

◆ LEGACIES †

The newsletter for members of *Sons and Daughters In Touch* — the sons and daughters, family members, and friends of U.S. Servicemen who were lost, or remain missing, as a result of the war in Southeast Asia.

Fall 2007

NOTICE!

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SDIT 2007 Membership Drive

Each year, SDIT conducts its national membership renewal drive. For 17 years, member dues and contributions have enabled SDIT volunteers to accomplish so much—and position SDIT for the future.

This year, the membership drive seeks to accomplish three goals:

1) expanding the information in our historical database regarding the children of U.S. servicemen who died or remain missing as a result of the Vietnam War,

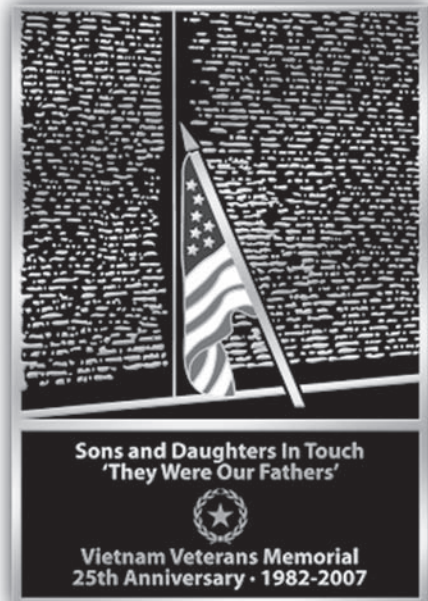
2) requesting membership dues to support the work of SDIT,

3) selling commemorative pins to make a donation to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center.

When you renew your membership and make an additional donation of \$15.00, you will receive a pin to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Wall.

In conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of the Wall,

(continued on page 4)



Shown enlarged: The 2007 SDIT Vietnam Memorial 25th Anniversary Commemorative Lapel Pin

SDIT Members to Raise \$58,256 for Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center

Sons and Daughters In Touch (SDIT) will launch a nationwide grassroots campaign this fall to raise a dollar (or more) for each of the 58,256 names inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the nation's capital.

This charitable initiative—scheduled to kickoff with the 25th anniversary commemoration of The Wall from November 7 through 11 in Washington, D.C.—will collect donations from SDIT members, family, friends, and supporters.

The campaign's goal is to present a check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) at the Father's Day Rose Remembrance Ceremony at The Wall next June. The SDIT donation would be used to support the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center at The Wall.

"This national fundraising campaign is the most challenging project in Sons and Daughters In Touch's 20-year history," said Tony Cordero, the organization's founder and chairman.

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President's Message

It's been awhile...

By **Tony Cordero [USAF:65]**

I know, I know, it's been way too long. While this is the first 'hard copy' edition of Legacies since 2006, earlier this year SDIT did initiate a monthly email update to keep members more readily informed.

Hopefully, you are receiving the updates, but if not, be sure to send your email address to legacies@sdit.org.

Thanks to each of you who loyally renews your annual SDIT membership. Your support enables SDIT to do many things including presenting wreaths at the Wall on Memorial Day, Father's Day and Veterans Day, publishing this newsletter, and maintaining www.sdit.org.

With Veterans Day 2007 being such a momentous occasion, this edition of Legacies is filled with information about this year's events and ceremonies, and the SDIT effort to raise \$1.00 for every name on the Wall.

As you learn about the effort to raise \$58,256 know that this symbolic gesture will enable SDIT to help teach future generations about the legacy of the Vietnam War through the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center.

(view design plans at vvmf.org/index.cfm?SectionID=51)

The goal of Sons and Daughters In Touch is to raise one dollar for each name listed on the Wall.

As a powerful and permanent reminder, these funds will be donated to the Center in the name of every child who lost their father during the Vietnam War.

Please help SDIT reach its goal by sharing this information with anyone who can support the cause — friends, family, and employers. Gifts for this cause are generally tax-deductible.

If possible, make plans to attend some or all of the Veterans Day events at the Wall.

A large contingent of SDIT members from across the nation will be in attendance for the opening ceremonies, to read their dads' names from November 7 to November 10, to march together in the November 10 25th Anniversary Parade presented by Vietnam Veterans of America, and to be seated together for the Veterans Day ceremony on Sunday, November 11. If you need more information about these events, visit vvmf.org or vva.org.

2008 will be a year of transition for SDIT. The next election of board members will take place in the spring, with the goal of filling each of SDIT's officer and leadership posts. If you are interested in joining the leadership ranks within SDIT, this election will provide a prime opportunity.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Washington for Veterans Day.

Peace,
Tony

Legacies Newsletter

Published Quarterly
by
**Sons and Daughters
In Touch**

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Monthly Email Update

SDIT has launched a **monthly email update** for its members and supporters. This monthly service is only available on-line, and provides more timely information on current issues affecting SDIT. Periodic print copies of Legacies contain much of the information sent in the monthly email updates.

To be added to the distribution list for the monthly updates, send a note to Legacies@sdit.org.

25th Anniversary of The Wall – Veterans Day Events

The following is the schedule of events for the 25th Anniversary of the Wall, occurring over Veterans Day week from November 6, 2007 to November 11, 2007:

Music and Poetry Tribute

Tuesday, November 6, 2007 – 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Vietnam Veterans Memorial

For twenty-five years, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has inspired countless Americans to write songs and poems meant to remember, to honor and to heal the veterans of the Vietnam War. Performers from Bruce Springsteen to Natalie Merchant to Emmylou Harris to Big & Rich to Graham Nash sing about the war, The Wall and the veterans. As well, Vietnam veterans themselves have written songs and poems dedicated to their fellow service members whose names are inscribed on the black granite wall in Washington, D.C. Over the years, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has received hundreds of these original musical compositions and poems from Vietnam veterans and their families. The November 6 Music and Poetry Tribute will offer all – professional and non-professional alike – the opportunity to voice their support for our nation's Vietnam veterans and eloquently mark the 25th Anniversary of The Wall.

Reading of the Names Opening Ceremony

Wednesday, November 7, 2007 – 3:00 p.m.
Vietnam Veterans Memorial

This ceremony marks the official start of the Reading of the Names during which approximately 2,000 Volunteers will read the 58,256 names inscribed on The Wall over 4 days. The ceremony will feature musical performances as well as remarks by those whose efforts and support years ago allowed The Wall to take its proper place on the National Mall.

Volunteers will read names for approximately eight hours from 4 p.m. on November 7 to 12 a.m. on November 8. Participants will then read the names for 19 hours daily from 5 a.m. until 12 a.m. on November 8, 9, and 10.

The Reading of the Names took place in Washington, D.C. just three other times in The Wall's

history. In November 1982, the names were read aloud at Washington National Cathedral as part of a week-long National Salute to Vietnam Veterans. The names were read at The Wall during the 10th Anniversary celebration in November 1992 and during the 20th Anniversary celebration in 2002.

If you are interested in participating in the Reading of the Names, please fill out the registration form and send it to:

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
1023 15th Street NW
2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Attention: Reading of the Names
(202) 393-0090
Fax: (202) 393-0029

Notification of reading times will be sent by October 1.

The following are approximations of when names will be read according to date of casualty.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
Wednesday, Nov. 7	June 1956	October 1966
Thursday, Nov. 8	October 1966	March 1968
Friday, Nov. 9	March 1968	April 1969
Saturday, Nov. 10	April 1969	May 1975

Parade

November 10, 2007

*The Opening Ceremony on the Mall:
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

The ceremony takes place from the huge stage that will be erected on the Mall at 7th Street, between Jefferson and Madison Drives. Thousands of general public and veterans attend to Pledge Allegiance; hear the Invocation to those military now deceased and Armed Forces presently serving, a 21 Gun Salute, speeches from acclaimed present and former military (i.e., Medal of Honor Recipients), veteran leadership, distinguished guests, and partake of the befitting musical pageantry. For those requiring it, seating is available.

(continued on page 4)



*The 2007 SDIT
Vietnam Memorial
25th Anniversary
Commemorative
Lapel Pin*

**Order Yours
Today!!!**

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SDIT Membership Drive 2007

(continued from page 1)

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and the construction of the Memorial Center, SDIT plans to make a donation on behalf of all 'sons and daughters.' The SDIT donation will be made from funds collected over the next 10 months, and will be presented to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center in June 2008.

As with last year's membership drive, SDIT supporters can renew their annual membership for \$30.00. A special combination offer is available for \$50.00 that includes a renewed annual membership and three commemorative lapel pins.

Renewals and pin orders can be placed at www.sdit.org or by using the order form on the back page of this edition of Legacies. Pin orders received by October 24 will be shipped for arrival before Veterans Day.

Annual SDIT dues can be paid online at the SDIT website (www.sdit.org) or via US mail.

If you have questions about your membership, annual dues or your membership card, please contact Laurette@sdit.org, Melanie@sdit.org, or Patty@sdit.org. For corrections to the database, contact Jim@sdit.org. ♦

Schedule of Veterans Day Events at The Wall

(continued from page 3)

The Parade

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Immediately following the ceremony, the parade officially starts, with dignitaries and the Grand Marshal taking the lead. An exact Line of March is prepared well beforehand, with all participants gathered at their designated and reserved streets awaiting their Parade Marshals notice to begin marching along Constitution Avenue. A parade of 50,000 plus participants, military vehicles, floats, bands, motorcycles, etc., requires approximately 3-4 hours of time. Traditionally, various dignitaries walk in the parade up to the Reviewing Stand (in front of the IRS Building on Constitution Avenue), where they proceed to announce and acknowledge the thousands of participants. There will be bleacher seating for those veterans who wish to view the parade. The media sets up roving camera crews throughout the parade route.

SDIT will be forming a group to march in the parade. If interested in participating, contact Jeanette@sdit.org.

Veterans Fair & Concert

Sylvan Theater: 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The prestigious outdoor Sylvan Theater, located close to the Washington Monument will host an afternoon of memorable entertainment and meeting place of friends past and present. Thousands of parade participants and their guests partake of the various booths in the area.

Veterans Day Observance at The Wall

Sunday, November 11, 2007 - 1:00 p.m.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The Veterans Day Observance at The Wall is an important event for the nation and the thousands of veterans and their families in attendance. The ceremony allows people to honor all those who have answered our nation's call to duty and to reaffirm our commitment to those who serve our country today. This year's Veterans Day Observance will be especially important as we celebrate The Wall's twenty-five years of honoring, healing and educating. The ceremony will feature a Keynote Address by General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.).

Seating for the ceremony is being coordinated by Kelly Rhin (Kelly@sdit.org).

Hotel Information

A block of rooms is being held for SDIT members at Sheraton National Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, Virginia (site of past Father's Day reunions) for \$99 per night for a single or double; \$119 for a triple; \$8 per night for parking.

To reserve a room, call the hotel's special reservation line at 800-325-3535 and mention: 'Sons and Daughters In Touch.' For more info, contact Kelly@sdit.org. ♦

SDIT Members to Raise \$58,256 for Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center

(continued from page 1)

"For the past 25 years, The Wall undeniably has helped preserve the legacy of our fathers and has been a sacred place for America to honor their memories, their service and their sacrifice," Cordero said.

"The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center will celebrate the lives of our fathers who served and sacrificed during the Vietnam War as well as ensuring that future generations understand the sacrifices our fathers and families have made," said Kelly Rihn, SDIT board member and SDIT-VVMF liaison.

More information about this national fundraising initiative will be posted on the SDIT web site (www.sdit.org) soon. SDIT will provide ideas that members can use to participate as well as a toolkit to assist with community outreach and local fundraising drives. The organization also is discussing with VVMF ideas for donor recognition for SDIT members.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center will be located underground, striking a balance with the nearby, three-acre Vietnam Veterans Memorial site. The underground location protects the visual integrity of the National Mall and The Wall, while enhancing the emotional experience of visiting The Wall.

The Center will allow visitors to learn the impact the Memorial has had on the nation, its remembrance of those who served, and the vital role the Memorial has played in helping to heal the deep societal divisions resulting from the Vietnam War.

Among the exhibits and artifacts that visitors to the Memorial Center will see are a "Wall of Faces" of pictures of the service members who lost their lives in the conflict and moving displays of the personal items placed at The Wall by family members and military buddies of the fallen. The Center also will serve as the collection point for written and digital remembrances of the individuals whose names are inscribed on The Wall, creating a unique historical record for current and future generations and ultimately telling the

story of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Center's groundbreaking is expected in 2010, with construction being completed within 18 months.

SDIT members and friends can support this campaign—the first nationwide grassroots movement with a goal to raise money for the Center—by contributing today.

There are two ways SDIT members can contribute today:

1) via our PayPal account accessible through the SDIT Web site (www.sdit.org); or

2) by sending a check to SDIT at:
P.O. Box 100366 Arlington, VA 22210.

Please indicate on your check or online contribution that your donation is to support the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center. Donations to the Center are tax-deductible. ◆

Renderings of exhibits in the proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center



*Renderings by Ralph Appelbaum Associates.
For more information and to view the full-color renderings, visit www.vvmf.org.*

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VietNow-SDIT Scholarship Program

VietNow Announces 2007 Scholarship Recipients

In June, VietNow President Rich Sanders announced the recipients of the 2007 VietNow-SDIT scholarship program. Each spring, VietNow receives scores of applications from eligible SDIT members—the children, grandchildren and wives of US soldiers lost during the Vietnam War—and awards educational scholarships to the four top-scoring submissions.

This year, scholarships were awarded to:

• **Alexandra Handler** — granddaughter of Robert N. Brumet USAF:64 — a sophomore majoring in International Relations at American University in Washington, DC.



• **Alyssa Morrione** — granddaughter of Lawrence R. Moyer USMC:67 — a freshman majoring in Undergraduate Studies at Penn State University.



• **Samantha Farmer** — granddaughter of Bobbie L. Ditzfeld USA:68 — a freshman majoring in biology at University of Central Missouri.



• **Andrew Dean** — grandson of Robert N. Brumet USAF:64 — a sophomore engineering major at the University of Colorado.



Congratulations to these four legacies, SDIT and your grandfathers are proud of you!

Note: information about next year's scholarship program will be available from SDIT in January 2008.

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General Wayne Downing: 1940–2007

On July 18, a strong supporter of SDIT – Retired Army General Wayne Downing – passed away at the age of 67.

A legendary Ranger and West Point graduate, Gen. Downing was also one of us: he was a son who lost his father in WWII, he fought in Vietnam, he personally accepted the surrender of Manuel Noriega in Panama, and he led the Army's Special Operations in the Persian Gulf War.



SDIT will forever be honored to have had Gen. Downing serve as a featured speaker at its 1993 Father's Day ceremony. General Downing appeared at that ceremony along with Gen. Barry McCaffrey – who would go on to become the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. In recent years, both Downing and McCaffrey served as military consultants to NBC News.

Here are links to Gen. Downing's history:
http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2007/07/general_wayne_a_downing_rip.html
<http://www.aogusma.org/aog/awards/DGA/06cit/downing.htm>

*Shown at right:
Gen. Downing speaking
at the 1993 SDIT
Father's Day Ceremony*



Important Web Links

- ◆ **American Gold Star Mothers:** The national organization for women who have lost sons or daughters in service to the United States.
www.goldstarmoms.com
- ◆ **The American Legion:** The nation's oldest Veterans Service Organization with more than 3 million members worldwide. www.legion.org
- ◆ **American WWII Orphans Network:** Established to serve the needs of American 'sons and daughters' whose fathers were lost in WWII.
www.awon.org
- ◆ **Disabled American Veterans:** Committed to advocating for the needs of America's disabled veterans.
www.dav.org
- ◆ **Global Spectrum:** The travel company that coordinated SDIT's March '03 trip to Vietnam, and specializes in customized travel throughout SE Asia.
www.asianpassages.com
- ◆ **Gold Star Wives of America:** The federally chartered organization serving the needs of war widows and widowers from WWII to the present.
www.goldstarwives.org
- ◆ **The Military Order of the Purple Heart:** Congressionally chartered organization for combat-wounded soldiers.
www.purpleheart.org
- ◆ **Military Records Request - Form 180:** The official form to be used in requesting your father's military records. Remember to request ALL records/information.
www.archives.gov/records_center_program/index.html
- ◆ **The Moving Wall:** Half-sized replica of the Memorial that has been traveling the country for more than 20 years; information and future schedules.
www.themovingwall.org
- ◆ **National League of POW/MIA Families:** The organization of family members who are committed to the fullest possible accounting for all US Servicemen yet to return from Vietnam.
www.pow-miafamilies.org
- ◆ **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors:** Established to support all military family members who have lost a loved one during war, to acts of terrorism or other circumstances. www.taps.org
- ◆ **Veterans of Foreign Wars:** Veterans Service Organization providing all veterans with programs and services. One of the nation's leading voices calling for improved veteran's benefits. www.vfw.org
- ◆ **Vietnam Casualty Database:** Provides search options for casualties from the war.
www.no-quarter.org
- ◆ **Vietnam Veterans of America:** Long time supporters of SDIT, Congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organization for Vietnam Veterans. www.vva.org
 - **The Veteran:** Subscribe to VVA's newsmagazine published every two months.
theveteran@vva.org
 - **Associates of VVA:** Membership organization open to sons and daughters, and other non-veterans. www.avva.org
- ◆ **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund:** www.vvmf.org The organization responsible for maintaining the Wall and educating the public about its legacy. SDIT partners with VVMF to hold Father's Day ceremonies every year. The site includes VVMF content along with information about:
 - **The Wall that Heals:** A traveling half-scale replica of the Memorial;
 - **The Virtual Wall:** A digital and interactive legacy of the Memorial;
 - **In Memory:** A program designed to honor those Vietnam Veterans who died as a result of the war but are not listed on the Memorial;
 - **Teach Vietnam:** A program to assist educators in teaching the history and legacy of the Vietnam War;
 - **Project Renew:** A program committed to the eradication of unexploded landmines in Vietnam.
- ◆ **Vietnam Women's Memorial:** The organization that constructed the Women's Memorial adjacent to "The Wall" and is committed to maintaining the legacy of those women who served in Vietnam. www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org
- ◆ **The Vietnam Wall Experience:** Traveling replica of the Memorial that has been presented by Service Corporation International since 1990.
www.sci-corp.com/html/vietnam_wall.html
- ◆ **VietNow:** Membership organization formed twenty years ago to support veterans' causes, including major support for SDIT. www.vietnow.com
- ◆ **The Virtual Wall:** A virtual tribute to those whose names appear on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. www.virtualwall.org



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**SONS AND DAUGHTERS
IN TOUCH**

"They Were Our Fathers..."

**Post Office Box 100366
Arlington, VA 22210
Address Service Requested**

First Class Presort
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #2325
San Diego, CA

Yes, I would like to become a member of Sons and Daughters In Touch.

Please check membership type: New _____ Renewal _____

With your \$30.00 Individual membership, you become eligible to purchase one 25th Anniversary Commemorative Pin for an additional \$15.00.

- \$ 30 Individual
 \$ 50 25th Anniversary Membership Special:
Annual SDIT Membership and 3 Lapel Pins
 \$ 15 Commemorative Pin
 \$ 100 Patron
 \$1000 Benefactor
 \$_____ \$10.00 each additional Commemorative Pin
 \$_____ Additional donation to the SDIT General Fund
\$_____ **TOTAL**

Pin orders received by
October 24 will be
shipped for arrival
before Veterans Day.

Please make check payable to Sons and Daughters In Touch and return to:

**Sons and Daughters In Touch
P.O. Box 100366
Arlington, VA 22210**
or

Save a stamp and pay your dues on-line at
<http://sdit.graymattersoft.com/registration.aspx>

For additional information call: 1-800-984-9994

**SONS AND DAUGHTERS
IN TOUCH**

"They Were Our Fathers..."

*Membership
Form*

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Name of loved one
being remembered: _____

Date of casualty: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Relationship (please circle one): I am a

Son Daughter Brother Sister Widow

Friend Veteran Grandson Granddaughter

Spouse of: Son Daughter

Sons and Daughters In Touch (SDIT) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing educational and support programs for the family and friends of those lost, and those who remain missing, in Southeast Asia.