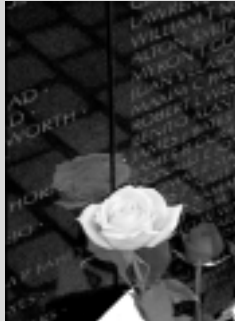


# ◆ LEGACIES †

The quarterly 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.

Special Edition 2005



## Father's Day Ceremony Vietnam Veterans Memorial *19 June 2005 – 10:00 AM*

**Gold Star Children** ◆ “Their pain shimmers across the years, pure and undimmed. They pass through life with an empty room in their hearts where a father was supposed to live and laugh and love. All their lives they listen for the footstep that will never fall, and long to know what might have been.”

— Joe Galloway, *We Were Soldiers Once and Young*

As SDIT acknowledges the 15th anniversary of the organization's journey, one must turn to a tapestry woven with the pride, honor, tears, and joy of the Father's Days past... “*Proud to Remember(s)*,” “*A History of Pride—A Promise for the Future*,” and “*Celebration 2000: They Were Our Fathers*.”

The four-day gathering of SDIT members and supporters from across the nation culminates on Sunday, 19 June 2005 with sons, daughters, grandchildren, family and Veterans gathering on the

verdant east knoll overlooking the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for the SDIT Father's Day Ceremony.

Once again, with the assistance of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the National Park Service, SDIT members will celebrate Father's Day—“*Remembering Our Fathers*.” Exalting the fathers on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, their names etched in a perfect time line of history, America's Gold Star children will place red and yellow roses at their father's panel, in their memory, honoring those lost to us in the Vietnam War and those that are still missing in action.

On Father's Day this year new threads will be added to the SDIT tapestry. Threads created from their common bond, love, peace, honor, and remembrance of their fathers' sacrifice for our country and hope for America's new generation of Gold Star Children. ◆

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Join the SDIT  
email  
fundraising  
campaign: visit  
*[www.sdit.kintera.org](http://www.sdit.kintera.org)*

#### **Registration Information:**

You can register on-line at [www.sdit.kintera.org](http://www.sdit.kintera.org) or use the enclosed registration form if desired. In either case, to purchase banquet tickets you must also mail the registration form by **June 1**.

A hard copy of the registration form can also be downloaded from [www.sdit.org](http://www.sdit.org).

To book rooms at the Sheraton National Hotel, please call 800-325-3535 and mention code SDF614. The special SDIT room rate of \$119.00 is available until June 1.

**Legacies  
Newsletter**

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by  
**Sons and Daughters  
In Touch**

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Terry McGregor

For more information on  
Father's Day 2005  
please call  
800-984-9994  
or email  
fathersday2005@sdit.org

# Flyover added to Father's Day Ceremony

The United States Air Force intends to provide a 'Missing Man' flyover during the Father's Day 2005 ceremony. Specific details about the unit performing the tribute and the aircraft being flown will be available as the event draws near.

## "Faces of our Fathers — Faces of the Wall"

Would you like to leave a picture of your Dad or Loved One at The Wall? Then please bring one (8x10 and not an original) to leave at the Wall when you place a rose for your Dad. You may want to laminate your photo in the event of rain.

## Wash the Wall

Get up early — very early — and join in the efforts to maintain the Wall's appearance. Be prepared to get wet... and dress accordingly.

### Event Schedule

Event	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Registration	5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 noon	
T-shirt / Pin sales	5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 noon	
Hospitality Suite	8:00 AM - 10:00 PM	8:00 AM - 10:00 PM	8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	TBD
Sharing Circles	9:00 PM - 10:30 PM	12:00 noon - 6:00 PM 9:30 PM - 11:00 PM	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	
General Membership Meeting		6:30 PM - 7:30 PM		
Washing the Wall			6:00 AM - 7:00 AM (est.)	
Grandchildren's Trip to the Wall			9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	
Late Night Wall Trip(s)		10:30 PM - midnight	TBD	
Artists' Forum		8:00 PM - 9:30 PM		
'03 Vietnam Trip Reunion/Meeting			2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	
SDIT Awards Banquet			7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	
Father's Day Ceremony				10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
Father's Day Picnic				12:15 PM - 2:00 PM

# SDIT Father's Day 2005 Banquet

A traditional event of the Father's Day reunion, the banquet serves as an opportunity for attendees to dine together in a modestly formal atmosphere.

The evening will feature addresses from Tom Corey, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America; and Rich Sanders, National President of VietNow.

The banquet will conclude with a :50 minute video history of Sons and Daughters In Touch with footage from all previous Father's Day reunions, SDIT events held in local communities, and the 2003 trip to Vietnam.

## Grandkids' trip to the Wall

This is a special visit for the grandchildren of the men whose names are listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Grandchildren (and great grandchildren) are encouraged to participate in this event.

## Late night trips to the Wall

This late night experience — when the area around the Wall is most serene — has become a favorite time to share in the Memorial that brings all 'sons and daughters' together.

# Hospitality Suite

A Hospitality Suite will be located at the Sheraton National Hotel during Father's Day weekend and will be a place for attendees to meet, relax and just "hang out" with others. The Hospitality Suite will be open Thursday and Friday from 8am until 10pm, Saturday from 8am until 4:30pm. Staff will be available to answer questions from 10am until 8pm on Friday, 10am until 4:30pm on Saturday. There will be coffee, water and snacks provided for all to enjoy. Bulletin boards will be available for people to post pictures and other items. A TV and VCR will be available if you would like to bring tapes of previous Father's Day events or any other event that you would like to view including the popular film aired at Father's Day 2000 "Heartstrings" by Gary Lee. There will also be an information table with newsletters, magazines and information packets from veterans organizations.

## New Members/ First-Time Attendees to Father's Day

Greeters will be available to meet with you in the Hospitality Suite on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at these times: Thursday 6:00pm; Friday 4:00pm; and Saturday 2:00pm.

## Sharing Circles

The SDIT Sharing Circles began in 1992 at the "Proud to Remember" reunion and remain a vital part of the Father's Day weekend twelve years later. Sharing Circles are quite simple gatherings that offer sons, daughters, wives and now spouses, the opportunity to speak freely, and without judgment or ridicule, about those loved and lost during our nation's involvement in Vietnam. Many participants feel that the sharing circles offer the opportunity that, until now, they have rarely been given—to speak about a man who may seem forgotten by the rest of the world.

Father's Day 2005 will once again host not only Sharing Circles offered to sons and daughters, but ones open exclusively to widows of these men and, for the first time, SDIT will host a Sharing Circle open

to spouses of 'sons and daughters.' It is our belief that many of the sons and daughters active within SDIT are successful due to the strong support of their families. This Sharing Circle will enable these husbands and wives of SDIT to share their thoughts and feelings with one another, and, by doing so, will perhaps assist those spouses still new to the experience of being married to an active SDIT member.

## Artists Forum

SDIT's Fathers Day 2005 celebration will hold the very first Artists Forum. Many Sons and Daughters have sought to connect with the memories of their fathers through their own artistic talents. The mediums of poetry, literature, song, paint, and film have helped to carry these children of lost heroes through the pain to a sense of peace and contentment. Now, SDIT will showcase the work of some of these very talented people with its first Artists Forum. The evening's event will open with commentary by each artist, followed by their own selected readings and film clips.

Our top presenters come from the fields of literature, documentary, and dramatic cinema and more will be added soon.

Author Karen Spears Zacharias (USA:66) will share from her Vietnam-era biography, *Hero Mama*. It is an account of the emotional journey taken by Karen and her mother, finding clarity in their lives and closure in the death of her father, Staff Sergeant David Spears.

John Hulme (USMC:69), like many Sons and Daughters, never knew his father. 2nd Lt. John "Jack" Hulme III died only months after the birth of his son. John has picked up the pieces of a life, the life of a man he never knew and created the stirring documentary film, *Unknown Soldier*, soon to be aired on HBO/Cinemax.

From Hollywood comes a special taped presentation by screenwriter/director/author, Randy Wallace. Along with his own special commentary, the presentation will have a specially selected scene from his film, *We Were Soldiers*, starring Mel Gibson.

The audience can participate in a question and answer session with the artists, so please, come and share the evening with your fellow Sons and Daughters. ♦



# Liquor and Licorice in Laos

By Tony Cordero [USAF:65]

During the SDIT trip to Vietnam in 2003, in an attempt to resolve several unanswered questions, I ventured on a solitary trip into Laos for the better part of three days. My primary objective was to reach the crash site of my father and his pilot, Maj. Charles Lovelace. The two were lost over Father's Day weekend 1965 while on a bombing mission along the Ho Chi Minh trail.

In hopes of establishing a rapport with the village chief and the residents of Ban Namong, I wanted to offer them gifts that would symbolize our nation—things made in America that most would agree are uniquely American. Whatever I intended to offer had to be easily transported on my three-hour Vietnam Airlines flight from Ho Chi Minh City to the coastal city of Vinh, and then in a 10-hour car ride from that coastal city over to the Vietnam-Laos border and then on to Ban Namong.

Before leaving the US, I decided to take several packages of red licorice—made by the American Candy Company—since it's a favorite of mine and it's consumed by young and old alike in movie theatres across America. My hope was that the children of Ban Namong would enjoy the candy treat—something they've likely never tasted before.

Several experienced world travelers encouraged me to present village chief Mr. Vannon with a bottle of whiskey, which would be seen as a gift of respect and gratitude for his hospitality. So, on a late Saigon night, my search took me into a liquor store where I found the most American of whiskey, Old No. 7, Jack Daniels from Lynchburg, Tennessee - USA! It was a simple decision that this would be for the village chief.

The journey into Laos was eye opening, fascinating and scary at the same time. I was traveling alone on Vietnam Airlines—the pilot spoke Vietnamese and French and I speak English and Spanish—I didn't know my driver who took me from Vinh to the Laos border (the border crossing looked like a prop from the set of Raiders of the Lost Ark) and my Lao interpreter Bonmi, spoke very little English. The torrential rain and muddy dirt roads didn't make the journey any easier.

After arriving in the late afternoon, I immediately experienced the cultural difference between Laos and America. The men and young boys of the village were invited into Mr. Vannon's home—wood hut, built on stilts 8' above the ground to avoid the annual floods—to meet the American stranger. No women were invited to join the conversation. After introductions and handshakes, I presented the

children with the Red Vines and through my interpreter told them how the children of America enjoy the candy. Imagine the sight of these young boys, all barefoot, in clothing most likely donated by a third-world relief agency, tearing a bite from their piece of licorice and wondering about the taste preferences of Americans.

Next I presented Mr. Vannon with the bottle of Jack Daniels and explained the significance of the whiskey and its origins in Tennessee. He gratefully accepted my gift and disappeared into his sleeping room. He reappeared carrying a ceramic pot with a 4' long bamboo straw. He insisted that if we were to share the liquor from America, we must also share the homemade brew from Ban Namong. We spent the next few hours drinking 'Gentleman Jack' and the Lao version of a concoction that tasted like a fruity sangria wine with a twist-off cap. Fortunately, there was no need for a designated driver that night!

Throughout the evening, the elders of the village spent time sharing details of the local terrain and what they believed caused the crash nearly 40 years earlier. They asked questions about California (no, not everyone there is rich) and drew detailed sketches of the crash site and the large trees that were sawed in half as the B-57 descended from the night sky. They also showed me parts of the plane they now use as tools in their village.

The next morning, after a night spent under a mosquito net on a hard wood floor, we dined on a breakfast of sticky rice and raw eggs. While we weren't able to complete the trek through the jungle to the crash site, I realized that this had been one more unique life experience in my long journey with SDIT.

I spent an additional night in Laos, but the emotional drain of the expedition, and being completely alone (literally), had taken a toll. After crossing back into Vietnam, I had my driver speed for ten hours across the middle of the country to meet up with familiar faces and rejoin the SDIT group at Hue City.

Make Father's Day 2005 one of *your* unique life experiences. Whether you've attended any of the previous Father's Day celebrations during SDIT's 15-year history, or if this will be your first SDIT experience... be sure to be there.

Yes, there will be some emotion, but know that many 'sons and daughters' will quickly become familiar faces, and rest assured... you won't be alone! ♦



*My Lao interpreter takes his turn with the homemade brew.*

# SDIT's Father's Day 2005 Registration & Banquet Ticket Order Form

## June 16-19, 2005

*Do Not Mail Registration after 6/1/05. Call SDIT @ 800-984-9994 if you plan to register on site. Note: Some events may be closed.*

I have already registered online for Father's Day 2005. This form is only being used for my banquet ticket order.  
 I am using this form to register for the Father's Day weekend and to order banquet tickets.

**SECTION 1: Name and Address** Please Print Clearly – This information will be used for nametags:

**SDIT Member's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

*If you've already registered online, complete "SDIT Member's Name" and SECTION 2 only.*

Spouse/Guest's name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_ If bringing children, their names and ages:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 2: Registration Fee and Banquet Tickets—Must be mailed by June 1, 2005**

*Call SDIT @ 800-984-9994 if you plan to register on site. Note: Some events may be closed.*

**Registration Fee: \$25 – \*\*\*If you registered online, write "online" \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*\***

(The \$25. fee covers one member and their spouse/guest and children and serves as SDIT membership dues for '05-'06)

**Saturday Banquet Tickets:**

# of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

List adult names: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Children (10 & under) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

List children's names: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: If you have special dietary concerns, please call SDIT 800-984-9994*

Please accept my donation to support SDIT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check Payable and Mail to:**

**Sons and Daughters In Touch  
PO Box 1596, Arlington, VA 22210**

**SECTION 3: Program Information**

(circle one)

Name of Veteran on Vietnam Veterans Memorial \_\_\_\_\_ **KIA or MIA**

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Casualty \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: SDIT Member is a: (please circle one) Son Daughter Wife Parent Brother Sister Veteran Friend

This is my first trip to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Please include my name, address, phone & email address in the Reunion Directory

• • •

**I am also interested in:** (check all that apply)

Historical Seminars       Vietnam War Film Screenings       Sharing Circle       Sunday's Picnic

Late Night Trips to The Wall       Grandchildren's Trip to The Wall       Washing The Wall early Saturday morning

• • •

*I am unable to attend, but would like a rose placed at the Memorial at Panel \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of:*

\_\_\_\_\_ *with the following written message:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Online Reunion Weekend Registration: [www.sdit.kintera.org](http://www.sdit.kintera.org)**

**Hotel Registration: Sheraton National Hotel (703) 521-1900 (code: SDF614) by June 1, 2005**

or: [www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/sdit](http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/sdit)



"They Were Our Fathers..."

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"They Were Our Fathers..."

## Membership Form

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

Please check membership type: New  Renewal

Chapter Affiliation, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$25 Individual
- \$50 Contributing
- \$100 Patron
- \$1000 Benefactor
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

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

**Sons and Daughters In Touch**  
P.O. Box 1596  
Arlington, VA 22210

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

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.*