

Museum News



**Help Wanted - Guest Speaker for
May 27 - Looking for Coast Guard
representative.**

Call Jim 940-452-1470

Jan 2017

Building Progress

Fundraising for the new building continues. We reached \$350,000 before the end of 2016 so now we only need 65 more members of the Builders Club to complete the new facility.

A one time donation of \$10,000 gets you on the list to be posted inside the building in a prominent location.



Builders Club Members (as of 12/20/16)

**The list sent in the Friends of the
Museum Newsletter back in
November was missing one couple:
Don & Leigh Payne**

- JoAnn Barnhart
Brazos Foundation
Baum-Carlock-Bumgardner Funeral
Home
- Charles & Dorothy Bogle
The Carl E. Kessler Family Foundation
- John & Monica Chesnut
Katie Daniels
Betty Boyd Dettre
Fort Wolters Chapter VHPA
- In Honor & Memory of Richard C. Allen
(Laine Perry)
- Norman D and Margaret N McMullen
Jim & Iola Messinger
Bill & Judy Murphy
Su Nasche
Dave & Lorraine Pashby
Don & Leigh Payne
Jerry & Letta Staggs
VFW Post 2399
Allan & Helen Werst
Barbara Wheeler (In Memory of
CW4 Michael J Wheeler)

Want to do it with payments? Contact
Jim Messinger: jmessinger@wc.edu

Galleries In the Museum Gallery #2

The picture on the back page shows the central exhibit of gallery number 2 "The Home Front." This exhibit is a replica of the Oval Office as it was during Lyndon Johnson's presidency. We know it is Johnson's office because of the three televisions located on the right side of the picture. President Johnson insisted on seeing **ALL** of the television networks simultaneously. The idea that there were only three major networks is a completely foreign concept today with hundreds of channels and more on the internet.

You will be able to sit at the President's desk and give orders to your staff (if you bring some staff with you). We also expect to make pens and paper available so that you can issue an executive order if you wish.

There were several presidents involved in the Vietnam War, beginning with President Eisenhower who was minimally involved, President Kennedy also had minimal influence, but Johnson who was promoted to president after the assassination of Kennedy took the brunt of the war. It was a primary cause of his leaving the presidency. Protesters still alive today will remember the chant: "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today." Richard Nixon became president next and was responsible for bringing the North Vietnamese to the peace table. His tactic was simple; drop bombs on North Vietnam until they agreed to talk peace. Nixon left the presidency under a cloud of the Watergate scandal leaving the final decisions on the Vietnam War to Gerald Ford. Ford was president when North Vietnam invaded south Vietnam and congress failed to honor our pledge to support the south with supplies and equipment.

This gallery will cover the home front in great detail and may provide a changing story line due to the number of items involved in this part of the war. There were protestors, riots, killings (in the U.S.), returning veterans, returning POWs, families, and special stories on college campuses.

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

Happenings at the Museum

NEXT EXHIBIT IN THE VISITOR CENTER NEEDS HELP. Currently we have an exhibit on the POW camps of the Vietnam War. In June 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, David Gray Charlie James Jr., John Murphy, Donald Odell, Warren Lilly, Bill Reeder. 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.

LONG RANGE EXHIBIT PLAN

Another exhibit in the Visitor Center that will require a lot of research is intended to be the story of the South Korean military in the war. The centerpiece of this exhibit is a zippo cigarette lighter donated to the museum by a Canadian man Dylan Solkaski. The lighter was a memento from Brig Gen Kim Yun Sang, CG 2nd Marine Bde Republic of Korea who gave those lighters to various people like we do today with challenge coins. The lighter is engraved with his name and his flag. The Koreans sent Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine personnel in excess of 300,000 to Vietnam. The Korean forces represented the second largest number of personnel involved in the war. You may recall that we helped the South Korean military defend their land against the North Koreans during the early 1950s. Apparently, the South Koreans believed in the cause of the Vietnam war. Please send along any artifacts that you might have relating to this story.

What have you done last year.

2016 was a good year. Thanks to your support there were two major exhibits in the Visitor Center. The Southern Airways Exhibit and the POW Camp exhibit, both ran for 6 months this past year. Also, you paid the bills; utilities and insurance. A few minor artifacts have been added 6 major events were supported; 155th Avn Co reunion, Christmas at the Wall, Kilroy Rising, Spring Fundraiser, The Big Read, Honoring the Wall, and a few minor events.

You are the people making this project succeed. More events are planned for 2017 in addition to possible ground breaking on the new facility. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Friends of the Museum 2017 Fundraiser

If our printer is correct, you will receive your invitation to the fundraiser before you get this newsletter. Here's some highlights in case the invitation arrives after the newsletter. Spring Fundraiser will be April 1, 2017, at the Grand Hall of the North Richland Hills Centre. Entertainment by Bob Hope and Marilyn Monroe (tribute artists). Sponsorships available.

Coming Events

March 23 –25 Two events coming to town: 175th AHC Reunion and Wounded Warriors Project hosted by Dana Bowman.

April 1, 2017 Spring Fundraiser - see separate story

May 27 - Honor the Wall - our annual addition of names to the Vietnam Memorial Wall

The National Vietnam War Museum

www.NationalVnWarMuseum.org

New Museum Facility Remember, this is not just a building, but a completed museum

When I talk to people about our fundraising for the new building, I frequently fail to mention that we are not talking about just a building.

The \$1 million dollar budget does build a complete building with 10,000 square feet on the ground floor, and 8,000 square feet on the second floor (elevator, bath rooms, etc.), but that's only the beginning. We also get the three galleries, Introduction, The Home Front, and Camp Wolters/Fort Wolters history. We also get the gift shop, and some full time staff.

This phase one plan also allows us the ability to expand up to 80,000 square feet of museum space if needed and as needed.

We're not just an empty building.

Founders Association

Welcome our newest members, Don Ancelin, Shawn Dunkin, Fred & Roberta Ferlito, Hank & Judy Gayler, Charles Kettles, James & Patricia Key, We're at 159 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 Association funds will go into the building fund.

The mission of the museum is:

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



P.O. Box 1779, Weatherford, TX 76086

PRE SORT
STANDARD
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Weatherford, TX
Permit No. 2237

Central Exhibit in Gallery Number 2 President Johnson Oval Office

