



NEWS RELEASE

Scieneaux Designs Soldier Tribute

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FORT WORTH – A sculpture designed by student artist Ryan Scieneaux, a senior at Brewer High School, has been declared the winner in the Tarrant County Vietnam War-Era Memorial competition.

“After much deliberation and discussion, we’re pleased to announce the winner,” states Jim Hodgson, memorial project leader and executive director of the Fort Worth Aviation Museum. “Although the judges and committee liked all three finalists and aspects of all designs, the winning design by Ryan Scieneaux stood out.”

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

Scieneaux is collaborating 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.

“Ryan’s design was a favorite from the beginning,” Hodgson explains, “but aspects of the design need to be addressed through her working with Michael.”

Students across the region were challenged to design the memorial, according to Hodgson. “The proposed 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 meeting to discuss the logistics of the project.

“At least 211 Tarrant County residents died as a result of the conflict,” Hodgson points out. “Currently, there’s no local monument to honor those killed in Southeast Asia, but that will soon be changing.”

Eventually, the sculpture will go on permanent display in Fort Worth’s Veterans Memorial Park on Camp Bowie Blvd. “It’s intended to honor American service members for their sacrifices, as well as commemorate the loss to the families and loved ones,” Hodgson notes.

The memorial committee originally planned for a ceremonial groundbreaking in September to coincide with the Medal of Honor Society's national convention in Arlington. However, the dates of that gathering have changed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The committee is now considering a groundbreaking in mid-November.

A Facebook page dedicated to the project has been launched at <https://www.facebook.com/TCVWM/>. An interactive website has also been launched at <https://www.vieteramemorial.org/>

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