



Reflections from the Western Wall



Welcome Home

Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Newsletter

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WESTERN SLOPE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue IV

April 2005

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Sculptor Richard Arnold & Jim

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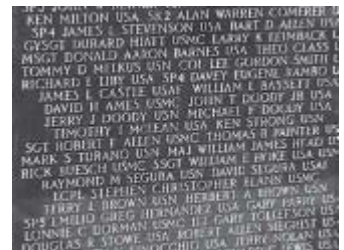
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**Western Slope
Vietnam War Memorial park**
Colorado Non-Profit Organization
www.field-of-dreams.org
(970) 250-5861

Front cover photo by Josh Nichols

No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave. — Calvin Coolidge

WELCOME HOME!!! These are words that we recently have been hearing as our troops return home from service around the world. Words that were echoed in every conflict when Americans returned home after serving their Country's call to duty, except for Vietnam. Using a K-Bar knife I cut the ceremonial ribbon to dedicate the Park on 4 July 2003. The long overdue "Welcome Home" were the first words out of my mouth. It's my hope that on July 4th, 2006, three bronze statues will permanently welcome home all veterans from all wars and be the crowning jewel of our Memorial Park.

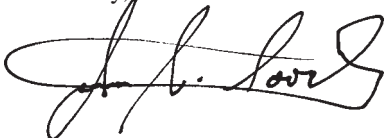
Seven years ago I envisioned and had our designer add to the early drawings two bronze figures to the Memorial concept. The figures were of my brother Tom and his best friend Marshall Davis. It was from their story that I developed the *Field of Dreams* which is now the Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Park. Three years ago I presented to the Board of Directors my idea of the "Welcome Home" concept which I wanted to incorporate into the design. Though the Board liked the idea our budget was limited to the construction and granite and it was decided that we should shelf the idea until a later date. Well that day is here and it's my privilege to update you, the people, who made the Dream a Reality.

The Welcome Home project will feature three bronze sculptures. It will depict a rural 1960's era Mother and Father welcoming home their service person returning home from a tour of duty. Our sculptor is a Vietnam vet named Richard Arnold from Telluride, Co. Richard is donating his services at cost to manufacture this wonderful piece of art. In order to get started I gave the Board of Directors of the national organization Help Hospitalized Veterans a presentation. They enjoyed the vision and have donated five thousand dollars for us to get started. The City of Fruita, Co. has also kicked in fifteen hundred for our advertising cost. In order to help with our fund raising efforts, BGen. Harry and I drove to Durango, Co. on March 19th and gave former U.S. Senator Ben "Nighthorse" Campbell and State Senator Jim Dyer a presentation of our proposal. As members of our Advisory Board they welcomed the opportunity to help us raise the estimated seventy thousand dollars to complete this project. It's my hope that our past supporters will assist as well.

In order to cut costs this quality newsletter that we print BI-annual will be made available to our readers on our website www.field-of-dreams.org after this addition. Everyone who is currently on our mailing list will receive a notification regarding the electronic version this Fall and subsequent publications thereafter.

Thank you for your continued support and WELCOME HOME!!!!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Doody". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish that extends across the width of the signature.

Jim Doody

NOW HEAR THIS!

By BGen. Harry T. Hagaman, USMC (Ret)

As I indicated in our Sept 04 newsletter, we planned on adding a second scholarship for the 2005/06 Semester at Mesa State College. At our fall Board of Directors meeting we voted unanimously to add a new scholarship.

Accordingly, the Mesa State Collage Foundation advertised our two scholarships in February, and by the first of March we had 21 applicants. Each of the 21 applicants met the grade point criteria which states that the applicant must be enrolled and have at least a 2.5 GPA for the first academic year. The student must be a formerly honorably discharged service man or women, or son or daughter of a military father or mother, grandfather or grandmother that served honorably in any war of our country. Each applicant is required to write a one- page essay on why he or she needs the financial help.



As we go to press with this newsletter, the winner's of our two scholarships have just been selected for the 2005 fall and 2006 winter academic year. The scholarship evaluation committee reviewed 21 applications, and former Navy man Edward Ziegs and repeat winner Marine Benjamin Blehm were selected. More information on these winners will be available on our Web Site www.field-of-dreams.org.

We continue to raise funds for our scholarship program through three efforts. First is the annual Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Spring Golf Tournament scheduled for 11 June at Adobe Creek in Fruita, CO. Second, we are planning our second All Services Military Scholarship Ball on 11 November honoring the 230th birthday of the Marine Corps at the Two Rivers Convention Center in Grand Junction. In conjunction with the Ball we are inviting the 143rd Signals Company of the Colorado National Guard, which recently returned 18 March from Iraq, as our guests. Third, and by no means least, we are accepting donations for the Scholarship Program from anyone interested in helping. All donations are tax deductible and they will go far to help a young student realize his or her potential.

Telluride Artist Captures “Welcome Home” in Bronze

By Jennie Aubert

Telluride sculptor Richard Arnold has more to share with the Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial’s “Welcome Home” project than just his talent as a large scale bronze artist. Arnold is also a Vietnam vet, who served as a U.S. Army military police investigator in Da Nang for the first half of his tour, and put together the lifeguard program on China Beach in Da Nang during the second half. He was 22-years-old when he was sent to Vietnam in 1965.



“I was there like most young Men—scared—and when I got home I was not welcomed,” says Arnold.

“The Welcome Home” Project was coined for Vietnam veterans, like Arnold, who never received a welcome home upon their return. For many young men and women, the only welcome they received was from their families.

The vision for Arnold’s bronze piece is a mother and father welcoming home their son from duty, yet will symbolically provide a welcome home to all men and women who have served our country.

This will not be the first bronze piece that Arnold has commissioned for a Vietnam War Memorial. His work as a talented artist and Vietnam veteran led him to the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial in Mobile, Alabama a few years ago. Arnold’s ability to capture human emotion in bronze led to his sculpture titled *Remembering* which embodies a veteran holding a set of dog tags with his head cocked, looking at the wall, and remembering someone who didn’t come home. This bronze piece, which resides as part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Battleship Park in Mobile, embodies pain, yet helps to restore the spirit of survivors who find comfort in Arnold’s artistic renditions. Similarly, the “Welcome Home” project aims to create an atmosphere that restores the spirit of those who may not have been given a welcome home.

After spending 20 years as a general contractor and project manager, and 10 years as an aviation flight instructor, charter pilot and airport manager, Arnold has settled into his career as an artist. At age 50, he followed his dream as an artist, and studied his talents in Scottsdale Arizona, Loveland and Aspen, Colorado, and in Fairhope, Alabama, at the Eastern Shore Art Center. With his extensive background, Arnold has gained the skills to design, plan, coordinate and construct projects. This background has enabled him to work on large commissions and public art projects, as well as small individual projects.

Arnold’s “Welcome Home” bronze sculpture will sit next to the Huey helicopter at the Memorial in Fruita, and will be completed by the summer of 2006. We hope you will find this project as compelling as we do!



Harry, Richard, Jim, & Wayne

2005 – Holidays & Observances

***Sponsored by the Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Park & The Veterans Committee
of the Western Slope**

Jan 1 – New Year's Day

Feb 21 – President's Day

Feb 22 – Washington's Birthday

*Mar 26 – Salute Our Troops Rally (Mesa County Court House)

April 3 – Daylight Savings Time Begins

May 8 – Mother's Day

*May 30 – Memorial Day – Service of Observance at Veterans Cemetery

*June 11 – Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Park Golf Tournament – Fund Raiser
For Scholarship Fund – Adobe Creek

June 14 – Flag Day & 230th U.S. Army Birthday

June 18 – 25 "The Moving Wall" Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Rifle, Colorado

June 19 – Father's Day

July 4 – Independence Day, Parade downtown Grand Junction, Fireworks at Suplezio
Field

*July 15 – MOAA Scholarship Golf Tournament – Redlands Mesa Golf Club

Aug 4 – 215th U.S. Coast Guard Birthday

Aug 12 – 13 – Blue Angels Air Show – Walker Field Airport, Grand Junction

Sep 5 – Labor Day

Sep 11 – Patriot's Day (Sep 11, 2001)

Sep 15 – Declaration of Independence Day (signing of)

Sep 16 – National POW/MIA Day

Sep 18 – 58th U.S. Air Force Birthday

Oct 13 – 230th U.S. Navy Birthday

Oct 30 – Daylight Savings Time Ends

Nov 8 – Election Day

Nov 10 – 230th U. S. Marine Corps Birthday

Nov 10 – Ceremonial Retreat 1800 – Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado

*Nov 11 – All Services Scholarship Marine Corps Ball – Two Rivers Convention Center

*Nov 11 – Veterans Day – Service at Vietnam War Memorial Park Fruita, CO

*Nov 12 – Veterans Day Parade Downtown Grand Junction – Best of Parade Award

Nov 24 – Thanksgiving Day

Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Dec 25 – Christmas Day

All Honorably Discharged U.S. military personnel who served between the years of 1959 - 1975 may purchase a granite etching on the Wall of Remembrance.



The Walk of Honor bricks were designed for all. It's a wonderful way to honor a loved one, friend, or a veteran's service throughout the history of the United States.

Memorial Park Donations/Pledges

Welcome Home
Bronze Donation \$ _____

Name _____

Vietnam Era Veteran (DD214) Wall \$100
Name for Granite Wall Etching:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

W. Slope KIA, MIA and POW FREE
(Granite Wall Etching)

Phone (H) (_____) _____

(W) (_____) _____

Walk of Honor \$75
The Walk is designed to honor all Veterans of *all Wars* and those that want to contribute to the project (Bricks imprinted, 3 lines, 18 characters per line)

Email _____

Serial # _____

Date(s) of Service _____ to _____

Name for Walk of Honor Bricks:

Branch of Service

Scholarship donation/pledge - donations in excess of \$1000 will be honored on the "Walk of Honor".

Army Navy Marines Air Force Coast Guard

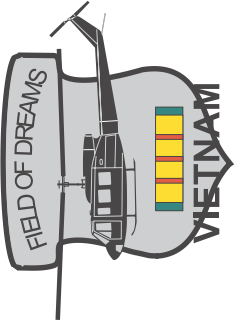
Memorial donation/pledge

Family member was in service

Payment: Check #: _____ Cash _____

This is a TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION. By filling out the above application you are giving the Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial, Inc. permission to verify military service dates for an inscription on the granite wall of the memorial.

Signature: _____



Western Slope Vietnam Memorial Park
PO Box 340 Fruita, CO 81521

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U.S. Postage
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