

Museum News



Sep 2016

Building Progress

Fundraising for the new building continues. We had projected \$300,000 by the end of the year and we have already arrived. If you haven't joined the builders club, please join now.

A one time donation of \$10,000 gets you on the list to be posted inside the building. It will be in a prominent location. We need 70 more members to start construction



Sons & Daughters of the Vietnam War

A new initiative has begun for the museum board. We believe it is time (past time) to establish an organization for the "Sons and Daughters of the Vietnam War.

Work has already begun by a steering committee composed of sons and daughters and other volunteers. The organizations' mission is: To serve as a historical, patriotic, and non-political organization dedicated to ensuring that a factual history of the Vietnam Era is documented, preserved, and shared. The organization is patterned after the Sons & Daughters of WWII, DAR, UDC, Sons of the Revolution, Sons of the Confederacy, etc. We have kept the sons and daughters together unlike many other groups because we don't see a reason to have two organizations with the same mission.

Those are the only two confirmed ideas for the group. We are accepting more help. Visit the sons and daughters page:

<http://www.nationalvnwarmuseum.org/donate-and-support/sons-and-daughters-of-the-vietnam-war.html>
for additional information.

Galleries In the Museum Gallery #3

The pictures on the back page show our progress on building the OH-23 for display in gallery number 3 "The History of Fort Wolters and Camp Wolters." The helicopter is about halfway to completion with a years worth of work. While this helicopter will be a major artifact in the display representing Fort Wolters and the training of the helicopter pilots who flew in the Vietnam War. Dubbed "The Helicopter War" by the mass media, it is only one of the two significant stories in that gallery.

The second story, first in history will represent "The Greatest Generation" from World War II. Camp Wolters was the largest Infantry training camp in the United States during World War II. During the peak of the Vietnam War, over 600 pilots a month were trained at Fort Wolters, but during World War II the camp trained 15,000 at a time in approximately 10 week cycles. The total number of pilots trained was approximately 40,000.

Camp Wolters was also a German POW camp accounting for many settlements of Germans after the war.

Camp Wolters was the location where two of the wars' most famous enlisted infantrymen underwent basic training - Audie Murphy and Eddie Slovik.

[Audie Murphy](#) completed basic training at Camp Wolters. He was one of the most decorated American combat soldiers of World War II, receiving every military combat award for valor available from the U.S. Army, as well as French and Belgian awards for heroism. At the age of 19, Murphy received the Medal of Honor after single-handedly holding off an entire company of German soldiers for an hour at the Colmar Pocket in France in January 1945, then leading a successful counterattack while wounded and out of ammunition.

Also, during World War II on January 24, 1944, [Eddie Slovik](#) was sent to Camp Wolters for basic military training. Upon finishing basic training, he was sent to France as a replacement. Slovik was convicted of desertion in November 1944, and, on 31 January 1945, became the first member of the U.S. military since the American Civil War to be executed for desertion.

Join the Friends of the Museum \$10.00 per year.

Happenings at the Museum

The AMTRAC on display at the museum now has its main ramp down, so access the inside is very easy. Thanks to Brenda Lombas for getting this done. (Brendas' father was responsible for welding it shut back in the early 70s, so it is very fitting that she re-open it. Next step is to sandblast and paint the inside so that it is more presentable. Then Brenda will see if she can get it running. Want to help with this project? Cash donations are accepted.

Our UH-12 (civilian designation for OH-23) is now flying. Steve Smith is responsible for accomplish the return to flight status of this old helicopter. He spent four years of his spare time chipping away at the problems until achieving success. That's him flying it on the back cover. (yes he is with an instructor). Want to help keep it flying? Cash donations will work for that.

NEXT EXHIBIT IN THE VISITOR CENTER NEEDS HELP. Currently we have an exhibit on the POW camps of the Vietnam War. June next year that will be replaced by an exhibit on the POWs. We are collecting POW/MIA bracelets for that exhibit and have several already. We have Jerry Driscoll, Charlie James Jr., John Murphy, Donald Odell, Warren Lilly, On request (Bill Reeder & David Gray) these bracelets are POW accounted for. David Gray and Bill Reeder are active supporters of the museum. Bracelets for unaccounted MIA are: Dennis Gauthier, James McGarvey, and James Reed. If you have a bracelet that is looking for a home we would appreciate donations of any that we don't have. Send donations to PO Box 1779, Weatherford, TX 76086.

The mission of the museum is:

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

The National Vietnam War Museum

www.NationalVnWarMuseum.org

Friends of the Museum 2017 Fundraiser

Yes it is that time again. Wrapping up another year and starting the new. We have arranged for some special entertainment at next years' event: Bob Hope (tribute artist) will be on hand, and a special guest appearance by Marilyn Monroe (tribute artist). We'll be in the Grand Hall at the NRH Centre (North Richland Hills). We be staying later than usual as Bob Hope will follow dinner. We'll plan to eat fast, but enjoy it. Italian food is on the menu; three cheese lasagna, Fettuccini Alfredo with grilled chicken breast, and spaghetti with classic meat sauce. Catered by Iron Horse Golf Course. Silent and live auctions of course, featuring our new favorite auctioneer, Jay Fiske.

We're in North Richland Hills this year to get a larger venue. The Grand Hall seats 350 very comfortably and has room for all of our auction items, and gift shop without climbing any stairs. I'm looking into have a block of motel rooms close to the event because of our later ending time from normal.

Invitations will go in the mail the first week in January. We want to raise more money this year so the Friends of the Museum can join the Builders club and help build the museum. Our fundraising goal will be \$25,000. If you can't make the event, please make a donation. We need to get the building built.

Jim Messinger, President, Friends of the Museum

Coming Events

- Sep 25** Run from the Ducks—Ultra Run at Clark Gardens. See web site
<http://www.runfromtheducks.org/>
- Dec 10** Christmas at the wall planned by AMVETS post 133; Start time is 5:30 pm
- April 1, 2017** Spring Fundraiser

Builders Club

The key to quick success to our building is the Builders Club membership. We only need 70 more donors of \$10,000 or more to complete the project. We expect some donors to contribute more than \$10,000, so the thermometer will move faster from time to time. Our current members are:

Baum-Carlock-Bumgardner Funeral Home, Charles & Dorothy Bogle, The Carl E. Kessler Family Foundation. John & Monica Chesnut, Betty Dettre, Fort Wolters Chapter VHPA, In Honor & Memory of Richard C. Allen (Laine Perry), Norman D. and Margaret N. McMullen, Jim & Iola Messinger, Su Nasche, Dave & Lorraine Pashby, Jerry & Letta Staggs, Allan & Helen Jane Werst, Barbara Wheeler (In Memory of CW4 Michael J Wheeler).

Please join now. You can make the difference and open the museum next year.

Remember this is not just a building, but a completed museum

Founders Association

Welcome our newest members, American Legion Riders Post 75, Walt Boyce, Ronald D. & Barbara C. Gayler, Mike & Susie Peterson, Run for the Wall, Midway, John Spencer, Jim Nelson, John Mihalec. We're at 153 members now, and there is no limit on how many can join. Just 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. This category will end at the groundbreaking for the new building. As a special incentive, the Founders Assn funds will go into the building fund.



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

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Permit No. 2237

Everyone got a surprise at the Honoring of the wall June 4 when our UH-12 flew in. The story is inside the newsletter

Our OH-23 is in the shop being prepared to take its place in gallery #3 as soon as the building is ready. Shown here are the restored tail boom and fuel pump.

