

Museum News

January 2014



5th Annual Update of the Wall. Meet Captain Sarah Blum USA (Ret), speaking for the Army

Sarah L. Blum, is a decorated nurse Vietnam veteran who earned the Army Commendation Medal serving as an operating room nurse at the 12th Evacuation Hospital Cu Chi, Vietnam during the height of the fighting in 1967. Because Cu Chi sat on the edge of the Hobo Woods, where all the fighting took place in 1967, her hospital handled mass casualties regularly and their operating room became the largest user of fresh blood in all of Vietnam.

Back in the United States, Sarah received her brother soldiers of Vietnam with their wounds and amputations, cared for them directly and saw how their physical wounds did not heal when their heads and hearts were deeply affected. Sarah was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for exemplary service as head nurse of the orthopedic ward at Madigan Army Hospital in 1968, where she was also the assistant director of nursing on evening and night shift in 1970. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, Summa Cum Laude, from Seattle University and her Master's in Psychosocial Nursing, Cum Laude, from U. W. At age 73, Sarah is still a practicing nurse psychotherapist with over 28 years experience. Because of her Vietnam experiences, Sarah is a practicing nurse psychothera-



pist with over 28 years experience working with PTSD and trauma resolution, including giving a workshop to Vietnam veterans on PTSD. She co-created Recognition/Friendship Day in Seattle, Washington

on Veterans Day, 1985. Against all odds, including threats by Vietnam veterans, Sarah helped bring together American Vietnam veterans and Vietnamese veterans for the first time since the Vietnam War. Sarah worked in partnership with Thu-Van Nguyen, a Vietnamese hospital worker, to create this special day. Men who formerly hated each other cried, exchanged hugs, and told their stories. All of the local newspapers, radio and television stations were present in the Veterans Hall at Seattle Center along with over 275 attendees. In a letter to Senator Daniel J. Evans the Post Adjutant of the American Legion said, "What these two ladies have accomplished on November 11, 1985 deserves the gratitude of all who served in our armed forces from 1961-1975."

Sarah was one of the first two women elected to the National Board of Directors of the Vietnam Veterans of America in 1983, and was active in veteran's affairs. She successfully lobbied Congress to study the connection between Agent Orange and birth defects in the children

Sarah (continued)

of women Vietnam veterans. KING and KOMO TV did specials on Sarah's work during 1984-1985.

Her article "Healing Journey for Women Military Veterans" appeared in the September issue of The New York Times. In November 1993, Sarah led a healing journey to Washington D.C. for male and female Vietnam veterans, to help them heal their emotional wounds.

"Reseeding the Fields of War" appeared in the September 29, 1996 issue of The Seattle Times. That article written by Sherry Stripling, featured Sarah Blum and the first PeaceTrees Vietnam trip from November-December 1996; Sarah was the only woman Vietnam veteran participating. Prior to the trip, Sarah's article, "Peace in War-Torn Land," was published in the July 1997 issue of The New Times. For Veterans Day 1997, The South County Journal did a feature article on Sarah and the PeaceTrees trip called "Women Under Fire," and for Veterans Day 1998, The South County Journal did a front page story describing a documentary film project that Sarah and former war photographer, Ken Williamson, were planning on doing for transformation and healing. On November 23, 1996 at the start of the PeaceTrees Vietnam trip The South County Journal did another front-page story featuring Sarah. The DVD, Peace-Trees Vietnam: Reversing the Legacy of War includes long sections with Sarah.

Under her married name Saralee McGoran, she is featured in Myra MacPherson's book Long Time Passing: Vietnam and The Haunted Generation on pages 502-506; and the last chapter of Kathryn Marshall's book In The Combat Zone: An Oral History of American Women in Vietnam.

Sarah L. Blum ARNP is listed in Who's Who in: America, Who's Who in American Women, Nursing, and Medicine and Healthcare, and is a member of Vietnam Veterans of America, the National Association of Professional Women which has over 160,000 members, and the Pacific Northwest Writer's Association. Sarah is also a member of "We Are One: Women Veterans in Washington state and 1.8 million in America!"

Sarah obtained her black belt in Aikido at age sixty-eight, continues to train and also teaches aikido. She is an African Drummer and African Balaphone player. At age sixty-nine she began sculling. Sarah is full of vitality and loves to dance, drum, sing, and bring people together. Sarah has two grown children, a daughter who is a well-respected and effective M.S.W., and a son who is a professional musician and college teacher, author, and owner of a "The Tuned in Music Academy," and she has two granddaughters and a grandson.

<http://womenunderfire.net/about-sarah/>

Eagle Scouts

Nathan Gay has completed his project upgrading our picnic area with tables.

Craig Coble has completed his project adding rock rings and mulch to all the trees in the Meditation Garden.

Andrew McNay is in progress for a bridge in the Reflection Garden.

We're proud to be able to help young men complete their Eagle Scout project and they are helping us at the same time. They provide improvements to the museum at no cost.

www.NationalVNWarMuseum.org

Founders Association

New Founders this issue are **Charles & Dorothy Bogle**. Founders Association is now at 123 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.

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.

Coming Events

March 29 - 6:00 pm - til it ends. Friends of the Museum 13th Annual Fundraiser - Parker County Sheriffs Posse building, Weatherford TX. See article.

June 7 - 5th Annual Wall Update. At the Museum. Starting at 10:00 and ending around 11:30. See article. More info in May newsletter.

The mission of the museum is:

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

13th Annual Spring Fundraiser

The Friends of the Museum have planned another wonderful evening to raise funds for the museum.

INVITATIONS WENT IN THE MAIL BEFORE THIS NEWSLETTER.

We re-worked the reply envelope and your check should not go to Vietnam this year. We'll have an open bar, Cindy Renee' and Company will provide music for your entertainment, a great dinner catered by Aaron;s Catering

YOU DON'T NEED AN INVITATION TO ATTEND. If your invitation did not arrive, contact Jim Messinger, 940-452-1470 or e-mail jmessinger@wc.edu Jim can fix it.

Jim Messinger,
President, Friends of the Museum

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

Speaking for the Army: Cpt Sarah Blum USA (Ret)

Speaking for the Marines: Col Mant Hawkins USMC (Ret),

Speaking for the Navy: TBD; volunteers contact Jim Messinger, 940-452-1470, or jmessinger@wc.edu



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

PRE SORT
STANDARD
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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Left - Panoramic View
of the restored Camp
Holloway Wall.

Right and below, more
pictures of Sarah Blum

