

# VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION AFTER-ACTION REPORT

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OMB approval expires  
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The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Executive Services Directorate, Directives Division, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22350-3100 (0704-0500). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

**PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION. RETURN COMPLETED FORM AS DIRECTED IN THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.**

## INSTRUCTIONS

Please file an After-Action Report no later than 30 days after your event is complete. Your information will help other organizations in their planning of commemorative events. We encourage you to share your photos and articles of the events on the Commemorative Partner Portal on our Commemoration website to show other Vietnam veterans from around the United States how you recognized their service to our country. Submit reports using one of the following four preferred methods:

1. Through the Commemorative Partner Portal online: <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/partners/login> (preferred)
2. Email to: WHS.VNWar50th\_CPP\_AAR@mail.mil
3. Fax to: 703-692-4691
4. U.S. Mail to: The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration  
Attn: Events Team Chief  
241 18th Street South, Suite 101  
Arlington, VA 22202

## FOR EACH EVENT, PLEASE SUPPLY THE FOLLOWING:

|  |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <b>1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION:</b><br>The EC-47 History Site  |   | <b>2. NAME OF EVENT:</b><br>American Legion 2nd Annual Vietnam Commemoration |   |  |
| <b>3. ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION:</b>   |   |  |   |  |
| a. STREET ADDRESS:<br>4213 Green Meadow Drive  | b. CITY:<br>San Angelo                              | c. STATE:<br>Texas   | d. ZIP CODE:<br>76904                                   | e. COUNTRY<br>USA  |
| <b>4. EVENT LOCATION:</b> a. SITE NAME (Example: The Pentagon)<br>LeGrand Alumni & Visitors Center   |   |  |   |  |
| b. STREET ADDRESS:<br>1620 University Avenue   | c. CITY:<br>San Angelo                              | d. STATE:<br>Texas   | e. ZIP CODE:<br>76904                                   | f. COUNTRY<br>USA  |
| <b>5. START DATE OF EVENT (MMDDYYYY):</b><br>03292019  | <b>6. END DATE OF EVENT (MMDDYYYY):</b><br>03292019 | <b>7. ACTUAL ATTENDANCE</b><br>251   | <b>8. HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERANS WERE PRESENT?</b><br>96 | <b>9. HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERAN FAMILY MEMBERS WERE PRESENT?</b><br>120 |
| <b>10. DID YOU COLLABORATE WITH ANY OTHER COMMEMORATIVE PARTNERS?</b> (If so, list the commemorative partners you collaborated with for the event.)<br>No. The American Legion Post 572 is an active member of the EC-47 History Site CPP Committee. The CPP committee is comprised of local civic and military service organizations that have hosted more than 40 Commemoration events since 2015.   |   |  |   |  |
| <b>11. ANY MEDIA COVERAGE?</b><br>Yes. There were many TV spots prior to the event. See event photos here:<br><a href="http://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/photoGalleries/index/vietnam-war-veterans-day-2019">http://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/photoGalleries/index/vietnam-war-veterans-day-2019</a>  |   |  |   |  |
| <b>12. SUMMARY:</b> (Include the following information and anything else you would want other Commemorative Partners to know, such as: Was your event a success? How were your objectives fulfilled? Were there any issues that came up? List any helpful suggestions or changes for future and lessons learned. Attach additional pages as necessary. If unpresented lapel pins need to be returned to the program office, please indicate and we will send you a shipping label.)<br>The EC-47 History Site 50th Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program (CPP) Committee and Heritage Chapter-Freedom Through Vigilance Association were key planners in the Vietnam Veterans Day dedication of the Goodfellow AFB Military Working Dogs Kennel in honor of Sgt. Gerald Fritz. Fritz was a security policeman assigned as entry controller for the 6908th Security Squadron at Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand, in 1974-75. He volunteered for the SS Mayaguez rescue mission and lost his life with 22 others when their chopper crashed before getting out of Thailand.<br>Our organizations helped coordinate the kennels dedication approval process and bring the Fritz Family together for the event. We invited additional Gold Star families and many local Vietnam veterans to attend, and it was an amazing patriotic occasion. At the same time, the GAFB Commissary hosted a commemorative pinning ceremony. Then later, at the monthly GAFB Promotion Ceremony, Vietnamese linguists Larry Miller and Larry Mills, on behalf of the USAF "Doggers," presented a Hanoi Prison memorial brick to GAFB in recognition of the base extensive linguist support training during the Vietnam War. It was quite emotional to be part of CMSgt. (ret.) Larry Mills presenting the encased brick to his son, the current GAFB 17th TRW commander. Held in a packed theater, the ceremony was an opportunity for the base population to learn a little bit about that war. //See 12. Continuation Below/// |   |  |   |  |
| <b>13. MATERIALS ACTUALLY USED:</b> (For each category of materials below, subtract the amount remaining from what was sent to you.)   |   |  |   |  |
| (1) ITEM NOMENCLATURE  | (2) QUANTITY  | (1) ITEM NOMENCLATURE  | (2) QUANTITY  |  |
| Brochures  | 100   | Bumper Sticker: I Served   | 50  |  |
| Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins   | 50  | Bumper Sticker: Join The Nation  | 50  |  |
| Surviving Spouse Lapel Pin   | 8   | Bumper Sticker: We Heart   | 100   |  |
| Tin Pin: Family Member   | 100   | Presidential Proclamations   | 100   |  |
| Tin Pin: Lone Soldier  | 25  | Other: Lapel Pin Fact Sheets   | 65  |  |

## 12. Continued///

A fitting end to the day was the second annual Vietnam Veteran's Day Commemoration Welcome Home Ceremony and lapel pin presentation that evening at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center on the campus of Angelo State University.

This event, hosted by American Legion Post 572 and supported by the EC-47 History Site CPP Committee organizations, was well publicized through local TV stations, website flyers and personal contacts. The legion, with the Patriot Riders, organized an outdoor balloon launch to kick off the ceremony. About 250 veterans, family members, community guests and members of the public attended. American Legion Post 572, Heritage Chapter-FTVA, Angelo State University West Texas Collection, Elks Lodge 1880, VFW Post 1815, San Angelo Chamber of Commerce and Permian Basin Honor Flight organizations set up information tables to distribute commemoration posters, facts sheets and organization brochures.

Legionnaire Jeff Meurer was the emcee and welcomed the standing-room-only crowd of veterans, their families, guests and community leaders. The Lake View High School JROTC 948 Color Guard, directed by Aerospace Science Instructor and Legionnaire Kyle Mantel, presented and posted the U.S. and Texas flags. The LVHS Brass Quartet, under the direction of Cindy Costello, played the national anthem. Post 572 Chaplain Solon Page presented the opening prayer. Heritage Chapter-FTVA representative Larry Miller introduced the recently completed "Don Goff Memorial Missing Man Table," which was on public display for the first time. When not on display, this "kit" of service caps and other standard items is stored in a refurbished military foot locker for safekeeping and transportation. The kit is now also available for checkout and use by community organizations.

For the second year, Shannon Sturm and the ASU West Texas Collection staff organized a tribute to allied countries. Dr. Shirley Eoff, director of the ASU Honors Program, narrated a summary of the allied countries' military contributions during the Vietnam War and described the history of each national flag as Honors Program students posted flags from Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and the Republic of South Vietnam in front of the ballroom. The emcee then narrated a chronology of events that started in the 1980's and spread across the nation in the following years, summarizing the gradual change in our national attitude about the war and returning Vietnam War veterans. A combined video that included footage of the Chris Van Cleave Commemoration New York Parade, two special presentations of photos from 2018 commemorative pinning ceremonies, and a tribute to the Juarez brothers of San Angelo titled "Abel's House" was projected on a big screen.

Previously recognized Gold Star and Blue Star family members were introduced along with tributes to their veterans lost during and following the war. Certificates of Honor and commemorative lapel pins were then presented to new Gold Star and Blue Star families by Dr. Carol Bonds, chair of the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee. There were also special presentations to a Gold Star "mom" and a 40-year caregiver family. The Heritage Chapter-FTVA arranged for active duty U.S. Marine Corps students from Goodfellow AFB to serve as escorts for the recipients and their families.

Survivors of the C5A crash during the 1975 Operation Babylift, loadmaster Ray Snedegar and rescued orphan Aryn Lockhart, presented their adventure in slides and stories. This was followed

by an audio medley of service songs as legionnaires posted the military service flags adjacent to the previously posted allied country flags. All veterans stood during the playing of their respective service songs, and many sang along with the lyrics. The medley of service songs was followed immediately by snippets of music and song lyrics popular during the Vietnam War. Many veterans and family members enthusiastically joined in the singing, especially with CCR's "Bad Moon Rising" and "We Gotta Get Out of This Place" by The Animals. It was great fun.

Snedegar and Lockhart were then joined by community leaders to individually welcome home and present commemorative lapel pins to 50 Vietnam War veterans as they answered the roll call and walked to the front of the hall. Legionnaires assisted with the lapel pin presentations as Goodfellow AFB student volunteers distributed "Thank You" goodie bags filled with commemoration proclamations, tin pins, stickers, facts sheets and a Heritage Chapter-FTVA Certificate of Honor.

Dr. Bonds made the closing remarks, and the evening concluded with drinks, cookies and a specially decorated Vietnam Veterans Day cake.

Select photos are captioned on continuing pages.

Tom Nurre/April 11, 2019



San Angelo, Texas, March 29, 2019: (Above) The EC-47 History Site special wreath featuring the Veteran, Gold and Blue Star Commemorative Lapel Pins, was displayed during the 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony held at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center on the Angelo State University campus. (Right) Dr. Carol Bonds presents a Blue Star lapel pin and Certificate of Honor to Vietnam veteran surviving spouse Diane Lewis. Mrs. Lewis is escorted by her service dog, Delta. Photos by Carl Bradley, Faith in a Flash Photography.





San Angelo, Texas, March 29, 2019: (Top, L-R) Post 572 Legionnaire and Master of Ceremonies, U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major (retired) Jeff Meurer, directs the 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony held at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center on the Angelo State University campus. Vietnam veteran surviving spouse, Yvonne Shannon Carter, stands with her mother, Ruby Shannon, in tribute to Yvonne's deceased husband, USAF Vietnam veteran, CMSgt Bobby Carter. (Lower, L-R) Dr. Carol Bonds, San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, presents the In Memory Of, Gold Star lapel pin to Jimmie Dale Rogers, Jr. His father, U.S. Army SSgt Jimmie D. Rogers, was killed in action on Veterans Day, November 11, 1967. Jimmie Jr's mother, Vineta Mae Teetz, joins in the tribute to his dad. More than 250 veterans, family members, friends and community leaders attended the ceremony. Photo by: Carl Bradley, Faith in a Flash Photography.



San Angelo, Texas, March 29, 2019: Post 572 Legionnaire, SMSgt (retired) Kyle Mantel, presents the United States Air Force flag while other Air Force Vietnam War veterans stand during the playing of the medley of service songs during the 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony held at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center on the Angelo State University campus. Hosted by the EC-47 History Site CPP committee member American Legion Post 572, the event featured a static display by the Patriot Riders and a patriotic balloon release to open the Welcome Home celebration. The program included a tribute to the flags of Vietnam War allied countries, presentations of Gold and Blue Star Certificates of Honor and lapel pins, and a Commemoration video and medley of service songs followed by a rollcall and presentation of Commemorative Lapel Pins to fifty Vietnam War veterans. More than 250 veterans, family members, friends and community leaders attended. Photo by: Carl Bradley, Faith in a Flash Photography.



San Angelo, Texas, March 29, 2019: L-R: Chairperson of the Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, Dr. Carol Bonds, presents an EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program (CPP) committee Certificate of Appreciation to Patricia and Peter Aguirre in recognition of their 40 years of dedicated caregiving to Patricia's brother, Vietnam War veteran U.S. Army Sergeant Daniel R. Witherspoon. The Aguirre's were recognized for extraordinary selfless service during the 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony held at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center on the Angelo State University campus. Hosted by CPP committee member American Legion Post 572, the event featured a patriotic balloon release and the Patriot Riders, a tribute to the flags of Vietnam War allied countries, presentations of Gold and Blue Star Certificates of Honor and lapel pins, and a Commemoration video and medley of service songs followed by a rollcall and presentation of Commemorative Lapel Pins to fifty Vietnam War veterans. More than 250 veterans, family members, friends and community leaders attended. Photo by: Carl Bradley, Faith in a Flash Photography.



San Angelo, Texas, March 29, 2019: Community leaders, representing the East Angelo Lions Club, Angelo State University Alumni Association, San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, Goodfellow Air Force Base, American Legion Post 572 and Elks Lodge 1880, present commemorative lapel pins and Welcome Home greetings to more than 50 Vietnam veterans during the Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony held at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center on the Angelo State University campus. Photos by: Carl Bradley, Faith in a Flash Photography.



San Angelo, Texas, March 29, 2019: Community leaders, representing American Legion Post 572, Goodfellow AFB, Mediajaw Website Design company partner, and guest presenter Ray Snedegar (upper right), present commemorative lapel pins and Welcome Home greetings to more than 50 Vietnam veterans during the Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony held at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center on the Angelo State University campus. Photos by: Carl Bradley, Faith in a Flash Photography.



San Angelo, Texas, March 29, 2019: (L-R) Aryn Lockhart and Ray Snedegar pose for this photo during the 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony held at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center on the Angelo State University campus. Lockhart was one of the children airlifted out of Saigon during Operation Babylift in 1975. Snedegar was the C5A loadmaster on the flight with Lockhart that crashed shortly after takeoff, taking the lives of 78 children and 50 adults, including Air Force personnel. Crash survivors Lockhart and Snedegar were featured speakers hosted by the EC-47 History Site CPP committee member American Legion Post 572. In addition to their slideshow presentation, the event featured a display by the Patriot Riders and a balloon release to open the Welcome Home celebration. There was a well-paced program that included a tribute to the flags of Vietnam War allied countries, presentations of Gold and Blue Star Certificates of Honor and lapel pins, and a Commemoration video and medley of service songs followed by a "rollcall" and presentation of Commemorative Lapel Pins to fifty Vietnam War veterans. More than 250 veterans, family members, friends and community leaders attended. Photo by: Carl Bradley, Faith in a Flash Photography.

