

# VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION AFTER-ACTION REPORT

OMB No. 0704-0500  
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](mailto: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. ORGANIZATION NAME:</b> The EC-47 History Site	<b>2. EVENT TITLE:</b> 4th Annual Commemoration Ceremony at the Weyandt-Eddy Plaza
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<b>3. ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION:</b>				
<b>a. STREET ADDRESS:</b> 4213 Green Meadow Drive	<b>b. CITY:</b> San Angelo	<b>c. STATE:</b> TX	<b>d. ZIP CODE:</b> 76904	<b>e. COUNTRY:</b> USA

4. EVENT LOCATION: a. SITE NAME (Example: The Pentagon) The Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza				
b. STREET ADDRESS: 351 Kearney Blvd	c. CITY: Goodfellow AFB	d. STATE: TX	e. ZIP CODE: 76908	f. COUNTRY: USA

<b>5. START DATE OF EVENT (YYYYMMDD):</b> 20250327	<b>6. END DATE OF EVENT (YYYYMMDD):</b> 20250328	<b>7. ACTUAL ATTENDANCE:</b> 220	<b>8. HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERANS WERE PRESENT?</b> 30	<b>9. HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERAN FAMILY MEMBERS WERE PRESENT?</b> 126
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<b>10. DID YOU COLLABORATE WITH ANY OTHER COMMEMORATIVE PARTNERS? (If so, list the commemorative partners you collaborated with for the event.)</b> All Veterans Council of Tom Green County
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<b>11. ANY MEDIA COVERAGE?</b> Yes - Local television, radio and newsprint. See website listing: <a href="https://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/">https://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/</a>
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<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 unrepresented lapel pins need to be returned to the program office, please indicate and we will send you a shipping label.)
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This two-day event began with a "Welcome Home" reception on Thursday evening at the San Angelo Clarion Hotel. The EC-47 History Site and Heritage Chapter-Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) members welcomed attendees from nine states and various Texas cities with free snacks and refreshments. The hosts displayed posters throughout the reception area featuring Vietnam War articles from the 1970s. These included the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, the withdrawal of American and Allied troops from Vietnam, and the last-minute evacuations as Saigon fell, 50 years ago. Chapter minion Larry Miller set up the Don Goff Memorial Missing Man Table and a new Medal of Honor tribute display. Air Force veteran Dave Vargo presented three tables loaded with Vietnam War artifacts and memorabilia. He included a bottle of Seagram's VO (with short timer ribbon) that he won in the raffle last year. EC-47 ARDF veteran then-staff sergeant Dan Barbero, donated a carved wood EC-47 diorama plaque and a sign with carved flag and USAFSS emblem. He also contributed two relief carvings of eagles. Heritage Chapter members donated an aircraft model, pictures and clothing. All the items were available for the silent auction.

///Continued on separate sheet///

<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
VWC Brochure	30	Bumper Sticker: I Served	30
<del>Family Brochure</del>		Bumper Sticker: We Heart	30
Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins	18	2012 Presidential Proclamation	10
Surviving Spouse Lapel Pin	12	2017 Presidential Proclamation	30
Tin Pin: Family Member	0	VVLP Fact Sheet	30
Tin Pin: Eagle	0	Other: Vietnam lanvards	50

///AAR March 2025 Summary – continued. . .

Friday morning, the Goodfellow Air Force Base Heritage Committee, led by senior member JJ Graham, hosted the fourth annual Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony at the EC-47 Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza.

The estimated 220 attendees included three Gold Star Family members, 30 Vietnam veterans and 15 deceased Vietnam veteran surviving spouses and their families. The Goodfellow AFB 17th Training Wing Commander, Colonel Angelina Maguinness, President of Angelo State University, LtGen (R) Ronnie Hawkins, 344th Military Intelligence Battalion Commander, LtCol Ray Kuderka, former EC-47 ARDF Operator, then-staff sergeant Joe Martin, and Texas Congressman August Pfluger were among the VIPs attending.

Following opening comments by Maguinness, Kuderka, and Martin paid tribute to U.S. Army and South Vietnamese Air Force ARDF aircrews. Graham presented the speakers with framed plastic Keepsake engraved plates identical to the engraved bronze plates placed in the plaza in tribute to each of the honored aircrew members.

Next, former EC-47 ARDF operator and Commemoration Partner Program (CPP) Committee Coordinator, Tom Nurre, reflected back on the less-than-warm reception so many received upon returning home from Vietnam and other overseas assignments...and then paid tribute to the attendees and their Americanism culture that brought them all together to share a moment of deep fellowship and remembrance at the Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza. Nurre completed the dedication of more than 820 plaza pavers with the words, "...let us dedicate these pavers to all those honored here today, and to the wonderfully indomitable spirit that binds and sustains us as we honor the sacrifice of all who served."

The pinning segment of the ceremony began with a hearty **Welcome Home** and introduction of 17 Vietnam veterans as Congressman Pfluger presented those present with the Commemorative lapel pin and Certificate of Appreciation. (Ten registered veterans who were unable to attend received their pins and certificates through the CPP mail-out program.) Nurre then introduced 12 surviving spouses, six of whom were former USAFSS personnel spouses (Bishop, Blackburn, Bumann, Burmeister, VanCamp and Ron Miller), with a thumb-nail sketch about the service of their deceased veteran spouses and their family lives. Maguinness, Kuderka, and Pfluger presented these ladies, mostly accompanied by family members, with the Blue Star lapel pin, Certificate of Honor, and a packet of Commemoration materials.

Pfluger completed the ceremony with a surprise presentation of the OUTSTANDING PARTNER Letter, a Certificate of Appreciation, and a Commemoration Challenge Coin to the EC-47 History Site CPP Committee coordinator, Tom Nurre. The letter, signed by the Department of Defense (DoD) Vietnam War Commemoration Director, Maj. Gen. Edward J. Chrystal, Jr., named Nurre "... alongside the top one percent of the (13,542) organizations participating in this noble mission."

On Friday evening, over 80 attendees enjoyed the meal and participation in the raffles, silent auction, and storytelling during dinner catered by Chef Eddie and the Arc Light Saloon and Grill staff. Rich Renkas won one of the bottles of Seagram's VO and booklet. Larry Miller won the second bottle but regifted it for a third drawing which JJ Graham won. He gifted it to the attendees whereby it was promptly opened and consumed. Vietnam War veteran nephew Zekiel Venne received the short timer ribbon and booklet. Pleiku and Danang EC-47 pilot, then-1st Lt Jerry Bradley, made closing comments.

Travel and shipping budget cuts curtailed the DoD Commemoration support; however, they found "work arounds" to get us the materials we needed. We greatly appreciate this same dedicated support that we have received for the entire ten years of our partnership.

Click on this link (<https://www.vietnam50thcpp.com>) to access the full gallery of pictures taken by Carl Bradley, Faith in a Flash Photography.





**Vietnam War Veteran Surviving Spouse Lapel Pin and Certificate of Honor Presentations**  
**March 28, 2025 - Goodfellow AFB, Texas**

