



For Immediate Release

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Mineral Wells, Texas

Vietnam Memorial Garden Opens – Visitor Center Next

On May 30, The National Vietnam War Museum unveiled its permanent replica of the Vietnam Memorial to the public. The ceremony included an opening skydive by Dana Bowman, representatives from all five service branches, the South Vietnamese military, and the Patriot Guard riders, as well as a traveling replica of the Liberty Bell. Over 2,000 people lined the museum grounds and the bordering highway to watch. As part of the ceremony, COL Charles Bogle (USA, Ret.) and his son, LTC Brian Bogle, placed his brother's Purple Heart in a specially-prepared concrete pad at the juncture of the two wings of the wall.

Prior to the unveiling, guests were entertained by a rousing speech from Joe Galloway, especially welcomed by the many 1st Cavalry Division Vietnam veterans in attendance. While volunteers removed the over 300 feet of parachute nylon to reveal the wall, members of each service branch raised their respective flags on staffs mounted to the rear of the wall. Following a ceremonial Native American blessing of the wall and a rifle salute, visitors were provided with materials to take rubbings if they desired.

The wall, like all the museum's gardens, is open to the public 24/7, and we are in the process of planting a garden of Arizona Cypress around it to provide a park-like setting for visitors. We are also in the process of securing a weatherproof kiosk to provide computer access for visitors to locate specific names on the wall.

Now that the Vietnam Memorial project is near completion, we have begun our next major undertaking, The National Vietnam War Museum Visitor Center. Earlier this year, we acquired a manufactured home of approximately 2600 square feet, with an interesting history. Until January 2009, it served as the headquarters for the Secret Service at President George W. Bush's Crawford, Texas ranch. Unfortunately, it is not currently ADA compliant, but we have a project manager who is working to bring it up to code, and we hope to have it open later this year to serve as our temporary Visitor Center until the permanent museum building can be built. The Visitor Center will house our offices, gift shop, and rotating exhibits when it opens.



Visitors at the Wall Unveiling



A portion of the Wall w/service flags behind



Guest speaker Joe Galloway



The future Visitor Center

Please visit our website for more information about the museum, our gardens, future events, and donation opportunities at www.nationalvnwarmuseum.org.

The National Vietnam War Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization, incorporated in the state of Texas.

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