



June 17 – 20, 2010
Washington, D.C.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center



Perspective View from Sidewalk - Henry Bacon Drive



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center
POLSHEK PARTNERSHIP ARCHITECTS

www.buildthecenter.org

Honoring Every Name on The Wall SDIT will be raising awareness for its nationwide grassroots campaign to raise at least one dollar for each of the 58,267 names inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The monies raised will support the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center at The Wall.

The initiative—"Honoring Every Name on The Wall"—will collect donations from SDIT members, family, friends, veterans, the public and supporters. The campaign's goal is to present a check of at least \$58,267 to VVMF at the Father's Day Rose Remembrance Ceremony at The Wall next June. SDIT is seeking to donate a significant, six-figure gift to the Memorial Center fundraising drive.

The Memorial Center will be located underground near The Wall. Among the exhibits and artifacts that visitors will see there are a 'Wall of Faces' featuring photos of service members who lost their lives in the conflict and moving displays of the personal items placed at The Wall for them by family members and military comrades.

The Center's groundbreaking is expected in 2010, with construction being completed within 18 months. More information about the 'Honoring Every Name on The Wall' campaign can be found on the SDIT Web site at www.sdit.org. SDIT members and supporters can contribute today via SDIT's PayPal account accessible through the organization's Web site or by sending a check to SDIT at: P.O. Box 100366, Arlington, VA 22210. Please indicate on the check or online contribution that the donation is to support the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center. Donations to the Center are tax-deductible.

Sons and Daughters In Touch
P.O.Box 1596
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Cover: SDIT 20th Anniversary Lapel Pin

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SONS AND DAUGHTERS
IN TOUCH

"They Were Our Fathers..."

Our Mission: To locate, unite and provide support to Sons, Daughters and other family members of those who died or remain missing as a result of the Vietnam War; to produce a quarterly newsletter providing important information to all SDIT stakeholders; to promote healing via networking and special projects, to regularly address high schools and college classes in hopes of providing education on the historical and emotional legacy of war.

SDIT Father's Day 2010 Planning Committee:

Cathy Altomare
(Daughter of Daniel S. Brittian, USMC:66)

Jeanette Chervony
(daughter of Eddie Chervony, USA:68)

Tony Cordero
(son of William E. Cordero, USAF:65)

Melanie Danna
(daughter of Joseph J. Danna, USA:70)

Sue Gough
(daughter of David A. Sanford, USA:68)

Daniel Jordan
(son of Daniel Jordan, USA:67)

Laurette Kanavos
(daughter of Michael Rand, USA:66)

Patty Lee
(daughter of Delbert C. Totty, USA:67)

Sue Mattera
(daughter of James C. Mitchell, USN:70)

Linda McBrayer
(daughter of Thomas Soliz, USMC:67)

Terry McGregor
(son of Donald V. McGregor, USA:63)

Dave Pendergraft
(son of Ray D. Pendergraft, USMC:67)

Denise Reed
(daughter of Harold B. Reed, USA:66)

Kelly Rihn
(daughter of Joel D. Coleman, USA:66)

Elaine Roach
(daughter of Harold Roach, USN:64)

Jim Sampers
(son of James W. Sampers, USN:69)

Colleen Shine
(daughter of Anthony C. Shine, USAF:72)

Dennis Shine
(son of Dennis F. Shine, USA:69)

Cindy Smith
(daughter of Richard L. Sanders, USA:67)

Dave Smith
(son of James A. Smith, USN:66)

Mike Stasko
(son of Thomas W. Stasko, USA:66)

Stacy Swenck
(daughter of Robert B. Swenck, USAF:71)

SDIT Board Members:

Tony Cordero
Melanie Danna
Laurette Kanavos
Patty Lee
Sue Mattera

Kelly Rihn
Elaine Roach
Jim Sampers
Dennis Shine
Mike Taylor



Welcome to the 20th Anniversary celebration of Sons and Daughters In Touch

Two decades ago, this organization was formed because most 'sons and daughters' didn't know anyone else who lost their father in the Vietnam War, nor had they ever seen their fathers' names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Today, the common bond that unites us also gives life to 'The Wall.' Equally important, that bond challenges us to be resilient examples of triumph to a new generation of America's Gold Star children.

So many deserve acknowledgement for building SDIT over the past 20 years, there are not enough pages to list them here. To every Gold Star 'son and daughter,' to every Gold Star Mother and Gold Star Wife, to every Vietnam Veteran, and each member of our families who has supported the cause of SDIT — thank you and congratulations!

Rather than trying to find more appropriate words to celebrate this milestone, I'll defer to the Congress of the United States of America. (*see page 18*)

On this Father's Day and on every day, I wish you Peace.

Tony Cordero

Events

The following are brief descriptions of the SDIT activities for June 17 – 20, 2010

Sharing Circles

Informal group sessions offering the opportunity to listen, share and voluntarily express any thoughts or feelings related to the experience we all share.

Hospitality Suite

The casual meeting place to spend free time, meet friends, unwind and relax. Snacks and beverages are available. Casual attire.

Cocktail Reception

This reception is open to all SDIT members, their families and supporters. The no-host bar takes place in the DoubleTree Hotel's (Jefferson Room – 15th floor) offering a view of the Washington skyline.

Washing the Wall

Get up early Friday morning to assist the US Parks Service in cleaning the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Dress casual, you might get wet!

Information Seminar

An information seminar to be held Saturday morning to include the following:

- 12 minute trailer of a film about Gold Star children by Mitty Mirror
- presentation from VVMF on the Education Center and the Faces of the Wall campaign
- presentation from Families United on the national tour of the Gold Star Registry
- presentation about the plans and projects of the Department of Defense Commission on the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War
- Question and Answer session to conclude the program

Dinner Banquet

The Saturday evening dinner featuring keynote speaker Maj. Gen. Robert F. Worley, Jr. USAF, the son of Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert F. Worley, who was lost in Vietnam July 23, 1968.

A video presentation of "Heartstrings" (produced by SDIT Life Member Gary Lee) will be shown. Dress is business casual.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS
IN TOUCH

"They Were Our Fathers..."

Father's Day Ceremony

This is the culmination of the Father's Day 2010 celebration. Held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the ceremony will feature words and music that pay tribute to our fathers. SDIT and its supporters are honored that the ceremony's keynote address will be delivered by US Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., the son of US Army Maj. Gen. George Casey, Sr. who was lost in Vietnam July 7, 1970.

The ceremony concludes with attendees placing a rose and special message at 'The Wall.' Dress casually as the weather will likely be hot and humid.



Participants

Chief of Staff United States Army General George W. Casey, Jr.

General George W. Casey, Jr. became the 36th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army on 10 April 2007. In his previous assignment, he was the Commander, Multi-National Force – Iraq, a coalition of over thirty countries, from 01 July 2004 until 10 February 2007. General Casey was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1970. Throughout his career, he has served in operational assignments in Germany, Italy, Egypt, Southwest Asia and the United States. He has commanded at every level from platoon to Division. General Casey holds a Masters Degree in International Relations from Denver University and has served as a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States.

On July 7, 1970, General Casey's father — Maj. General George W. Casey Sr. was killed in South Vietnam. He was flying in a helicopter to visit wounded troops at a local hospital. Major General George W. Casey is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Panel 9 West, Line 26.



Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, Sr.
USA: 7/7/70
Panel 9W Row 26



Participants

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Worley II

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Worley II is Director of Programs, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. The Directorate of Programs develops, integrates, evaluates, and analyzes the Air Force Program across the Future Years Defense Program and is responsible for maintaining the integrity and discipline of the Air Force Corporate Structure process.

General Worley was commissioned through the U.S. Air Force Academy in May 1978. His initial assignment involved test development for the Weighted Airman Promotion System. He was then assigned to the Pentagon as an Air Staff Training officer, and later worked Global Positioning System phase-in issues and Strategic Defense Initiative architectures and employment concepts. He has served as the Director of Operations for the Global Positioning System squadron during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and then moved to the U.S. Space Command staff working wartime employment issues for satellite systems.

General Worley has commanded the 12th Missile Squadron, 12th Space Warning Squadron, 50th Operations Group and 30th Space Wing, where he led spacelift operations and directed the Western Test Range at Vandenberg AFB, Calif. In 2003, he was assigned to Headquarters Air Force Space Command, serving as Director of Mission Support and Director of Strategic Plans, Programs, Analyses, Assessments and Lessons Learned. He was responsible for programming and advocating resources for the command; planning for the commands force structure, bases and facilities; and managing the command's international relations and foreign disclosure programs. Prior to his current assignment, he was Deputy Director of Programs, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Programs.

On July 23, 1968, General Worley's father — Maj. General Robert F. Worley, Sr. was killed in South Vietnam. He was flying in his RF-4C Phantom when it crashed after being hit by enemy ground fire approximately 65 miles northwest of Da Nang Air Force Base. Maj. General Robert F. Worley is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Panel 51W, Row 47.



Maj. Gen. Robert F. Worley, Sr.
USAF: 7/23/68
Panel 51W Row 47



Participants

Jan Scruggs

*Founder and President
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund*

Jan C. Scruggs is the founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. He conceived the idea of building a memorial dedicated to all who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam.

Scruggs was a wounded and decorated Vietnam War veteran, having served in the 199th Light Infantry Brigade of the U.S. Army. He felt a memorial would serve as a healing device for a different kind of wound — that inflicted on our national psyche by the long and controversial war.

In May 1979, Scruggs took \$2,800 of his own money and launched the effort. Gradually, he gained the support of other Vietnam veterans in persuading Congress to provide a prominent location on federal property somewhere in Washington, D.C.. After a difficult struggle, Congress responded and the site chosen was on the Mall near the Lincoln Memorial.

Serving as president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., the non-profit organization set up to build the Memorial, Scruggs headed up the effort that raised \$8.4 million and saw the Memorial completed in two years. It was dedicated on November 13, 1982, during a week-long national “salute” to Vietnam veterans in the nation’s capital.



Participants

Elaine Roach

A knock at the door brought her news of one war casualty — 40 years later the same knock again.

A double tragedy for SDIT member Elaine Roach: first her father, then her son — killed in two different wars. Forty years separate the Vietnam War from the Iraq War, but Roach stands between, bound forever by memories of her father and her first-born son, her double loss compounded by double grief.

Roach was only 8 when Harold Roach's (USN: '64) plane crashed into the South China Sea; she was 48 when her son PFC Joel Brattain was killed on March 13, 2004, his armored vehicle blown up by a roadside bomb in Baghdad.

At the 1992 SDIT Father's Day reunion, Roach and Brattain (then 9 years old) went to the Wall for the first time and sought her father's name. It was not there. That was when Roach learned that her father had crashed outside the demarcation line and the DOD did not consider him a war casualty. Roach has tried for many years to add his name to the Wall, but her requests have not been honored.

Despite this trauma, young Joel Brattain decided to serve his country after Sept. 11, 2001. He married his high school sweetheart, shipped out to Iraq, and was killed at age 21 just two weeks before he was due to come home. Elaine Roach carries her painful burden with grace, and SDIT is honored that she will be a guest speaker at the Sunday ceremony on 20 June 2010, in front of the Wall that does not bear Harold Roach's name.



Lt. Harold S. Roach, Jr.
USN: 1964



PFC Joel Brattain
USA: 2004

"They Were Our Fathers..."



Harry G. Cramer
USA: 10/21/57
Panel 1E, Row 78



Terry D. Cordell
USA: 10/15/62,
Panel 1E, Row 13



Donald V. McGregor
USA: 8/13/63
Panel 1E, Row 26



Manuel R. Denton
USN: 10/8/63
Panel 1E, Row 29



Charles M. Hasper
USA: 1/17/64
Panel 1E, Row 40



John L. McCoy
USA: 9/26/64
Panel 1E, Row 64



Ronald Storz
USAF: 4/28/65
Panel 1E, Row 110



Paul F. McNally
USMC: 6/6/65
Panel 2E, Row 1



William E. Cordero
USAF: 6/22/65
Panel 2E, Row 15



Carl E. Jackson
USAF: 6/27/65
Panel 2E, Row 21



John Weger, Jr.
USAF: 10/22/65
Panel 2E, Row 132



John L. Geoghegan
USA: 11/15/65
Panel 3E, Row 56



Robert M. Horsky
USAF: 12/11/65
Panel 4E, Row 12



William H. Crisp
USAF: 12/20/65
Panel 4E, Row 31



Clyde D. Taylor
USA: 1/5/66
Panel 4E, Row 55



Earl F. Brown
USA: 1/29/66
Panel 4E, Row 106



Oscar Mauterer
USAF: 2/15/66
Panel 5E, Row 38



James T. Ruffin
USN: 2/18/66
Panel 5E, Row 49



Thomas W. Stasko
USA: 2/18/66
Panel 5E, Row 50



Karl E. Worst
USAF: 3/2/66
Panel 5E, Row 96



Clyde Norvelle, Jr.
USA: 3/30/66
Panel 6E, Row 67



Warren L. Anderson
USAF: 4/26/66
Panel 6E, Row 135



William F. Mullen
USMC: 4/29/66
Panel 7E, Row 11



Joel D. Coleman
USA: 5/5/66
Panel 7E, Row 29



Thomas H. Welsh
USA: 5/16/66
Panel 7E, Row 66



Richard H. Schmidt
USA: 5/17/66
Panel 7E, Row 76



Daniel S. Brittain
USMC: 5/30/66
Panel 7E, Row 124



Armon D. Shingledecker
USAF: 5/31/66
Panel 7E, Row 129



Jerry D. Olds
USAF: 6/5/66
Panel 8E, Row 12



Johnnie P. Sawyer
USA: 6/10/66
Panel 8E, Row 31

"They Were Our Fathers..."



David E. Baun
USA: 6/30/66
Panel 8E, Row 110



David P. Spears
USA: 7/24/66
Panel 9E, Row 71



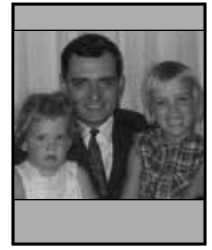
Benjamin Warren
USA: 10/3/66
Panel 11E, Row 42



James A. Smith
USN: 10/26/66
Panel 11E, Row 115



Michael Rand
USA: 10/27/66
Panel 11E, Row 119



John W. Carlson
USAF: 12/7/66
Panel 13E, Row 18



Curtis E. Crawford
USMC: 2/28/67
Panel 15E, Row 115



Wayne N. Hayes
USMC: 2/28/67
Panel 15E, Row 117



John C. Crawford
USN: 3/10/67
Panel 16E, Row 51



Charles E. Hosking Jr.
USA: 3/21/67
Panel 17E, Row 5



Delbert C. Totty
USA: 3/31/67
Panel 17E, Row 82



Alvin C. McMann Jr.
USA: 4/2/67
Panel 17E, Row 94



Richard L. Basinger
USMC: 5/12/67
Panel 19E, Row 92



Forrest M. Stafford
USN: 5/14/67
Panel 19E, Row 122



William D. Sizemore
USA: 6/28/67
Panel 22E, Row 81



Ray D. Pendergraft
USMC: 7/2/67
Panel 22E, Row 112



Daniel Jordan
USA: 7/10/67
Panel 23E, Row 42



Wayne E. Jones
USA: 8/17/67
Panel 25E, Row 7



Bruce A. Jensen
USAF: 8/27/67
Panel 25E, Row 51



William E. Jerkins
USAF: 9/4/67
Panel 25E, Row 102



Frank R. Kerbl
USA: 9/7/67
Panel 27E, Row 65



Thomas D. Culp
USA: 9/11/67
Panel 26E, Row 55



Rory A. Madden
USA: 10/10/67
Panel 27E, Row 84



Riley L. Pitts
USA: 10/31/67
Panel 28E, Row 105



C. Gregory Nuckles
USA: 11/4/67
Panel 29E, Row 21



Harold E. Cumbie
USA: 11/21/67
Panel 30E, Row 55



Richard L. Sanders
USA: 11/24/67
Panel 30E, Row 81



William D. Dickson
USA: 12/24/67
Panel 32E, Row 54



Donald J. Cruden
USMC: 12/27/67
Panel 32E, Row 71



Richard C. Keefe
USA: 1/7/68
Panel 33E, Row 70

SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH 20th ANNIVERSARY FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION 2010

Our fathers are placed in order as they appear on the Wall. The names on the Wall are listed in chronological order, starting at the apex on panel 1E in 1959, moving day by day to the end of the eastern wall at panel 70E, which ends on May 25, 1968, starting again at panel 70W at the end of the western wall which completes the list for May 25, 1968, and returning to the apex at panel 1W in 1975.



Robert E. Condon
USA: 1/18/68
Panel 34E, Row 67



Richard A. Kerr
USMC: 1/31/68
Panel 36E, Row 19



Juanito Perea
USA: 2/28/68
Panel 41E, Row 70



Samuel K. Stewart
USA: 2/29/68
Panel 42E, Row 10



Vernon Pendergrass
USMC: 3/4/68
Panel 42E, Row 70



Donald R. Hubbs
USN: 3/17/68
Panel 45E, Row 12



Linwood D. Martin
USA: 3/22/68
Panel 45E, Row 59



John B. Hurtado
USA: 4/6/68
Panel 48E, Row 28



Robert Saavedra
USN: 4/28/68
Panel 52E, Row 43



Eddie Chervony
USA: 5/5/68
Panel 55E, Row 6



Howard E. Query, III
USA: 5/10/68
Panel 58E, Row 13



Richard E. Githens
USA: 5/29/68
Panel 63W, Row 6



Robert F. Worley
USAF: 7/23/68
Panel 51W, Row 47



Francis C. Sollers
USA: 12/23/68
Panel 36W, Row 70



Leroy I. Blankenship
USMC: 4/1/69
Panel 28W, Row 101



Guy T. Fletcher
USA: 4/11/69
Panel 27W, Row 55



Rodney J. Black
USA: 5/2/69
Panel 26W, Row 96



John K. Vogelsang
USA: 6/6/69
Panel 23W, Row 94



Robert L. Howard
USA: 6/10/69
Panel 22W, Row 13



Walter J. Carney
USA: 6/13/69
Panel 22W, Row 38



Gregorio Mora
USMC: 6/17/69
Panel 22W, Row 67



Paul H. Sheehan
USMC: 7/7/69
Panel 21W, Row 78



James P. Eckles
USA: 8/12/69
Panel 19W, Row 12



Dennis F. Shine
USA: 8/19/69
Panel 19W, Row 73



James W. Sampers
USN: 9/7/69
Panel 18W, Row 56



Harry J. Coates, Jr.
USAF: 11/4/69
Panel 16W, Row 27



Harvey P. Kelley
USA: 11/20/69
Panel 16W, Row 100



Roger W. Heinz
USA: 12/9/69
Panel 15W, Row 42



William A. Griffis
USMC: 1/24/70
Panel 14W, Row 62



Edward M. Hudgens
USAF: 3/21/70
Panel 12W, Row 30

“They Were Our Fathers...”



Charles S. Rowley
USAF: 4/22/70
Panel 11W, Row 38



Lewis C. Walton
USA: 5/10/70
Panel 3W, Row 30



Ellis D. Green
USA: 5/23/70
Panel 10W, Row 84



George W. Casey
USA: 7/7/70
Panel 9W, Row 26



Wayne A. McConkey
USA: 9/15/70
Panel 7W, Row 66



David J. Schmerbeck
USAF: 10/2/70
Panel 6W, Row 108



Raymond B. Penn, Jr.
USA: 12/1/70
Panel 6W, Row 102



Joseph J. Danna, Jr.
USA: 12/16/70
Panel 6W, Row 124



Fred A. Williams
USA: 12/16/70
Panel 6W, Row 126



Leslie L. Karnes
USA: 2/16/71
Panel 5W, Row 111



Curtis E. Burkett
USA: 2/19/71
Panel 5W, Row 120



Martin W. Gronborg, Jr.
USA: 9/4/71
Panel 2W, Row 10



Robert B. Swenck
USAF: 11/25/71
Panel 2W, Row 72



Henry M. Serex
USAF: 4/2/72
Panel 2W, Row 128



Clemie McKinney
USN: 4/14/72
Panel 2W, Row 136



Robert A. Brett, Jr.
USAF: 9/29/72
Panel 1W, Row 75



Anthony C. Shine
USAF: 12/2/72
Panel 1W, Row 93



Ronald W. Forrester
USMC: 12/27/72
Panel 1W, Row 106



*What moves through us is a
silence, a quiet sadness, a longing
for one more day, one more word,
one more touch, we may not
understand why you left this earth
so soon, or why you left before
we were ready to say good-bye,
but little by little, we begin to
remember not just that you died,
but that you lived. And that your
life gave us memories too beautiful
to forget.*

— anonymous

History of Sons and Daughters In Touch

In 1990, Tony Cordero began to realize that he would soon outlive his father, Maj. William Cordero, who was 29 years old when his plane disappeared over the Vietnam-Laos border in 1965. In addition, besides his four siblings, he had never met anyone else who lost their father in the Vietnam War.

Those realizations led him to Washington, D.C. where he connected with Wanda Ruffin, whose husband, Navy Commander James T. Ruffin, was lost in Vietnam. Wanda arranged for her daughter Wende to speak with Tony about their common experiences. The 'Gold Star' children, by then young adults, related common experiences and enjoyed instant camaraderie.

In 1990, a Memorial Day article in Parade magazine spotlighting Wende, Tony and several other 'sons and daughters' generated a national response from 1500 'Gold Star Children' who wanted to meet and to share their common bond. The first "Proud to Remember" Father's Day gathering took place in 1992 and received an overwhelming response from hundreds of 'sons and daughters,' their mothers and supportive Vietnam veterans. A generation of America's

Gold Star children looked at the names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and proudly proclaimed, "They were our fathers."

In 1993, SDIT hosted its second Father's Day Reunion in Washington, DC, welcoming a larger audience of sons and daughters, their families and supportive Veterans. Following its second Father's Day Reunion, SDIT set out to establish itself as a fully recognized non-profit organization. Subsequent Father's Day Reunions were held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1997 and 2000 when SDIT celebrated its 10th Anniversary.

The 2000 celebration concluded with a challenge that SDIT members should travel to Vietnam to see the places where their fathers fought and died. In March 2003, under the theme, 'In Honor, Peace and Understanding,' 70 SDIT members spent 18 days traveling across Vietnam to visit the actual sites where their fathers gave their lives.

SDIT celebrated its 15th anniversary on Father's Day 2005, presenting these 'sons and daughters' with the Gold Star pin that was now decades overdue. 'Gold Star children' from Operation Enduring Freedom and

Operation Iraqi Freedom joined the ceremony in order to ease the pain they were experiencing as a result of the loss of their parents in the Global War on Terror.

After two decades, the Gold Star children who lost their fathers in America's longest war have grown to recognize the names of those listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and befriend the families they left behind. In November 2007, as the memorial was celebrating its 25th anniversary, these 'sons and daughters' gathered in tribute at 'the Wall' that now represents the SDIT family tree, and participated in the reading of the names.

2010 marks SDIT's 20th anniversary, a milestone not foreseen nor really wanted. The truth is that no one looks forward to membership in SDIT. We would all trade membership here for more time with our dads. But, for those whom history has handed such an intimate connection with the Vietnam War, 'Sons and Daughters In Touch' has become the salve to help ease our pain.



Timeline

The photos are only a small representation of what members have been up to over the past 20 years.

1990 Formation of SDIT



Tony Cordero



Dear Tony,
I have just finished reading the article about Sons and Daughters in Touch, in Parade magazine. Although my

Dear Tony & Wanda,
My father was killed in Viet Nam March 1967. I am interested in joining Sons & Daughters in Touch. Thank you for any information you might send.

Dear Tony,
I was so touched by the article I read in Parade Magazine on Sons and Daughters in Touch. While I don't have a father, brother, or any other relative who was involved in Viet Nam, I still feel myself emotionally tangled with it. Two decades later, I have continued to grieve for those young men and women of my generation whose lives were destroyed or permanently scarred.



(right) Mike Cruden, Wanda Ruffin, and Layna Peltier

SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH

"They Were Our Fathers..."

TONY CORDERO WAS ONLY 4 YEARS old when, on Father's Day in 1965, he lost his dad. Air Force Maj. William Cordero disappeared when his B-57 crashed in dense jungle along the Vietnam-Lao border. His wife, Kathleen, was expecting their fifth child.

"Every night for the next four years," Tony recalls, "with Mom standing in our bedroom doorway, we'd pray for Dad wherever he was." In 1969, after the crash site was discovered, Tony traveled with his mother to Major Cordero's burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Today, Tony is manager of a Los Angeles bank branch and the father of two small girls. He is not only keeping alive the memory of his father, he has formed an organization, Sons and Daughters in Touch (formerly called *They Were Our Fathers*).

Like many Americans who tried to put the painful Vietnam experience behind them, until recently Tony and his family avoided discussing their feelings. Tony's mother, Kathleen D'Amrosi, confides: "I now realize that for 15 years after my husband was buried, I was numb. The kids were too young to deal with those feelings. And the war was so unpopular that we just didn't talk about it with outsiders."

However, in May 1989, the emotional impact of the 20th anniversary of Major Cordero's funeral motivated Tony to reach out to others. "At that time, I was a couple of months shy of my 28th birthday," he says. "I realized that within the next two years I will have outlived my dad. I look at him as my hero, and so to venture into an age he never knew is scary. And my daughters are becoming old enough to learn about their grandfather. That pushed me to ask questions. I wondered how many other surviving children are afraid to come out and talk about it."

Tony called his state Veterans Affairs Department and learned that there was no organization for children of men killed in the war. He was referred to the office of the Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a private organization in Washington, D.C., that sponsors special projects and services at the memorial. Wanda Ruffin—a Friends project coordinator whose husband, James, a Navy aviator, was killed off the coast of Vietnam—agreed to help Tony to get the sons and daughters to communicate and to search for veterans who had served with the fathers of these young people. The first name she gave Tony was that of her own daughter, Wanda, now 24, who was born three months after her father perished.

"I volunteered to work for the Friends because I found the memorial to be a healing place," says Wanda, who has degrees in nursing and grief counseling. "I believed that it was a good idea for the young people to get in touch. Even though my daughter and I are very close, there are some feelings she could better discuss with her peers. After Tony first talked with Wanda, continued

Children of men who died in Vietnam have a lonely experience in common. Now they're getting together to talk about it.

'We Never Knew Our Fathers'

By Al Santoli

PARADE MAGAZINE • MAY 27, 1990 • PAGE 21

1992 First National Father's Day Gathering

"Proud to Remember"



(below, left to right) The Bulletin Board; members of the Planning Committee; VVMF Founder Jan Scruggs; Wanda Ruffin and Tony Cordero

1993 Second National Father's Day Gathering



The Bulletin Board



Tony Cordero



Congressman Sam Johnson, POW



Gen. Wayne Downing



Gen. Barry McCaffrey

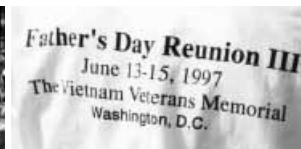


Adrian Cronaur
"Good Morning, Vietnam"

1997 Third National Father's Day Gathering



Father's Day Ceremony



T-Shirt

Will the Vietnam memorial stand the test of time?

The founder of America's most popular monument says "the Wall" is as powerful as it was when it was dedicated 15 years ago next week. BY ANN MARSH-BROWNE

GERHART MARSH never used the one that was great effect: "We're in luck in this year." Thirteen years ago this month, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, America's most popular monument, was dedicated. Today, "the Wall" is more than just a monument; it's a symbol of a nation's history. It's a place where Americans remember the sacrifices of a difficult war. It's a place where the future of the memorial is being debated. It's a place where the future of the memorial is being debated. It's a place where the future of the memorial is being debated.



Jan Scruggs
article, Oct.'97



Mark Pitts



Grandkids Tour

2000 10th Anniversary Father's Day Gathering



(top left) USA General and Vietnam Veteran Jerry Sinn,
(bottom) Invocation, (top right) VVA President George Duggins



2003 SDIT Vietnam Trip



"In Honor, Peace and Understanding"

2005 15th Anniversary National Gathering

"Remembering Our Fathers"



Washing The Wall



Patty Lee preparing for the Gold Star Children ceremony



Dennis Shine Award

Jeannette Chervony Award



Cindy Smith Award



Rich Sanders, VietNow President



Tom Corey, VVA President

2007 25th Anniversary of the Wall – SDIT in attendance



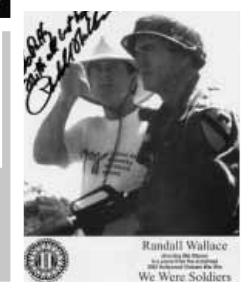
(above)
SDIT Delegation

(right) SDIT members Tony Cordero, Kelly Rihn, Laurette Rand Kanavos and Melanie Danna with General Casey

(right)
Sue Mattera,
Larry Randazzo,
VVMF Yellow-Hat Volunteer,
and Pam Mitchell



Community Activities over the years



Family to get flier's remains
 The remains of a Navy flier who died in Vietnam 31 years ago will be returned to his family for burial, Air Force officials said yesterday.
 Lt. Cmdr. Donald V. Davis of Salisbury, N.C., died July 25, 1967, when his A4-E aircraft crashed while attacking a truck convoy in North Vietnam.
 An American-Vietnamese search team last identified the probable location of Davis' crash site last





IV

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 278

Expressing the sense of Congress that a grateful Nation supports and salutes Sons and Daughters in Touch on its 20th Anniversary that is being held on Father's Day, 2010, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, the District of Columbia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON (for herself and Mr. FILNER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that a grateful Nation supports and salutes Sons and Daughters in Touch on its 20th Anniversary that is being held on Father's Day, 2010, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, the District of Columbia.

Whereas there is virtue in remembering and honoring the service and sacrifice of those who died or remain missing as a result of the war in Southeast Asia and the families and children they left behind;

Whereas an estimated 20,000 American children lost fathers in the war in Southeast Asia;

Whereas Father's Day is a fitting day to recognize the sacrifice and service of these fallen heroes and their families;

2

Whereas the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in the Nation's capital symbolically and literally represents the men and women who gave their lives in the war in Southeast Asia;

Whereas Sons and Daughters in Touch (SDIT) is the only national organization formed specifically to bring together and support the children and families of these American heroes;

Whereas SDIT locates, unites, and supports sons, daughters, and other family members of those who died or remain missing as a result of the Vietnam War and promotes healing through various outreach and education efforts;

Whereas SDIT has held regular Father's Day gatherings for the past 20 years to bring together such sons, daughters, wives, and other family members in a spirit of honor, remembrance, and learning;

Whereas America's current military campaigns have produced a new generation of Gold Star sons and daughters who have lost parents in war;

Whereas Sons and Daughters in Touch is in a unique position to serve as an example to current and future generations of Gold Star families as they bear the painful burden resulting from the selfless sacrifices made by their fathers and mothers in wartime service to the Nation, and SDIT can also serve as a resilient example to all nations affected by war;

Whereas Sons and Daughters in Touch will celebrate its 20th anniversary, which is being held on Father's Day, 2010, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, the District of Columbia; and

•HCON 278 IH

3

Whereas there is triumph, comfort, and honor in healing:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that a grate-
3 ful Nation supports and salutes Sons and Daughters in
4 Touch on its 20th Anniversary that is being held at the
5 Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, the District
6 of Columbia.

○



UNITED STATES ARMY
THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Mr. Tony Cordero
Chairman of the Board
Sons and Daughters In Touch

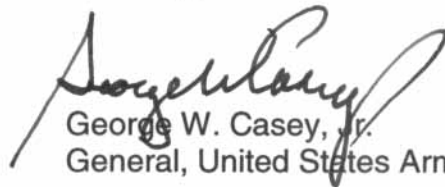
Dear Mr. Cordero:

This Father's Day, we pause to remember the brave men in uniform who gave their lives selflessly defending and securing our Nation's freedom. I am honored to participate in your 20th Anniversary Reunion to commemorate the service and sacrifice of these heroes and the continuing service of their Survivors.

In commemorating Veterans Day in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower urged Americans to "solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom. . . ." I commend *Sons and Daughters In Touch* for your noble work to preserve and promote the legacy of our fathers, and to help America's military Survivors.

As we continue to fight for freedom around the globe today, we must also continue to honor the service and sacrifice of all our Veterans and that of their Families.

Sincerely,



George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

19 June 2010

Dear SDIT Members

Congratulations on the 20th anniversary of the founding of your great organization—Sons and Daughters In Touch (SDIT). From an idealistic beginning two decades ago, SDIT has grown to be an organization that has helped its more than 3,000 members across the nation to heal, to understand and to accept their loss, and to take pride in their fathers' service and sacrifice.

This significant milestone has been achieved through the dedication and contributions of numerous people, many of whom are here this weekend to honor their fathers' lives and to celebrate Father's Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. To each of you I say "Thank You!"

This expression of gratitude is truly heartfelt because I too, am a member of SDIT. Like you, I lost my father in Vietnam during the war. My father, U.S. Air Force Maj Gen Robert F. Worley, was killed July 23, 1968 when his plane was shot down over South Vietnam.

SDIT has helped my family in many ways, but none more important than connecting us with other members whose common experience with ours has helped us accept our loss and strengthened our sense of pride in our fathers' legacy.

The noble cause for which this organization was founded—helping people come to terms with losing their fathers or mothers in a military conflict—is still in need today. I commend SDIT and its individual members for extending a welcoming embrace to the new generation of sons and daughters whose fathers and mothers have served and died in the War on Terror. By reaching out and sharing your experiences you can help today's generation find peace and comfort at a time when they most need it and someone who understands what they are experiencing.

For 20 years, you have made a difference in so many lives, even those beyond the members of SDIT. You also have indirectly helped the spouses, children and grandchildren of the Vietnam fallen. I commend these efforts and encourage you to continue the good work of this great organization.

I look forward to seeing you and sharing with you at this year's celebration. Enjoy your time in Washington, D.C. and the camaraderie of your fellow SDIT members.

Sincerely

Robert M. Worley II
Major General, USAF



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
5673 COLUMBIA PIKE, SUITE 100, FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

June 19, 2010

SONS & DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH

Dear Friends:

Greetings to each of you, and congratulations on many accomplishments over the last 20 years.

Whether your fathers were Killed-in-Action or Missing-in-Action, you were brought together by a search for answers and the need to share your personal loss with others who could, and do, understand. The families who comprise the League empathize with that quest for answers and common purpose.

Programs you have initiated to honor your fathers – our nation's heroes – have brought greater understanding about the plight of children impacted by war. Those lessons have been and are being applied today, to the benefit of families left behind while loved ones serve in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

In reality, all military families have benefitted from programs developed as a result of shared tragedies and experiences from the Vietnam War. You all can and should take great pride in that accomplishment, especially as you celebrate your 20th Anniversary this Fathers Day.

Sincerely and best wishes,

Ann Mills-Griffiths
Executive Director

"Veterans Helping Veterans"



Membership: 1957 to Now

ViêtNow National Headquarters

1835 Broadway, Rockford, Illinois 61104-5409
Ph: 815-227-5100 & 800-837-VNOW Fax: 815-227-5127
Internet: vietnow.com e-Mail: vnnatl@inwave.com

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Rich Sanders, President • Jim Stepanek, Vice President
Darrell Gilgan, Secretary • Terry Buscher, Treasurer

Sons & Daughters In Touch

Dear SDIT members,

On behalf of ViêtNow, I would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations for your 20th anniversary. Twenty years ago the answer to the daunting question concerning the value of bringing together the sons and daughters of the service members who were killed in Vietnam was yet to be realized. As time has evolved, that question has been answered countless times. Today, the unrealized question is now how many lives have been bettered because of their involvement with SDIT.

Sons & Daughters In Touch has never been intimidated about setting lofty goals that move the organization forward in its mission. I am sure that most of your members will agree that one of biggest tasks that was achieved in the history of SDIT was the journey to Vietnam in 2003. ViêtNow was very proud to play a supportive role in the success of that endeavor. We watched with a sense of pride in all of the SDIT members as they planned and carried out that great undertaking.

It is ViêtNow's wish that as you gather for Fathers' Day 2010 that you take a moment to celebrate your accomplishments, refresh your memories and plan for the future. Coming together, bonding and sharing creates the heart that keeps the blood flowing through the veins of the organization. As most of your members have come to realize the value of the future is created by the way the moments of the present day are lived.

Again, congratulation to all of SDIT as you gather for your 20th anniversary. Good luck in the future. Rest assured that ViêtNow stands ready in support of all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Rich Sanders

ViêtNow National President

A 501 (c) 19 tax exempt national not-for-profit veterans' organization



Dear Sons & Daughters – And You Are, All of You, Our Sons and Daughters,

The war in Vietnam has been over for most of us for forty years or more. For many of you, the war in many deeply personal ways still goes on because of what it took from you: your dads. By now, you have outlived your fathers by more than twice a lifetime, and the void left by their loss has been, in far too many instances, enormous.

Several of you have come to terms with your loss. For others, the healing goes on. It must. It is aided and abetted in large measure by the camaraderie and commonality and comradeship you find in organizations such as Sons and Daughters in Touch, which we at VVA, Vietnam Veterans of America, are proud to support. Seven years ago, several of us accompanied several dozen of you on a sort of pilgrimage to Vietnam, to the areas of operation in which your fathers fought, in the places where they perished. The enormity of the closure such a venture brought to so many of you cannot be measured or underestimated.

Nor can the Fathers' Day gatherings here in our Nation's Capitol, the site of the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial: *The Wall*. I know you will appreciate the yeoman work done by so many SDIT members, with Tony Cordero at the helm, to make this entire event possible.

And I would hope that, when you return home, you will have a renewed sense of our respect and appreciation for your father's service and his ultimate sacrifice, and know, too, that our nation owes each of you a debt of gratitude for your loss that it can never expect to repay.

If there is anything we, at VVA, can do for any one of you, please let us know.

With our deep respect,

John Rowan
National President
Vietnam Veterans of America



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

June 2010

To the Members of Sons and Daughters in Touch:

The board of directors and staff of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) join me in wishing Sons and Daughters in Touch our congratulations on your 20th anniversary.

The Wall had not been part of the National Mall landscape for very long when SDIT was launched. It seemed natural to those of us who served in Vietnam that the children of those we lost would join together to remember and honor their fathers. VVMF is committed to similar goals, so the partnership between our organizations was a perfect fit.

Over the years, SDIT members have attended ceremonies at The Wall—many times as featured speakers. You have come to our press conferences, helped us create awareness for our programs and worked tirelessly to ensure that the American people do not forget those we lost in Vietnam. You have shared your stories verbally and in print. And we always know that when we need passionate and committed spokespeople for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and its many programs, we can count on Sons and Daughters in Touch.

All of us at VVMF value this special relationship. We have been proud to join you in honoring, remembering and mourning your fathers—our friends and fellow service members. We look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration. Congratulations again on 20 years of success.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Scruggs
Founder and President

2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite 104, Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 393-0090 • Fax (202) 393-0029 • <http://www.vvmf.org>



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

National Headquarters
2128 Leroy Place, NW
Washington, DC 2008
202-265-0991

National President
Ruth Stonesifer

Organized June 4, 1928
Incorporated January 5, 1929
Chartered by Congress June 12, 1984
Founded by Grace Darling Seibold

June, 2010

Dear Sons and Daughters In Touch,

The membership of the American Gold Star Mothers wishes to congratulate you on the 20th Anniversary of your organization.

As we say in our organization, no one wants to become eligible to join our group and mostly like you share in that same sentiment for your organization.

You were probably all too small to have been able to voice much resistance to your fathers going off to Vietnam. And yet, you grew strong over the years as you wrestled with your internal conflicts. Your strength of character is quite evident as you reach out to the newest generation of survivors, helping to ease their journey with your wisdom.

We are grateful for the World War One mothers who found each other at Walter Reed Army Hospital, basically looking for their missing in action sons, thinking they were just shell shocked and could not identify themselves. Those 25 mothers found solace in each other's company and volunteered alongside the Red Cross to help care for the wounded. Thus began our tradition of volunteering for the Veterans. This 82 year old gift gives us new direction and a purpose living a life without our children.

As you connect with others who have suffered the same loss during this Father's day weekend, know that every Gold Star Mother is thinking and praying for your peace of mind. We pray also for the healing that comes from knowing so many people care. We will remember the heroes whose names appear on the black granite of the Vietnam Wall. They are all our sons and daughters.

Sincerely,

Ruth Stonesifer
Proud Gold Star Mother of
Kristofer T. Stonesifer KIA 19Oct2001



GOLD STAR WIVES OF AMERICA, INC.

KATHERINE FRAZER
National President

896 Claydon Way
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701-6830

"United We Stand To Win, Divided We Fall" And Are Forgotten!

May 12, 2010
Sons and Daughters In Touch

Dear Sons and Daughters In Touch,

On behalf of Gold Star Wives of America, I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of Sons and Daughters in Touch. Your organization has been intertwined with Gold Star Wives of America from its inception because we are your Mothers.

We are proud to have stood beside you as you grew to understand the loss of your fathers killed or missing in action during the Vietnam War. Only you and the members of Sons and Daughters in Touch can truly know the emotional challenges of growing up without a father. It has been gratifying to watch you grow as individuals and we applaud the positive impact you've had on other surviving children. You have set the example for similar organizations; formed to benefit the children of America's other wars.

We salute you as you commemorate your "fathers' memories, honor their service to our country and celebrate their heroic lives." I know you take pride in knowing the loss of your fathers was not in vain.

Once again, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on this important milestone for Sons and Daughters in Touch.

Very truly yours,


Katherine Frazer

A nonprofit military widows service organization Chartered by the United States Congress



TAPS
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
1777 F Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006
800-959-TAPS ★ 202-588-TAPS (8277) ★ www.taps.org

June 19, 2010

Sons and Daughters In Touch
Arlington, VA 22210

The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) extends a warm embrace to everyone attending the Sons and Daughters In Touch 20th Anniversary Gathering.

As we share the common mission of reaching out and providing a loving place of understanding and support, so we also share the connection of remembering and honoring those who have given their lives in service to our nation. We salute the sons and daughters of those whose names are etched in stone at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We salute your strength and courage in reaching out to find each other, forming a collective network of support and friendship. We salute your compassion in reaching out to encourage all Gold Star sons and daughters, who have lost a parent in a U.S. military conflict, to share in your time together at The Wall.

To Chairman Cordero and the loving network that is Sons and Daughters In Touch, we keep in our hearts the honorable lives and service of your fathers. We send our sincere wishes for a successful gathering that will sustain and create lasting bonds, reaching far beyond your time together.

The TAPS family will pause with you on Father's Day, as you lay roses against The Wall, and will be united with you in remembrance. We are truly all family; joined together through grief, but connected by pride, honor, and love.

With warm regards,

Bonnie Carroll
Founder & Chairman
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

Caring for the families of America's fallen heroes since 1994.



American WWII Orphans Network

www.awon.org

May 1, 2010
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216

Sons and Daughters in Touch

Dear SDIT,

The members of the American World War II Orphans Network (AWON) wish to extend our congratulations to the Sons and Daughters in Touch (SDIT) on their 20th anniversary. You and your members wisely saw the value of mutual support before those of us in the WW II generation. Your organization provides support to your members that they could not find anywhere else. We in AWON know first hand the incredible value of the mutual support your members provide for each other.

In addition, your efforts to increase appreciation for our fathers and all soldiers lost in war is a noble undertaking. Your work to ensure that those who made the supreme sacrifice are remembered and honored. One of the outstanding ways your efforts have born fruit is in the support programs in place within our military services for those who lost loved ones in service to their country. As members of families to whom these resources were not available, we know the value of your efforts better than most.

Congratulations and continue your important and valuable work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward Peters".

Edward Peters
President
AWON Board of Directors



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

JOHN KERRY
MASSACHUSETTS

June 21, 2010

Dear Sons and Daughters In Touch,

I am both pleased and honored to send you my congratulations on the twentieth anniversary of your phenomenal organization.

I understand that you have had a significant impact in the lives of at least 3,000 sons and daughters representing every state across our country.

However, I believe you could multiply that number to include the children and spouses and friends of everyone you have touched. The good you have done and will continue to do cannot be measured.

Thank you for all of your hard work on behalf of America, and thank you especially to the driving force of your organization, Tony Cordero.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John F. Kerry".

John F. Kerry

JOHN McCAIN
ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,
EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

June 20, 2010

241 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0303
(202) 224-2235

5353 NORTH 16TH STREET
SUITE 105
PHOENIX, AZ 85016
(602) 952-2410

4703 SOUTH LAKESHORE DRIVE
SUITE 1
TEMPE, AZ 85282
(480) 897-6289

407 WEST CONGRESS STREET
SUITE 103
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 670-6334

TELEPHONE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
(602) 952-0170

Sons and Daughters In Touch
P.O. Box 100366
Arlington, Virginia 22210

Dear Friends:

I regret that I am not able to join you today. However, I am honored to be able to provide a tribute letter for the Sons and Daughters In Touch Father's Day ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The Vietnam Wall bears the names of thousands of Americans of all races, colors, and creeds who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Beyond their common humanity, one thing connects each of the men and women on the Wall: they loved our country, and they gave everything to defend it. They were family and friends to many, heroes to all. Their honor is eternal and will live in our country so long as it remains worthy of their sacrifice.

As a Vietnam veteran, I am moved by your tireless efforts at helping our country to heal the painful rifts left by that divisive conflict. I thank all of you for the moral and emotional support you have provided each other and grieving families and friends over the past twenty years. Regrettably, a new generation of Gold Star children is emerging as a result of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. I am heartened to know that you stand ready with guidance and support for these children, spouses, and friends. Your work is truly admirable, and I applaud you.

I wish you and your families the best during your time in Washington. Thank you for your continued dedication to a worthy cause. God bless.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



JOE BACA
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

June 19, 2010

Sons and Daughters In Touch
Post Office Box 100366
Arlington, Virginia 22210

Dear Participants of the Sons and Daughters in Touch 20th Anniversary Celebration:

Congratulations on celebrating 20 years of uniting sons, daughters, friends and family that share the common bond of losing a loved one, as a result of the Vietnam War. More than one third of Americans lost in Southeast Asia during that time were fathers.

Educating and creating a dialogue with society about the emotional inheritance and burden of war provides an invaluable service, for not only those directly effected but also subsequent generations. By honoring those heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom we ensure they are never forgotten.

Sons and Daughters in Touch's tradition of visiting the Vietnam Memorial on Father's Day has assisted many in obtaining closure and renewal, alongside brothers and sisters of a common heritage. Lasting friendships and networks of support have been fostered through these important activities.

As a Vietnam-Era Veteran, I understand and appreciate how goodwill among the veteran community can aid in the healing process. For this reason, I salute your dedication and efforts in linking together this Sons and Daughters In Touch family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Baca".

JOE BACA, Congressman
43rd Congressional District



ALLEN BOYD
SECOND DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE:
APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE AND RELATED AGENCIES
DEFENSE
FINANCIAL SERVICES
AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE:
BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1227 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5235

DISTRICT OFFICES:
LAKESIDE BUILDING, SUITE 103
1650 SUMMIT LAKE DRIVE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317
(850) 561-3979
30 WEST GOVERNMENT STREET, ROOM 203
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401
(850) 785-0812

April 1, 2010

Sons and Daughters in Touch
P.O. Box 100366
Arlington, VA 22210

Dear Sons and Daughters in Touch:

I'd like to welcome you to our nation's capitol in honor of the Sons and Daughters in Touch 20th anniversary celebration. As a veteran of the Vietnam War, I have seen the impact of those who lost their fathers in war and the continued emotional impact that brings to life. While we all acknowledge the sadness inherent in this experience, I hope that you and your family can also be proud of the service and sacrifice made by our fallen service members. Due to the ongoing operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, more and more of our nation's military families are experiencing heartbreak and loss. I am hopeful that as members of the Sons and Daughters in Touch you can be of comfort to those with similar experiences. I am encouraged that SDIT will continue their ongoing efforts to locate, unite and support those who lost a parent to the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our nation. I am furthermore grateful to see Gold Star families joining together in Washington DC to participate in these special events. Thank you for taking part of such an important event and I wish you and your family peace as you take in the many memorials D.C. offers to our nation's heroes.

Sincerely,



Allen Boyd
Member of Congress

ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA
AMERICAN SAMOA

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND
THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSULAR AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE
AND OCEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
MINERAL RESOURCES

**CONGRESSIONAL
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN CAUCUS**
VICE CHAIR

**NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES
COMPONENTS CAUCUS**



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5201**

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2422 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-5201
(202) 225-8577
FAX: (202) 225-8757

DISTRICT OFFICE:
P.O. DRAWER X
PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA 96799
(684) 633-1372
FAX: (684) 633-2680

June 19, 2010

Sons and Daughters In Touch
P.O. Box 100366
Arlington, Virginia 22210

Greetings to All Participants:

I am writing to welcome you to the 20th Anniversary Father's Day Celebration of the Sons and Daughters in Touch in Washington, D.C. for June 18 – 20, 2010.

As a Vietnam veteran, I am proud of the hard work by the thousands of members, supporters, and volunteers of SDIT in recognizing and celebrating the lives of fellow comrades who had served vigilantly in the Vietnam War. Many of them were fathers, brothers, and sons who sacrificed their lives in order to ensure the freedoms that we enjoy today.

I personally commend SDIT for continuing to provide support to the many children of those whose lives were lost in the Vietnam War and other conflicts. It is only fitting that such a historic tribute will only engrave the sacrifice of these selfless Americans in our hearts.

As you participate in the many events scheduled for this weekend, I want to wish you a memorable celebration that preserves the enduring spirit of the loved ones who have passed.

With warm regards,


ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA
Member of Congress

email: faleomavaega@mail.house.gov



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

JIM MARSHALL
EIGHTH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

April 22, 2010

Sons and Daughters in Touch

Dear Sons and Daughters in Touch:

I salute Sons and Daughters In Touch on its 20 years of locating, uniting, and providing support to the families of those who died or remain missing in Vietnam. Like your fathers, I know what it is like to wear the uniform and serve my country during a time of war. Out of a sense of duty, I volunteered for infantry combat in Vietnam, where I served as an Airborne-Ranger reconnaissance platoon sergeant.

The support you provide Gold Star Families is a testament to American patriotism and serves as a reminder that we must not forget those who sacrificed their lives for us. Nor should we forget those Sons and Daughters who sacrificed a father. I believe the organization provides an invaluable service to both Sons and Daughters who lost their fathers and to the Country who lost her sons. I wish Sons and Daughters In Touch all the best in supporting your mission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "J" and a smaller "im" following it.

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WALT MINNICK
1ST DISTRICT, IDAHO

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1201

June 19, 2010

Sons and Daughters in Touch
PO Box 100366
Arlington, VA 22210

Re: Father's Day

Dear Sons and Daughters in Touch:


Welcome to Washington, DC for this Father's Day remembrance ceremony. Throughout our history, veterans and their families have been asked to shoulder the great burden of protecting America and keeping our country free. No one has had to bear that burden more than the families of the servicemen and women who never came home. I would like to honor each of you who could make it today and the tens of thousands more who were unable to be here. Nothing can repay you for your sacrifice or make up for the time you lost with your father. I only hope that being able to share your experience with others will somehow lighten your burden. You all have my greatest respect and admiration.

I would also like to salute the great work of Sons and Daughters in Touch. Its mission to locate, unite, and provide support to sons, daughters, and other family members of those who died or remain missing as a result of the Vietnam War is a valiant undertaking. They have helped countless lives and deserve recognition for all they have done.

As a member of Congress and a veteran, I am committed to fulfilling every promise our country has made to our servicemen and women and their families. There is no greater sacrifice that can be asked of somebody than to lay down their life for their country. You fathers are all great American heroes.

Sons of Daughters in Touch, thank you for all of your hard work. And to the Sons and Daughters of our fallen heroes, I commend your great sacrifice and wish there were some way in which we could repay the great debt that is owed to you.

Very truly yours,



Walt Minnick
Member of Congress

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June 19, 2010

Sons and Daughters in Touch

Dear Friends:

It is with a tremendous degree of empathy, pride and admiration that I congratulate you, the members, and all of the supporters of Sons and Daughters in Touch, on your 20th anniversary.

As a combat veteran from the Vietnam War, I unfortunately know first hand the tremendous impact of losing friends in battle. However, that grief, and those emotions cannot compare to those felt when you lost a father. Although we often discuss the casualties of war, we often fail to acknowledge those who are left behind. I have three wonderful children that I love dearly. For me, it is unthinkable not to have shared in their lives. I can only imagine the sense of loss that many of your members have confronted.

I applaud this organization and your work to create a forum to confront grief and introduce the children of Vietnam Veterans to others who understand and share those same feelings. More importantly, you have created scholarships and other positive programs to help people to grow and work through this difficult experience.

Again, congratulations not only on this anniversary, but also on the importance of your organization and the significant impact you have had on your membership. Carolina and I will keep all of you in our thoughts on prayers this Father's Day.

Sincerely,

Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress

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MIKE THOMPSON

1ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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June 20, 2010

Sons and Daughters In Touch
P.O. Box 100366
Arlington, Virginia 22210

Dear Sons and Daughters In Touch:

As a Vietnam Veteran and a Member of Congress, I am honored to welcome you to our nation's capital for the Sons and Daughters In Touch 20th Anniversary Father's Day Celebration.

We must never forget the sacrifice your fathers made, the sacrifice of your families and loved ones and the service these men gave our great nation. You gather to memorialize those who gave their lives for our country, our freedom, our values, our children and our grandchildren.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. is not just for those whose names are inscribed upon it. This memorial is for every single one of us. We cannot forget the courage and honor with which your fathers served. This memorial is a reminder of those brave soldiers who gave their lives so there would be a future. It is a reminder of the men and women in uniform today who put their lives on the line. Our veterans have always stood up for us and our future.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to welcome you to this celebration. Your father's legacies will live on in you and your children.

Sincerely,

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



All 2.1 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and our Auxiliaries know that not every service member returns home from war safely; so, too, does Sons and Daughters In Touch and your families.



**The Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
Salutes
Sons and Daughters In Touch
on your 20th Anniversary**

“Because we remember, too”

Notes & Autographs



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ACKNOWLEDGE. I
DGE. HONOR. IDEN

FAMILIES UNITED CONGRATULATES
SONS & DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH ON 20 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO OUR NATION'S GOLD STAR FAMILIES AND IS
PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE...



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"They Were Our Fathers..."

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