



Reflections from the Western Wall



Welcome Home

Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Newsletter


Words from the Founder

Ask not what your Country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your Country – JFK

Greetings once again my friends! Here it is September and the summer went by so fast. We wanted to get a newsletter to you before fall hits and it looks like we will just barely make it. A lot has been happening behind the scenes at the Memorial Park, and it's our hope we can bring you up to date before the unveiling of the Welcome Home statues on Veterans Day November 11th, 2006.

Richard Arnold, the sculptor, has informed me that the bronze statue of the Father should be out of the foundry and delivered to us by September 15th. It is a little behind schedule and we have a sense of urgency to get it here in Grand Junction so we can do what we did with the UH-1H huey helicopter (trailer it around town and do some more fundraising). Great projects like this and the Memorial itself are only completed by donations. Our friends at the Bacon Family Foundation recently donated \$5,000.00 and that was a tremendous boost to keep us on track for the unveiling date. The returning Son is now at the foundry and we hope to have it by early October. The Welcome Home Mother will be the last one to be cast, and I am looking forward to seeing all three together once again. Several of us had the opportunity to critique Richard's work while they were in the clay form, and what a treat it will be to see them come alive! With the help of some volunteers and the City of Fruita, we will be putting in a new walk to where the statues will be placed, along with a bench that is being donated by a VVA organization.

This final tribute to our Vietnam-era Veterans at the Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Park will transcend time. Our freedoms are being protected now by a new generation of Americans and I want to thank them as well for their sacrifice. WELCOME HOME!!!!



Jim Doody – Founder
Mayor of Grand Junction



NOW HEAR THIS!

By: BRIG-GENERAL HARRY T. HAGAMAN
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (RET)

These three command words “Now Hear This” are historic Navy and Marine Corps jargon; words used to demand close attention of Sailors and Marines down through the years.

We now provide three scholarships in the amount of \$1500 each for continuing Mesa State College and UTEC students for the 2006-07 academic year.

This year’s winners of the Western Slope Vietnam Scholarship Foundation are: Brent Alumbaugh, Timothy Forney, and Rachel Notson. All three are outstanding candidates.

Brent Alumbaugh is a Junior majoring in Kinesiology (physical development). He was a scholar athlete in both High School and College. He is presently serving in the National Guard and attending college. He has a 3.83 GPA, and expects to graduate in Spring 2007.

Timothy Forney is a Junior majoring in Business Administration. Tim was in the National Honor Society in High School and was an Eagle Scout. At Mesa State he maintains a 3.46 GPA. He expects to graduate in the Fall of 2007. His father served in the U.S.Navy.

Rachel Notson is a Senior majoring in Business Administration, and is pursuing a future Master’s Degree in Tourism Studies. She has been a member of the Mesa State Honor Society since 2003. She maintains a 4.0 GPA. Her Father and Grandfather had careers in the USAF. She expects to graduate in December 2006.

We continue to raise funds for our Scholarship program through three efforts:

1. Our annual June Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Golf Tourney
2. Our All-Services Military Ball held at the Grand Junction Two Rivers Convention Center
3. And last, but not least, we accept donations for our Scholarship Program from anyone interested in helping. All donations are tax deductible and they will greatly assist a young student in realizing his or her potential.



Col Roger Hagerty, USMC Retired

Roughly 10 years ago, Col Roger Hagerty was approached by Jim Doody, founder and president of the Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial, and was asked to join him in a project that was at the time just a vision for a “Field of Dreams.” Jim asked Col. Hagerty to join his efforts, and help raise money for a future Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Park which was to be built in Fruita, Colorado. After listening to Jim’s dream, Col Hagerty quickly agreed.

“I’ve got to give Jim a lot of credit for getting it done,” says Col Hagerty. “For a long time, I wondered if it would actually happen. Jim was the real motivator.”

Born in 1931 in New York City, Col. Hagerty earned his B.A. degree in Political Science from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in September 1954. After being promoted to first lieutenant in 1956, Col. Hagerty transferred to The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia of that same year. He served as platoon commander and instructor for the next three years, and was promoted to captain in 1958. Among his several military accomplishments before serving in Vietnam, Col. Hagerty completed Arabic Language School in 1965 from the Defense Language Institute in Washington, D.C., and served in the Middle East as a United Nations Military Observer with the UN Truce Team. He was also promoted to major.



At the age of 37, Col. Hagerty was sent to the Republic of Vietnam as operations officer of the 26th Marines at Khe Sanh. It was during this time that he received the Bronze Star for Combat “V”. The battle of Khe Sanh was fought between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Peoples Army of North Vietnam (PAVN) and the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) during the period of January 21, 1968, to April 8, 1968. The U.S. Commanders provoked the battle, hoping the PAVN and the NVA would attempt to repeat their famous victory at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu. The battle of Khe Sanh turned out to be an American victory because of the overwhelming power of the U.S. air support and air lift capacity. The NVA and PAVN suffered over 9,000 plus casualties. U.S. losses were: 205 dead, 443 wounded, and 2 missing. North Vietnam claimed the battle a diversionary tactic and abandoned the campaign in the aftermath of the Tet offensive.

Following his service in Vietnam, Col. Hagerty continued to flourish in his military career. He continued with his military education, graduating from the Armed Forces Staff College in 1969, the Naval War College in 1973, and George Washington University in 1975. In 1976, he was promoted to colonel, and assumed the duties of Military Secretary to the Commandant of the Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

In 1978, Col. Hagerty retired from the Marine Corps, having served a total of 29 years and 11 month. For the last 17 years, he has worked in California and Grand Junction, Colorado where he now resides.

Reflecting on the Memorial Park, Col. Hagerty says, “It gives me a great feeling to look at the Memorial.”

However, he does remind us that “we are not finished; all our goals have not been achieved as of right now—we still have to complete the ‘Welcome Home’ Project.”

Thanks to all of you for your support!

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 \$ _____

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

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

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)

Name for Walk of Honor Bricks: _____

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

Memorial donation/pledge

Payment: Check #: _____ Cash _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) (_____) _____

(W) (_____) _____

Email _____

Serial # _____

Date(s) of Service _____ to _____

Branch of Service

Army Navy Marines Air Force Coast Guard

Family member was in service

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: _____