

# VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION AFTER-ACTION REPORT

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**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\_EVENTS@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  
1101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 810  
Arlington, VA 22209

## FOR EACH EVENT, PLEASE SUPPLY THE FOLLOWING:

<b>1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION:</b> The EC-47 History Site	<b>2. NAME OF EVENT:</b> Honoring USAFSS Vietnam War-era Veterans
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<b>3. ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION:</b>			
a. STREET ADDRESS: 4213 Green Meadow Drive	b. CITY: San Angelo	c. STATE: TX	d. ZIP CODE: 76904

<b>4. LOCATION OF EVENT</b> (Site name; e.g., The Pentagon) The Peppercorn Grill 2715 Sherwood Way, San Angelo, TX 76901	<b>5. START DATE OF EVENT</b> (DDMMYYYY): 05112015	<b>6. END DATE OF EVENT</b> (DDMMYYYY): 05112015
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<b>7. ACTUAL ATTENDANCE</b> 50	<b>8. HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERANS WERE PRESENT?</b> 10	<b>9. HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERAN FAMILY MEMBERS WERE PRESENT?</b> 5
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**10. SUMMARY:** (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? Any media coverage? List any helpful suggestions or changes for future and lessons learned. Attach additional pages as necessary.)

This Veterans Day VWC event was hosted by the Heritage Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA), an EC-47 History Site VWC Partner Program committee member. The EC-47 History Site representative registered this event and set up the VWC banner and a display table for VWC materials (buttons, stickers, pamphlets and proclamations) in the restaurant dining room. This tribute to USAFSS Vietnam War-era veterans ceremony was conducted as part of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting/quarterly family social of the Heritage Chapter membership. In addition to the Heritage Chapter regular members, 5 special guests attended. They were: from San Antonio, Texas, Vietnam War veterans, retired USAF Chief Master Sergeant Ken Gendolfe and Mrs. Carole Gendolfe, and the 25th Air Force Chaplain, Colonel Bruce Glover and Mrs. Carol Glover. Chaplain Glover opened the evening with a very patriotic, veterans and family oriented Invocation. Also, Mr. 'Kid' Wongsrichanalai, assistant professor of History at Angelo State University, attended and presented information about his work with the history department *War Stories: West Texans from World War I to the Present* project. He invited all Heritage Chapter members to participate. Special guests from Goodfellow AFB included Connie Morales-Piper, the Field Studies Program Manager, and Joe Dube, the International Military Student Office Chief for the International Intelligence Officers Applications Course. Ten allied country military officers also attended.

Tom Nurre, Heritage Chapter member and chairman of The EC-47 History Site VWC Partner Program committee, presented prepared comments and a video of VWC ceremonies. The video included the Joe Galloway introduction of the VWC program, Secretary of Defense comments made during the July 8, 2015 Congressional Ceremony, and the video clip of the Speaker of the House introduction of the VWC lapel pin. Immediately following the video, the Heritage Chapter president and vice-president, retired Chief Master Sergeants JJ Graham and Ed Bendinelli, presented a VWC lapel pin and the Heritage Chapter Certificate of Honor to 6 Vietnam War-era veterans. Individual and group photos were taken by Vietnam War-era veteran, Bruce Foreman.

This was another successful VWC program. Heritage Chapter members, guests and Vietnam War-era veterans remarked about how pleased they were with the scope and content of the VWC ceremony. The out-of-town guests voiced their appreciation for the Heritage Chapter warm hospitality and great interaction with chapter members and visiting foreign officers. The foreign officers were interested and pleased to be able to closely observe a VWC ceremony. The Vietnam War-era veterans and their families felt honored and extra special during and after the program. There were no issues or problems. The on-line event registration process went smoothly and VWC materials were received intact and on time.

## 11. MATERIALS ACTUALLY USED: (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
Brochures	50	Stickers: Eagle	25
Tin Pin: Eagle	25	Stickers: Seal	25
Tin Pin: Seal	25	Stickers: Flag	25
Tin Pin: Vietnam Veterans	25	Presidential Proclamations	2
Bumper Stickers	25	Other: Lapel Pins	6

# Heritage Chapter - Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) Honors Vietnam War-era Veterans - November 5, 2015



November 5, 2015: Angelo State University Assistant Professor of History, Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, opened the Heritage Chapter quarterly meeting with information about ***War Stories: West Texans from World War I to the Present***, a National Endowment for the Humanities funded project to preserve the experiences of West Texas military veterans and their families. The ASU History Department is an active member of the EC-47 History Site Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program committee.

Photo by: Bruce Foreman



THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
**Humanities**



The EC-47 History Site and the Department of History are not a part of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense

**War Stories: West Texans and the Experience of War, World War I to the Present**, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Department of History at Angelo State University, seeks to collect, digitize, preserve, share, and analyze stories of service from veterans and their loved ones.

[www.angelo.edu/dept/history/](http://www.angelo.edu/dept/history/)  
FMI: Contact the History Department Staff at 325-942-2324



**WAR STORIES**  
WEST TEXANS  
EXPERIENCE  
WAR

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY'S  
HISTORY DEPARTMENT  
and  
WEST TEXAS COLLECTION

Seeking to preserve the experiences of West Texas veterans and their families from World War I to the present in a digital archive and website.

**Share Your Stories:**

- All Veterans
- All Branches
- Loved Ones on the Home Front
- Intelligence Services
- Combat and Support Personnel
- Medical Personnel
- Overseas and Home Service

**Let Us Preserve Your Memorabilia:**

- Photographs
- Letters
- Diaries
- Memoirs
- Oral Histories
- Other Artifacts

All materials will be returned to owners.

**Contact us:**

- warstories@angelo.edu
- 325-942-2324
- angelo.edu/warstories



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
**Humanities**

This project is funded in part by a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.





November 5, 2015: CMSgt (R) Ken Gendolfe is pinned by The EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program committee chairman CMSgt (R) Tom Nurre. Both men are Vietnam War veterans and flew as crewmembers on USAFSS EC-47 Airborne Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) missions in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Below: Chief and Mrs. Carole Gendolfe also visited the EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit at Goodfellow AFB. Photo by: Bruce Foreman.



CMSgt (R) Ken Gendolfe (center) shows off the Vietnam War Commemoration Certificate of Honor he was presented by the Heritage Chapter vice president, CMSgt (R) Ed Bendinelli (right). CMSgt (R) Tom Nurre (L), Heritage Chapter member assisted. All three men are Vietnam War veteran aircrew members and they flew a combined total of more than 500 EC-47 ARDF missions over Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Photo by: Vietnam War veteran, Bruce Foreman





Above: Vietnam War-era veteran, Mrs. (A1C, USAF 1963-1966) Carole Rosingus-Gendolfe, is presented a Vietnam War Commemorative lapel pin by the chairman of the EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program committee, CMSgt (R) Tom Nurre (left) during the Heritage Chapter quarterly meeting and tribute to Vietnam War-era veterans held in San Angelo, TX on November 5, 2015. Left: Mrs. Gendolfe with Certificate of Honor presented by Ed Bendinelli. Photos by: Bruce Foreman.







SMSgt (R) Wayne Bascom is presented a VWC lapel pin and Certificate of Honor during the Heritage Chapter tribute to Vietnam veterans program on November 5, 2015. L-R: Chief Nurre, Wayne Bascom, Chief Bendinelli.



SMSgt (R) Mark Kirner is presented a VWC lapel pin and Certificate of Honor during the Heritage Chapter tribute to Vietnam veterans program on November 5, 2015. L-R: Chief Graham, Mark Kirner, Chief Bendinelli.



Vietnam War-era veteran Jim Cox is presented a VWC lapel pin and Certificate of Honor during the Heritage Chapter tribute to Vietnam veterans program on November 5, 2015. L-R: JJ Graham, Jim Cox, Ed Bendinelli.

All above photos by: Bruce Foreman.





SMSgt (R) Bruce Foreman is presented a VVC lapel pin and Certificate of Honor during the Heritage Chapter tribute to Vietnam veterans program on November 5, 2015. L-R: Chief Graham, Bruce Foreman, Chief Bendinelli.  
Photos by: Mark Kirner



### THE FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION

The Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) is a private, non-profit corporation dedicated to the support and perpetuation of the objectives of the U.S. Air Force and USAF Security Service and its successor organizations.

### Heritage Chapter



**San Angelo, Texas**



The EC-47 History Site and the Heritage Chapter are not a part of, or endorsed by, the Department of Defense

The Heritage Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association fosters a continued local awareness of the mission and accomplishments of the United States Air Force Security Service and its successor organizations. Heritage Chapter members have been key players in commemorating Vietnam veterans previously trained at or assigned to Goodfellow AFB, especially those in the EC-47 airborne radio direction finding program.

<http://www.ftva.org/chapters/heritage/index.html>

FMI: CMSgt (Ret) JJ Graham, [rggraha@hotmail.com](mailto:rggraha@hotmail.com), 325 651-4236

# San Angelo, Texas

## Heritage Chapter - Freedom Through Vigilance Association

### Honors Vietnam War-era Veteran

October 11, 2015

Story line narrative by Ed Bendinelli—

At the October meeting of the Heritage Chapter, I told the members about my very good friend, Jim Fennell. Jim is a retired chiropractor who moved here from Arizona in 1992 with his wife Pat to take over management of Trudo's Religious Store in San Angelo. Jim served in the USAF, both active and reserve, from 1955-1963. In September 2013, after undergoing carotid artery surgery, Jim suffered a massive stroke and, except for slight movement of his head and right arm, he has remained permanently and completely paralyzed since that day. As members of the EC-47 History Site Vietnam War Commemorative Partnership committee, I asked the Chapter for its support in thanking and "pinning" Jim in recognition of his service. The Chapter agreed and, on October 11th, Chapter members Tom Nurre, Larry Miller, Larry Ross and myself visited Jim and his wife Pat at the Park Plaza Nursing home and honored a beaming Jim, who never stopped smiling the whole time we were there. Tom presented Jim with a new EC-47 Challenge Coin. I told Tom later that an hour after everyone else had left, Jim was still smiling and still holding on to that coin. I hadn't seen him smile that much in two years.



October 11, 2015: VWC lapel pin presentation honoring Vietnam War-era veteran Jim Fennell. Mr. Fennell suffered a debilitating stroke and is receiving care at the Park Plaza Nursing Center in San Angelo, TX. The Heritage Chapter - Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) members conducted this private ceremony as members of The EC-47 History Site Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program committee. (L-R) Vietnam War veterans: Tom Nurre, Jim Fennell, Heritage Chapter - FTVA vice-president Ed Bendinelli, and Heritage Chapter member Larry Miller. Photo by: Vietnam War veteran and Heritage Chapter secretary/treasurer, Larry Ross.





Tom Nurre, chairman of The EC-47 History Site Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program committee and member of the Heritage Chapter - FTVA, presents Jim Fennell the recently minted EC-47 History Exhibit challenge coin. (L-R) Heritage Chapter vice president, Ed Bendinelli, Jim Fennell, Mrs Pat Fennell, Nurre, and Heritage Chapter member, Larry Miller.  
Photo by: Vietnam veteran and Heritage Chapter secretary/treasurer, Larry Ross.



Ed Bendinelli, vice president of the Heritage Chapter - FTVA holds the chapter poster during a VWC ceremony honoring Vietnam War-era veteran, Jim Fennell. (L-R) Bendinelli, Jim Fennell, Mrs Pat Fennell, and Heritage Chapter member, Larry Miller.  
Photo by: Vietnam veteran and Heritage Chapter secretary/treasurer, Larry Ross.