



For Immediate Release

Mineral Wells, TX
March 13, 2007

Meditation Garden and Parking Lot will be first projects

The National Vietnam War Museum has begun work on the first two projects to be constructed on its site on Highway 180 east of Mineral Wells. Installation of electrical service and water service has been completed, contracts for the construction of the first of the five gardens (The Meditation Garden) and the adjacent parking lot have been placed and work has begun. The garden and parking lot are scheduled open to the public on June 2, 2007. Four more gardens and additional parking lots will be scheduled for construction in phases after this project is completed.

Fundraising for the two projects has been underway since September 2006 and a substantial portion of the approximately \$100,000 cost has already been contributed or pledged. Gifts are being accepted to support the construction of various components of the garden and parking lot. Memorial bricks, plaques and tablets can be purchased for placement in the garden to honor individuals or organizations. Bricks and tablets that have already been purchased are scheduled for inclusion in the garden. A drawing of the garden and a list of donor opportunities that are still available can be obtained from Jim Messinger, museum treasurer, by contacting him by email to messenger@wc.edu or phone at 940-664-3918.

The garden will contain two unique labyrinth-style walking paths. There will also be a large gazebo in the garden to provide a quiet place to stop and rest. The design of the garden was provided by Weatherford Master Gardeners, who will also supervise the installation of the trees and plants. A xeriscape[®] design approach will be used to conserve water and reduce the maintenance costs for the garden.

Additional information about the garden project and about the museum is available on the website: www.nationalvnwarmuseum.org.