

Museum News

Sep 2017



Building Fund Status

The thermometer has moved up above the \$550,000 line and we only need 45 more Builders Club Members to complete the fundraising and begin construction. Join the people below as a member of the club.

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

Founders Association

The Founders Association is growing and contributing a great deal of funding to the building fund. If your not interested in the builders club, the board has pledged the Founders Association revenue to the building fund. We have 172 members now and it would be great if w can get this up over 200 this year. There is no limit to how many can join, but the Founders Association membership will be close at the groundbreaking for the new building.

Welcome our newest members, Ralph & Mary Lister, and Jerry Gladysz.

Just send a check or credit card info to PO Box 1779, Weatherford, TX 76086. \$1,000 or more gets you on the list. The Founders are people who share our vision for building The National Vietnam War Museum.

What's happening at the museum?

Glad you asked. In addition to our building program we continue to grow our exhibits thanks to your help. We have acquired an **H-34 (story inside)** that was in the Presidential unit at one time . We have also acquired some **boats (story inside)** to help debunk the myth that we are a helicopter museum, or an Army museum or any other type. There was lots of excitement in our local area this past 3 months because we took our **Huey off its 20 foot perch (story inside)**. Many visitors came just to see what we were doing.

**Need a year end tax deduction?
Please consider the museum.**



H-34 is On Board

The museum acquired this H-34 helicopter this summer as well. June 21 Jerry Staggs drove in with the helicopter on the trailer and parked it by the Contemplation Garden,



where it is on display shown in the second picture. We have the blades, cowling, and tail rotor missing in the picture but our repair person is having back troubles right now, so there will be a delay in getting the helicopter back to full assembly.



What have you done this year.

So far, you have raised the funds for the new facility to over \$550,000, AND you have continued to provide financial support for us to keep growing. The new items will help us provide more places of healing for a larger variety of veterans and families as well as providing educational opportunities for all of our visitors. **You are the people making this project succeed. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

Coming Events

Oct 14 Crazy Water Festival - All day at the Famous Water Company in Mineral Wells, TX

Dec 9 Christmas at the wall - Organized by AMVETS post 133. Usually starts at 5:30 pm

Huey 65-1008 leaves its perch

March 17, 2017 our huey left its perch on the 20 foot pole overlooking Hwy 180 and sat on the ground for the first time in 8 years. The paint was partially gone and even with multiple washings, the bird droppings had turned the helicopter white.

The picture below shows RR Service Company of Mineral Wells handling the heavy lifting while a support crew of Jerry Staggs, Jim Messenger, Jesse Lutten, and Mike Peterson handle the details from ladders and bucket truck. The guy in the picture is not helping. That is the Editor of the Mineral Wells Index, David May, live streaming the activity. This picture shows the helicopter going back up, but it is just the taking down in reverse.



Helicopter is back sitting on its pole July 21, 2017



This newsletter is mailed three times each year in January, May and September

Boats and More

The museum board has made many efforts to dispel the myth that the National Vietnam war Museum is a helicopter museum and/or an Army museum. Several years ago, we acquired an AMTRAC (amphibious track vehicle) used exclusively by the Marine Corps and the Marines helped us build the Semper Fi Garden. Just a couple years ago, we solicited some Navy folks from the USS Frank E. Evans Association to help us build a Navy Garden and we have been looking for an appropriate artifact ever since. This year we found several; two minesweepers, an Admirals Barge, and a Captains Gig similar to the one that was on board the USS Frank E. Evans. We'll be restoring that one first as it is already placed in the Navy Garden. One minesweeper will be available for sale and we will probably sell the Admirals Barge. Stay tuned for more information or contact Jim Messinger at: jmessinger@wc.edu



The picture at left shows the first two boats arriving at the museum; a minesweeper and a Captains' Gig. The truck driver and crane operator are shown coordinating the move. The minesweeper # 56 is the first one off shown in the picture below as the trailer has pulled out from under it.

The truck and trailer repositioned to place the Captains' Gig in the Navy Garden (shown below). Everyone not in the Navy or Coast Guard asks what is a Captains' Gig. The easy answer is that it is his floating staff car. It goes when and where the Captain wants it to go. Sometimes you are not near shore so can't get into a staff car and go anywhere. This will be our first restoration project. We are dedicating it to the USS Frank E. Evans and the 74 sailors lost during the Vietnam War.



Last and not least, the Admirals' Barge shown below. It does the same thing for an Admiral that the Captains' Gig does for the Captain...just bigger and fancier.



Do you want to support the restoration of the Captains' Gig? Be the Captain for a donation of \$5,000. Be the OOD (Officer of the Deck) \$2,500, or Master Chief Petty Officer for \$1,000. Donors will be recognized with a permanent sign on the boat



P.O. Box 1779, Weatherford, TX 76086

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10th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting

In our 10 years of entertaining visitors we have had visitors from 49 of the 50 states signed in on the guest register (missing Rhode Island) and representatives from 23 different countries

Yes, the museum was officially opened June 2, 2007 so the museum board decided we should have a small celebration. The Chamber of Commerce came out in force for the ribbon cutting and the museum board members met inside the center for their usual monthly meeting followed by the ribbon cutting and a toast with champagne and cake. The whole gang is shown on the deck of the Visitor Center at the museum

