Featured Vietnam Artifact

Vietnam Divided: War Above Southeast Asia, our newest exhibit, is now open in the Museum’s T.A. Wilson Great Gallery. It features several familiar pieces, like the bronze map of Vietnam created by artist Jim Nance, but the exhibit also showcases artifacts that have not been shared with the public before.

Learn more about our Huey #69-15140

Thomas H. Seiker was a member of the B Company, 158th Aviation Battalion in the US Army, where he flew Bell UH-1H Huey helicopters during the Vietnam War. On display in the new “Vietnam Divided” exhibit are pieces of his military uniform that he generously donated to the Museum, including a SPH-4 Rotorcraft Aircrew helmet, a K-2B lightweight flight suit, and American Optical Pilot SG-58 sunglasses. Seiker’s company, nicknamed “The Lancers,” flew Huey #69-15140 – the very same helicopter that the Museum received after it was retired from use.

See photos from when the Lancers visited the Museum’s Huey
Update on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park

Due to an unanticipated easement issue, construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park has been delayed. Conversations are ongoing with the parties involved, and we will be able to move forward with the construction of the park once the issues have been resolved.

The B-52 is fully reassembled and the statue is on schedule for completion this fall. The permit process is moving forward and the construction company is ready to be on site as soon as a resolution is completed.

Unfortunately, this will delay the previously planned opening for Veterans Day 2018. We will keep you informed as updates become available and will let you know as soon as a new opening date is confirmed.

Bill Wilson and the Power of Giving

Lt. Bill Wilson was an F-111A pilot and Weapons Systems Operator during the Vietnam War, and flew 34 successful combat missions before going missing in action on December 22, 1972. His right engine caught fire during a mission over Hanoi, but Lt. Wilson and Capt. Bob Soneybarger were able to safely eject before the plane crashed. Bill spent Christmas hungry and hiding in enemy territory, before he was captured and transported to the Hanoi Hilton as a POW.

Today, Bill is a docent and donor at The Museum of Flight because he loves sharing his knowledge of aviation with our visitors. He chose to support Project Welcome Home by making a direct transfer of his IRA's minimum required distribution.

Bill says, "I'm proud of this Museum for building the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park. It's a nice recognition that many of us didn't receive after the war."

Read Bill's full story in Aloft magazine here!

http://email.museumofflight.org/welcomehome
Leave a Lasting Legacy

What better way to honor the legacy of the Vietnam Veteran in your life than with a permanent tribute plaque in the Memorial Park? You have the opportunity to personalize a metal plaque with a name, military rank or other information, which will appear on a low wall along the footpath to the park's flag pavilion. Plaques ordered by December 31, 2018 will be installed in time for the park's opening ceremonies, and will be a lasting testament to your veteran's service for generations to come.

Click here for more information on tribute plaques.