

Museum News

June 2012



Friends of the Museum do it Again

The Eleventh Annual Fundraiser was a success, and success is easy when the mission is to have fun. Tumbleweed Smith was a hoot! Not to be confused with Paul Wibbeler of Hoot's Auction Company. We expect to see more of those two guys in the future.

The total funds raised was just over \$16,000.00 thanks in a large part to our sponsors:

Eiffel Tower-Baum Carlock Bumgardner Funeral Home, Betty Boyd Dettre, and Laine Perry.

The Louvre- David & Kathy Boswell, First Financial Bank, Richard & Anne Hanson, Kent & Kim Olson, Virginia Upham, and Ventamatic.

Arc de Triomphe-Fran Acosta-Carlson M.D., James & Terri Collins, Okeene Milling Company, Kay Procter, Paul & Sanna Roling, Allan & Helen Jane Werst, and Rick & Janet Williams.

Notre Dame-JoAnn Barnhart, Bobby & Pat Bazzell, Butch & Donna Benson, Nancy Brown, Ron & Penny Chandler, Col Robert Cooper, Cowboy Stone Carvers, Alfred and Doris Cox, Dr. & Mrs Mark Eidson, Vern & Constance Eppley, Senator Craig Estes, Mary Evins, Harry & Debra Fisher, Tim Gorog, Joe & Edie Gray, Jim Irwin, Harry Jones, Robert & Nicky Lakey, Lennis & Judy Lee, Michael & Candice Letica, Laurie Mauldin, Steven & Sylvia McMinn, Norm & Margaret McMullen, Gail Morgan, Bill & Judy Murphy, Rex

& Bonita Payne, Nick Petrera, Ginny & Wayne Sanderson, Steve & Debbie Smith, Jerry & Glynda Snyder, Bob & Ruth Spangler, Jim & Neda Vines, Texas Assn of Vietnam Veterans Austin Chapter, and Win-Gen Power.

Many other people donated items for the auctions. The total income from the auctions was just over \$5,800.00. Thank you letters will be sent to the auction donors soon, I hope.

Tumbleweed Smith Entertains the crowd.

(picture courtesy of Wayne Sanderson)



Meditation Garden

Mother Nature again planted some flowers in our garden. They made the front page of our local newspaper and here is a photo courtesy of Paul Roling so that you can get some idea what you missed. YES, they were almost as tall as the gazebo :-)



Update the Wall June 2, 2012 & June 1, 2013

Since this newsletter is going out a little late this month, we can provide an update on the update for this issue. Kimo Williams was not able to attend, so we cancelled that part of the program.

Our sponsors this year were militarily themed: **Medal of Honor -Wal Mart.**

Army Distinguished Service Cross - Fuzzy's Taco Shop, Goodson Golf Cars, Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce,

Navy Cross - Eventide Water, Hiram Humphrey

Other Sponsors - Bar Double Ought Ranch, Marty & Skip Humphrey, Mineral Wells Ice Company, Shirley Johns, James Podanowski,

Fort Sill half section did make it and gave us the full demonstration. LTG Woodmansee even got to shoot the gun. About 350 people were in attendance and the ceremony was marred by a tragedy. Monica Harvey learned Friday night before the event that her son was killed in a car accident, so she was not able to stay with us for the event. She did have CD's for her two planned songs and we were able to play those at the ceremony. Jim Vines was able to locate a volunteer, Jim Clayman, to sing the National Anthem. Mr. Clayman got a call after 7:00 pm Friday night and showed up to sign Saturday morning. That was an awesome response to a critical situation.

LTG Woodmansee provided several truths about the Vietnam War. He was somewhat knowledgeable on the war having commanded combat units there for two years. He was a qualified parachutist and aviator. He was awarded the Silver Star and five Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Captain Bennett provided a different perspective for several reasons. First, he is a Navy Officer, and second he joined the Navy in 1988 after completing college and ROTC. He compared the receptions of today's soldiers, and sailors with the reception of the Vietnam Veterans, noting that we are now on the cor-

rect path of welcoming home our veterans and hopeful that we will continue on that path.

Mark your calendars now for June 1, 2013. We will be adding ten names (three soldiers, six sailors, and one Marine. on that date and updating the status of 12 more. Please come and enjoy that day with us. Details will be coming in future newsletters, but it is safe to say now that activities will begin at 8:00 am.

Art Exhibit—Tropic Lightning II

Thanks to Jim Nelson (combat artist) and Dave DeMauro (combat photographer) we now have a second edition of Tropic Lightning on display in the Visitor Center. The picture below (courtesy of Iola Messinger) is just one of the dozens of paintings and photographs on display. Please come by and see this wonderful art before it gets away. Scheduled to depart June 30, but we can hold it another month for you.



Founders Association

The Founders Association continues to grow thanks to you. Funds are never easy to raise, but you have been faithful throughout the years and as a result, not only have we kept the doors open, but we have continued to improve and grow. Here's the list of new members since our last issue: **Bobby Akers & Jean Akers; Anne Martin, Robert N., Tredway; Silver Spurs Reunion 2012; Bill & Judy Murphy; Dave & Lorraine Pashby; Col (Ret) Charles & Merry Rayl in honor of A Troopers 7/17 Air Cavalry Vietnam 67-68.**

The LVTP -5 A1 & The Semper Fi Garden

We have painted the AmTrac (short generic-name for the LVTP-5) and we have learned a bit more about this special piece of equipment.

The 1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion (Amtrac) was stationed at Cua Viet, Vietnam and was composed of 120 LVTP-5s. Each platoon contained 10 of them. Only 1,124 were built and then they LVTP-7 was developed to replace it.

Several Marines have come by to see our AmTrac and a few have made the trip inside of it. The next phase of the AmTrac program is to open the ramp and clean up the inside. We won't be able to leave the ramp down, but will open it for special occasions.

The LVTP-5 carried a crew of 3, Crew Chief, Driver, and Machine Gunner. The specifications say that 34 Marines can be carried inside. From my experience climbing into it, I would tell you that they were either short or bent over and they had less room per man than sardines.

Marine visitors have told the story of driving it out of an LST and going under water completely before bobbing up like a cork. The waterline on it is only a foot or two from the top of the vehicle. It weighs about 50 tons. Imagine yourself moving through the water with 36 other people inside a steel container with the water about a foot from the top of the vehicle. As water breaks across the top, some of it gets inside...

Come visit us and the LVTP-5 and see if you can help us build the Semper Fi garden.

Coming Events

September 29 - Run From the Ducks at Clark Gardens - watch the runners and visit the gardens; great all day event. The runners will start about 7:00 am and run for 8 hours. Plenty of time to enjoy the gardens. MORE INFO AT:

<http://www.clarkgardens.org/events/run-from-the-ducks.html>

December- Christmas at the wall. See the October newsletter for details

Kroger Card Change Time Again

Each year we need to re-enroll in the Kroger Card program. I know, it's a bit of a pain, but it is one of the easiest ways to donate money to the museum. In fact, you don't make the donation, Kroger does. The program is only available in Louisiana and Texas, so the rest of you need to start pressuring Kroger to add your state.

We have completed the application process before this newsletter was mailed, so you only need to go to:

www.krogerneighborhood.com

And download a copy of the letter and the barcode for the museum. Take those items to your local Kroger and they will scan your Kroger Plus card. After that, everything is automatic.

WANT TO HAVE SOMEONE ELSE DONATE FOR YOU?

There are other ways to have numerous businesses donate for you. igive is one of the larger ones. Visit the website igive.com

Enter "The National Vietnam War Museum" in the "Your Cause" dialogue box and click the "find cause" button. Then complete the form. You'll be prompted to install igive and after that any time you buy online from an igive retailer a portion of your purchase price will be donated to the museum

YOU SAY YOU DON'T LIKE igive?

Then go to giveline.com and complete a similar process. If you know of other web sites that do this let us know at:

info@NationalVnWarMuseum.com

The mission of the museum is:

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



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Paul Wibbeler auctioning fun at the fun raiser.

Photo courtesy of Paul Roling

