



NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 12, 2020

Vietnam War Memorial Groundbreaking Set

FORT WORTH – The city’s approved a special ceremony for 1 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 19 at Veterans Memorial Park on Camp Bowie Blvd., according to Jim Hodgson, chairman of the Fort Worth Aviation Museum.

Groundbreaking for a Tarrant County Vietnam War-Era Memorial will coincide with a local gathering of the Medal of Honor Society in Arlington. Fort Worth’s neighbor was recently selected as the site for the National Medal of Honor Museum, with a planned opening in 2024.

“At least 220 county residents died as a result of the Vietnam war,” according Hodgson. “Currently, there’s no local monument to honor those who died as a result of the war in Vietnam, but we are going to change that.

“A permanent display is being finalized for Veterans Memorial Park,” notes Hodgson, memorial project leader. “It was designed by a local student to honor American service members for their sacrifices, as well as commemorate the losses to families and loved ones.”

Student artist Ryan Scieneaux, a former student at Brewer High School, is working with local sculptor Michael Pavlosky to finalize the design based on input from the judges and the city’s Parks Department.

Pavlosky specializes in bronze sculptures. He recently completed a lobby sculpture for the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn. Jenny Conn of the Arts Council of Fort Worth has also been involved in the project.

As the competition winner, Scieneaux received \$500 from the memorial committee. Co-competitors and second place finishers, Emili Fazi and Phoebe Haygood, both students at Calvary Christian Academy, were awarded \$300. Third place winners, Aaron Miller and Duha Kim, also from Calvary Christian, shared \$200 in recognition of their creative efforts.

This monumental effort is backed by a coalition of Tarrant County officials, the Fort Worth Parks Dept., national and local veterans service organizations, as well as patriotic groups and individuals across North Texas. Representatives of these groups continue to meet and define the logistics of the project.

Plans for the November 19 groundbreaking include a presentation of the Colors, an unveiling of the memorial design, reading the names of the 221 fallen, and brief comments from invited guests. Period military vehicles and aircraft may also be part of the event.

“We’re inviting the public to attend as well,” Hodgson adds. “In this era of the CORONA virus, we’re also asking everyone to wear a mask and observe social distancing.”

In support of the effort, a memorial fund website (<https://www.vieteramemorial.org/>) has been launched to update the public on planning committee actions and as a place for people to contribute to the memorial’s construction.

“The interactive website was developed, in part, as an easy way to make online donations. We eventually hope to link the entire virtual community supporting this campaign,” Hodgson concludes.

A Facebook page dedicated to the project has also launched at <https://www.facebook.com/TCVWM/>.

#

For more information, contact:
Bruce Zielsdorf, Publicity Coordinator
Tarrant County Vietnam War-Era Memorial
Email bruceznyc@gmail.com

Or contact:
Fort Worth Aviation Museum
3300 Ross Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76161

Website: <https://www.fortworthaviationmuseum.com/>
Email: info@ftwaviation.com
Phone: (855) 733-8627