash to help us out?

We are a 501(c)3, so deductions are fully tax deductible as all of you know. Do you want to support the Marines? Navy? Air Force? Coast Guard? We have projects waiting for you.

Founders Association

New Founders this issue are **Don & Maria Martin, Edd & Gloria Luttenberger, and the 116th Assault Helicopter Company**. Founders Association is now at 122 members and room for more. 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.

www.NationalVNWarMuseum.org

Camp Holloway Wall Remodel Update

The Camp Holloway Wall was resplendent with it's new nameplates provided by Intaglio Composites. They are anodized gold aluminum panels with black lettering. New signage surrounds the wall as well. A picture of part of the wall is on the back page.

A Healing of War

This spring the museum hosted two productions of the stage play "A Healing of War" written by a Michael Stephen Myers, Vietnam Veteran, and directed by Nancy McVean, Drama Professor at Weatherford College. The actors were college students and community members. The play was performed at Weatherford College and at the Scott Theatre in Fort Worth. Sponsors included Jim Irwin, Jim Parker, and Robert Beverly.

Coming Events

- September 28 - Run From the Ducks. An ultra run benefitting the museum hosted by Clark Gardens. Visit their website, <http://www.clarkgardens.org/> and the run website 8HRFTD.com for details.
- October 12 - Crazy Water Festival, Mineral Wells, TX. Celebrate the town built on water
- December 21 - 4th annual Christmas at the Wall. Come out to the museum as we provide a Christmas for the Vietnam Memorial replica. This year the H.L. Hodges family is honored.

4th Annual Updating of the Wall

This year 10 names were added to our wall: ATC Joseph W. Aubin USN Panel 09E Line 012, PFC Johnny O. Brooks USA Panel 16W Line 106, SP4 David L. Deckard USA Panel 28W Line 094, LTJG David M. Desilets USN Panel 10E Line 077, ATR3 Richard C. Hunt USN Panel 07E Line 112, SP4 Larry M. Kelly USA Panel 19W Line 095, AN Albert K. Kuewa USN Panel 02E Line 04, LT Walter A. Linzy USA Panel 08E Line 017, CPL Frank A. Neary USMC Panel 15E Line 096, ATR3 Richard D. Stocker USN Panel 15E Line 036

Sponsors for this years event were: Medal of Honor- Intaglio Composites. Army Distinguished Service Cross - Brazos River Wounded Warrior Outdoors Inc, Goodson Golf Cars, Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce. Navy Cross - Eventide Water, Marty & Skip Humphrey, Joe Skarda, Mineral Wells Ice Company. Our guest speakers were BG Nathan Vail USA (Ret), Col Mant Hawkins USMC (Ret), and Capt. Robert A. Bennett.

5th Annual Updating of the Wall June 7, 2014

Work has begun for next years wall update. We'll be adding four names: ABE3 Clark David Franklin, U.S. Navy *Carlsbad, N.M.*, Panel 15E, Line 94 SGT Dennis R. Siverling, U.S. Marine Corps *Ladysmith, Wis.*, Panel 18E, Row 23 PFC Lester James Veazey, U.S. Marine Corps *Enid, Okla.*, Panel 35E, Line 2 SPC Raymond Clark Thompson, U.S. Army *West Palm Beach, Fla.*, Panel W8, Line 36



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Above - picture of the center section of the restored Camp Holloway Wall. Panoramic photo wouldn't fit on the page

Below - Dana Bowman floats to a soft landing at the annual wall update June 1. Photo courtesy of Col Mant Hawkins USMC (Ret) our Marine speaker at the wall update. Mark you calendar for next year June 7 as we add 4 more names

