

SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH

"They Were Our Fathers..."

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SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND 2010

Event to Include Gold Star Family Members from WWII to Global War on Terror

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 21, 2009—Sons and Daughters In Touch (SDIT)—a national nonprofit organization comprised of nearly 3,000 Americans who lost their fathers in the Vietnam War—will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a series of national events during Father's Day weekend next year, announces Tony Cordero, the organization's founder and chairman, today.

This morning more than two dozen SDIT members are participating in the annual Father's Day Rose Remembrance Ceremony at The Wall. The keynote speaker is U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert M. Worley II, whose father—Maj. Gen. Robert Franklin Worley—was killed July 23, 1969 when his plane was shot down over South Vietnam.

As part of next year's special commemoration, SDIT will hold a series of remembrances, seminars and special events in the Washington, D.C. area from June 18 to June 20, 2010. The gathering will culminate with a moving Father's Day ceremony at The Wall in which more than 2,000 red, white and yellow roses will be placed along the base of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

More than 1,000 sons and daughters—the adult children of service members who were killed or remain missing from the Vietnam War—are expected to attend the series of events. Widows, grandchildren, great grandchildren and military comrades of fallen Vietnam service members also will attend the gathering. SDIT sponsored similar reunions in 1992, 1993, 1997, 2000 and 2005.

SDIT will be sending invitations to the special anniversary observance to family members of U.S. service members who were killed in or remain missing from all of America's military conflicts as well as officials from organizations that help military survivor families.

Earlier this year, SDIT and other military family organizations formed a far-reaching coalition—called the "Gold Star Council"—that is unifying the groups' voices and shared concerns on issues affecting current and future Gold Star and Prisoner-of-War/Missing-in-Action (POW/MIA) family members and the organizations that represent them.

"Through the Sons and Daughters In Touch Father's Day Celebration next year we hope to create the single-largest gathering ever of the families that forever have been changed by America's military conflicts," said Tony Cordero, whose is one of five children of Maj. William Cordero, USAF, who was listed as missing in action June 22, 1965 (Father's Day weekend) after not returning from an air mission over Laos.

(more)

**SDIT Announces Plans for 20th Anniversary
Father's Day Reunion Weekend in Nation's Capital
Page – 2**

“Whether our fathers were killed in action or remain missing from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War or the Global War on Terror, we as the children of these American heroes share a special bond. It is important to preserve the legacy of our fathers, to educate future generations about the importance of service and sacrifice and, most importantly, to help those who lost their husbands, fathers and sons in America's more recent military conflicts understand and cope with their loved ones' deaths.”

Also, next Father's Day SDIT will make a contribution to Vietnam Veterans Memorial founder and President Jan Scruggs at the annual Father's Day Rose Remembrance Ceremony at The Wall. The monies will be earmarked for the construction of the Education Center at The Wall.

The Education Center at The Wall is a learning facility/visitor center that will be built underground near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Exhibits will include an oversized display of photographs of those whose names are inscribed on The Wall, a selection of the more than 110,000 items that have been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and a timeline of key military events in the Vietnam War. A special exhibit will illustrate the legacy of service demonstrated by the American people, showing images of those who served in all of America's conflicts—from the Revolutionary War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

Individuals and organizations who wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the SDIT Education Center at The Wall Campaign can do so at the organization's Web site at www.sdit.org.

About Sons and Daughters In Touch

For the past 19 years, Sons and Daughters In Touch (www.sdit.org) has worked to locate, unite and provide support to the now-grown children of American service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam War. In that time, its more than 3,000 members have contacted veterans who served with their fathers, visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and shared their life-experiences with others. More than 70 have traveled to Vietnam to meet the people their fathers fought to protect, to walk the ground their fathers tread and to visit the locations where their fathers died. Today, SDIT members take considerable pride in knowing that the loss of their fathers was not in vain.

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