

◆ 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.

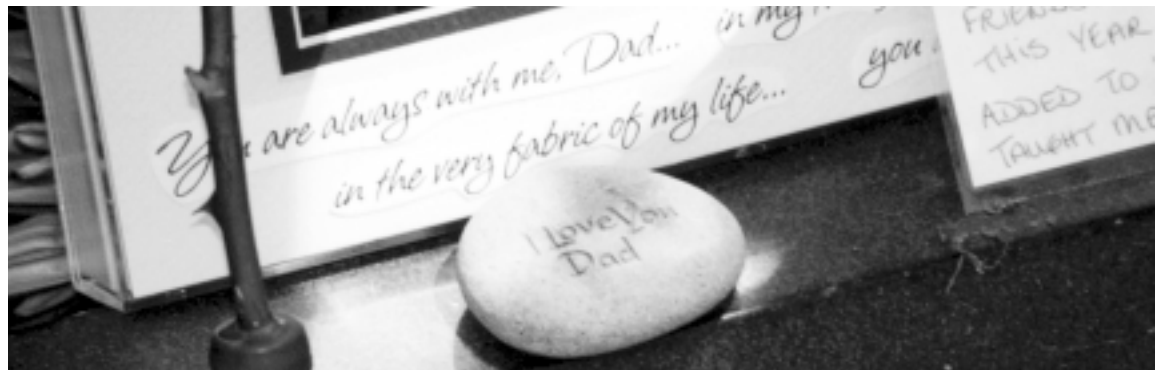
Spring 2005

SONS AND DAUGHTERS
IN TOUCH

"They Were Our Fathers..."

What's Inside

- 2 ... President's Message
- 3 ... Father's Day 2005
Agenda & Schedule
- 4 ... VietNow Scholarship
- 5 ... SDIT Fundraising
- 7 ... Websites & Info



Register Now For Father's Day 2005

Registration is now underway for the Father's Day 2005 reunion celebration. Please register as soon as possible so the planning committee can secure adequate facilities, transportation & commemorative items. Registration can be made on-line or via the US Mail. The on-line registration site can be

found at www.sdit.kintera.org. Reunion event information, registration payment processing, and fundraising information are available at this site.

A copy of the registration form can be found in this edition of Legacies and can also be downloaded from the official SDIT web site — www.sdit.org. ◆



Karen Spears Zacharias

Veterans Day Observance at The Wall - 2004

By JoAnn Mangione,
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

Staff Sergeant David Spears was the father of Shelby, Linda, Frank and Karen. Karen was 9-years old when her daddy died and on this beautiful sunny Veterans Day Observance at The Wall, Karen, the adult, waits to speak about a very dark time in her life. A time she shares with thousands like her... those who are now adults, except for the child in them that still misses their parent.

In the crowd, every branch of service is represented including active-duty military undergoing treatment at Walter Reed Army Hospital for injuries incurred during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

People turn to them and other veterans to say thank-you. People touch the names on The Wall to say I miss you. Jan Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, is master of ceremonies and Congressman John P. Murtha of Pennsylvania, keynote speaker. Diane Carlson-Evans, the founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial, introduces Karen.

Karen Spears Zacharias is the mother of four, an award-winning journalist and author and the first-born daughter of one of the 58,245 people whose names are inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Her dad, Staff Sergeant Spears, was a member of the 25th Infantry Division. He was killed on July 24, 1966.

(continued on page 6)

Father's Day 2005: SDIT at 15...

By Tony Cordero [USAF:65]

Legacies Newsletter

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

P.O. Box 1596
Arlington, VA 22210
Tel.: 1-800-984-9994
Email: legacies@sdit.org
www.SDIT.org

Board of Directors

Chairman & Founder
Tony Cordero
(tony@sdit.org)

Secretary
Cindy Rheinheimer
(cindy@sdit.org)

Treasurer
Dennis Shine
(dennis@sdit.org)

Membership
Kelly Rihn
(kelly@sdit.org)

Database
Jim Sampers
(jim@sdit.org)

Father's Day 2005 Volunteers:

Michelle Baugh
Jim Cordero
Jeanette Chervony
Jim Doyle
Bill Duker
Karen Frost
Patty Lee
Terry McGregor

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

Happy New Year! I hope that 2005 finds each of you healthy and optimistic about challenges and opportunities that await in the months ahead.

SDIT's 15th Anniversary Celebration and Father's Day 2005 reunion is now less than six months away. This edition of *Legacies* is filled with information to help you understand the event and make plans for your trip.

All attendees are encouraged to register early for the reunion. Doing so will help the Father's Day planning committee in its efforts to be fully prepared. Unfortunately, registration might take two or three steps — depending on your preference for using the internet, the US mail and calling the Sheraton's toll-free number. Thanks in advance for your patience here.

In 2005, SDIT is returning to the Sheraton National Hotel — the site of the first three Father's Day reunions — where the facilities have been remodeled and upgraded. I hope that you find it comfortable, affordable and easily accessible. The room rate is \$119 and Parking is \$5 per day. Reservations must be made by June 1, 2005 in order to secure that rate. To avoid additional hotel charges, SDIT must fill its planned block of rooms over the weekend.

The planning committee is also working hard to control costs thereby making it possible for all to attend. Most reunions and conferences like the SDIT event charge as much as \$50.00 to participate.

SDIT has set the price at \$25.00 per SDIT member — which includes the member's spouse and children if they are attending.

SDIT is also working feverishly to raise funds to offset other reunion costs. By doing so, SDIT has been able to reduce the price of each dinner ticket by \$10.00!

If you are interested in helping with the fundraising efforts, visit www.sdit.kintera.org or see the 'Fundraising' information printed in this edition of *Legacies*.

In closing, here are some quick recollections about past Father's Day reunions.

1992 – For most sons and daughters, '92 marked their first visit to 'the Wall' and their first meetings with other 'sons and daughters.'

1993 – Familiar faces from '92 and many new faces indicated that this unique organization had value and importance.

1997 – Grandchildren — the children of SDIT members — were in attendance to honor the grandfathers they will never know.

2000 – SDIT announced plans for what would become its historic 2003 trip to Vietnam.

Time will tell what the highlights of Father's Day 2005 will be. In the meantime, I hope that you make plans to join the hundreds of others for this memorable weekend.

As always, peace...

Tony

Banquet Prices Set

Dinner prices have been set for SDIT's June 18 dinner banquet being held during the Father's Day 2005 reunion weekend. Adult dinners are priced at \$30.00 and children's dinners (10 and under) are priced at \$15.00.

To purchase tickets for the banquet, follow the instructions on the enclosed registration form. A copy of order form can also be downloaded from www.sdit.org.

Attendees who have already registered, or will register for the reunion weekend at www.sdit.kintera.org must also complete this separate order form and mail it directly to SDIT.

To purchase banquet tickets after the June 1 '05 deadline, please call the SDIT hotline at 800-984-9994. ♦



Father's Day 2005 – What's on the agenda?

The dates for the 2005 Father's Day reunion have been set for Friday, June 17th through Sunday, June 19th, 2005.

For this reunion, the organization's 15th Anniversary and its fifth national celebration, SDIT is returning to the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA. Father's Day reunions in 1992, 1993, and 1997 were held at this same hotel. Since then, the facility has been fully renovated and enhanced. Book your rooms online: www.starwoodmeetings.com

The Father's Day reunion has been planned as a three-day event to accommodate the schedules of SDIT members traveling from across America.

Event check-in actually begins on Thursday evening. However, there are no formal programs scheduled for that evening.

Sharing Circles, historical seminars and other traditional events will be held throughout Friday and Saturday.

The schedule is designed to enable attendees to spend time participating in more of the weekend's events. In years past, participants had to make difficult choices about which programs to attend.

The weekend will culminate with an affordably priced banquet on Saturday evening that will include a special video tribute.

The traditional SDIT Father's Day Rose Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial takes place at 10AM on Sunday, June 19.

The weekend will conclude with the SDIT Picnic and Group Photo near the memorial.

The Event Schedule

Registration (June 16: 5-10 PM, June 17: 10 AM - 5 PM)

Pick up registration Packets with schedules, nametags, tickets and more.

Hospitality Suite (June 16, 17 & 18)

Meet and mingle with other sons, daughters, moms, vets, and siblings. Bring pictures of loved ones to share and review the history of SDIT.

Sharing Circles (June 16, 17 & 18)

Sharing Circles are chance for participants to hear from those who share in, and understand their loss. Discussions range from pain and anger to celebrating the silver-lining in this experience. These open-

forums will be facilitated by licensed and experienced counselors.

Historical Seminars (June 17 & 18: 9 AM - 5 PM)

Film screenings, book reviews and discussions of the 2003 Vietnam Trip.

Membership Meeting (June 17)

This 'ice breaker' will update members on the business of SDIT, provide an overview of the weekend's events and address any issues as the reunion gets underway.

Candlelight Ceremony at The Wall (June 17)

SDIT members and National League of POW/MIA Families will join at the Wall for a special ceremony.

Night Trip to The Wall (June 17 & 18)

Experience The Wall late at night — its most serene time.

Wash The Wall (June 18)

Get up early, dress accordingly and be prepared for a 'cleansing' experience.

Grandkid's trip to The Wall (June 18)

This is a special visit for the grandchildren of the men whose names are inscribed on 'the Wall'. Grandchildren of all ages are encouraged to participate in this event.

Celebration Banquet and Film Presentation (June 18: 6:30 PM)

Dinner, speakers, music and awards will be on the evening's agenda. Use the ticket order form in this newsletter or

download it from www.sdit.org. Orders are due by June 1.

Father's Day Ceremony at The Wall (June 19: 10 AM)

Dress comfortably for the highlight of the weekend.

Celebration 2005 Group Picture (June 19)

An unrehearsed group photo of all Sons and Daughters in attendance will take place after the picnic.

Picnic (June 19)

Lunch on the Capitol Mall about one hour after the ceremony concludes.

*Note:

All events and times are subject to change. Visit www.sdit.org or Call 800-984-9994 for more details.

VietNow announces Scholarship Awards

VietNow

By Jim Sampers [USN:69]



Joel K. Brittain

VietNow announced its annual scholarships on Father's Day 2004. This year's announcement included the addition of the Joel Brittain Memorial scholarship. VietNow created this scholarship upon learning of the death of Joel Brittain, who is the son of SDIT member Elaine Roach [USN:64], while serving with the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne in Iraq. Joel and three other members of his unit were killed while patrolling South Baghdad searching for insurgents shooting rockets into the Green Zone. "This scholarship is a honoring of Joel's life," says Elaine. "Joel was a free spirit, into living life and he wanted people to be real," Elaine responded when asked what she wanted people to remember about Joel.

"To receive the Joel Brittain Memorial scholarship is a double-edged sword, I accept the gift graciously, but am saddened to receive the scholarship for the reasons it came into being," states **Daniel Starnes** [USAF:68]. "I hope that I can make Ms. Roach, her father and Joel proud by accomplishing my dreams and living a life that honor the memories of her father and son." Daniel, who is the grandson of MAJ John L. McElroy, is attending Western Kentucky University where he is an Animal Science major with a minor in Biology and following the pre-veterinary curriculum. Daniel hopes to combine the research skills that he is acquiring in his Biology studies to his Animal Science studies as a research veterinarian or a veterinarian that specializes in problems the affect the movement of horses. When notified of whom the Joel Brittain Memorial scholarship was awarded to, Elaine said, "Daniel is the perfect choice because of Joel's love for animals. It is nice for me to know that part of Joel will live on through Daniel's work." "I would like to thank VietNow and all their members, the community of people that make up the organization who ensure that the past and those involved are not forgotten", says Daniel. "These scholarships are representative of the hope that all members share in that there is a better tomorrow in store for all of us and that education will help usher in that new day." "It is a great honor and

privilege to receive this scholarship, but it is also a responsibility that I now owe to all the members to succeed and accomplish the dreams that this award is helping to complete," states Daniel when asked what message he would like to give to VietNow.

"Receiving this scholarship has meant a lot to me," says **John Tiderman Vetter** [USN:66], "it has helped me buy my books and further my studies." John, who is the grandson of LCDR John M. Tiderman, is attending Northfield Mount Hermon as a prep to the U.S. Naval Academy where he will pursue studies in the field of History. "I have always enjoyed History, including the History of War," states John. John's message to VietNow is "Thank you for giving me this scholarship, which is helping me to get to where I ultimately will be, the U.S. Naval Academy.

"This scholarship has taken pressure off me to make a great deal of money while studying," replies **Seamus O'Connor** [USA:66]. "I will have more time to enjoy myself and my college experience and more freedom to devote myself to my studies and take advantage of all the opportunities around me." Seamus, who is the grandson of MAJ Richard H. Schmidt, is attending Syracuse University and is enrolled in the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Seamus is studying magazine journalism and hopes to be a feature columnist and editor of his own magazine some day. When asked what message he would like to share with VietNow, Seamus explained, "In this age of scandal, fraud and celebrity "news" dominating the media, I hope to bring journalistic integrity back to reporting, and learn how to bring truth and important information to the public. This scholarship is a huge help in my journey to learn from the very best in journalism."

"Receiving this scholarship from VietNow has enabled me to afford tuition and continue to travel to meet the men who served with my father," says **Noreen Doloughy** [USA:69]. "In August I traveled to Minneapolis, where I was able to bring together

(continued on page 6)

Help SDIT hit its fundraising target — www.sdit.kintera.org

SDIT has partnered with a web-based fundraising specialist to meet the financial challenge of hosting the 2005 Father's Day reunion and celebration. Top individual fundraisers in the campaign can earn as many as three free nights at the Sheraton National Hotel during the reunion weekend. The fundraising site can be found at www.sdit.kintera.org.

With hopes of raising \$35,000, SDIT has partnered with Kintera, a San Diego-based company that specializes in assisting non-profits with their fundraising programs. Kintera's non-profit clients encourage their membership to circulate a personalized email message to friends and family asking that they visit the member's personalized web page within the fundraising site. The personalized page highlights the member's commitment to the non-profit and tracks the member's success in the fundraising campaign. Visitors are asked to make a contribution to the effort and continue circulating the message to others who have an interest in the work performed by the non-profit.

SDIT launched its dual-purpose site in November 2004. In addition to serving as a

fundraising vehicle, the site also serves as the official on-line registration platform for the Father's Day reunion. The on-line registrations are reducing paperwork and helping event planners accurately track attendance for the reunion.

As SDIT members register for the June celebration, they are also being invited to join the Father's Day 2005 fundraising campaign. If they choose to participate in the campaign, they can follow simple instructions to customize a personal page with photographs and messages about their fathers. Participants then follow simple instructions on how to begin their email fundraising campaign and track their results.

Since SDIT is a volunteer-run organization, nearly 93% of all contributions go directly to the organization's programs and events.

Contributions to SDIT are generally considered tax deductible. Supporters wanting to assist an SDIT member without using the internet can mail contributions to SDIT (P.O. Box 1596 Arlington, VA 22210). Please include a note indicating to whom the contribution should be credited.

For more details, visit the customized site at www.sdit.kintera.org or contact FD05@sdit.org. ♦



*A Father's Day Activity —
members and volunteers
Wash the Wall*

State, County, and Community Vietnam Memorial Photos Needed

Designers of The Father's Day 2005 Program are looking for photographs of Vietnam Veterans Memorials from across the United States. Over the past 30 years, hundreds of memorials have been erected along highways, in city parks and outside municipal buildings. Do you have photos to include in this collection?

If you would like to submit your photo(s) for consideration, please submit the official name of the memorial and its location to Jeanette@sdit.org. You will then be provided with instructions on how to submit the photograph. ♦

Veterans Day Observance at the Wall – 2004

(continued from page 1)

Karen often shares her feelings about the loss of her father through her written and spoken words. Today, however, she uses words from a member of the new generation of 'war orphans.'

Seven-year old Destre Livaudais lost his daddy in Iraq on April 2003. As Karen speaks, it seems clear that there is no generation gap where the lessons of life and death are concerned. There is an understanding between children who've lost a parent in a war that transcends age.

Destre has nightmares. But, it's the dream that his daddy comes home alive that bothers him even more. "I wake up and want my dad back for real," he told Karen. Like a child of divorce, he blames himself for what happened. "I've done some bad things," he regrets.

With wisdom well beyond his years, he told Karen, that people think only one person died in the family, but they don't realize that one soldier's death has a very bad cost. "War tears up families like ours," he observes.

Ever since his daddy died, he says his life has been miserable. He told Karen that he doesn't blame God, but wishes God had helped out just a little more. For an instant, the innocence of Destre's age is apparent. Karen tells the crowd that he wants a deed written to declare they'll be no more wars.

With a new generation of sons and daughters emerging, Karen reminds the audience that it's what we say or don't say to them about war that will either hurt or heal. For those children the healing begins. For the children of the Vietnam veteran, the healing continues. For both generations, young Destre has some good advice, "It's okay to cry, but ya don't gotta cry all the time."

Karen Spears Zacharias's new book — HERO MAMA: A Daughter Remembers the Father She Lost in Vietnam and the Mother Who Held Her Family Together — is available in bookstores now. ◆



VietNow Scholarship Awards

(continued from page 4)

two men who served with my father, two men who had not seen each other in thirty five years." Noreen, who is the daughter of SSGT James C. Dolougherty, is attending the University of Pittsburgh as a part-time student pursuing an undergraduate certificate in English Writing. She also has a bachelors degree in graphic design and works full-time in the interactive media department of a local newspaper. Noreen's message to VietNow is, "My father had completed one year of study at a community college and after dropping out he was drafted. He wrote letters home saying that he wanted to go back to college at the University of Pittsburgh, and English was one of the subjects that he wanted to study. I think I may be following in the footsteps he would have taken had he made it home."

"Receiving this scholarship on behalf of my grandfather is a link to a man I've always revered but never met," says **Benjamin Gilberg** [USA:67]. Benjamin, who is the grandson of MSGT Charles E. Hosking Jr, is attending Alfred University where he is enrolled in the Art school. "This scholarship money

helps me afford Alfred University and makes my experience easier," states Benjamin. "My grandfather wanted his children and grandchildren to go to college more than anything else and VietNow helped make this dream come true."

The VietNow scholarship program is an annual event in which they award four \$1,000.00 scholarships and the Joel Brittain Memorial scholarship, which is \$2,000.00. VietNow will begin accepting applications January 2005. To be eligible you must be the son, daughter or grandchild of those men who were lost or remain missing as a result of their service in SE Asia. You must also be a member of SDIT. Applications will be available after January 1, 2005 and can be obtained by contacting Jim Sampers at Jim@sdit.org or by calling SDIT at 1-800-984-9994. The deadline for applications will be April 1, 2005, with NO exceptions. This past year's application submittal was very competitive with numerous applicants. I encourage those interested to contact me as early as possible after January 1, 2005 to ensure your chance to submit as complete and comprehensive application as possible. ◆

Important Web Links

◆ **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

◆ **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund:**

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 newly designed site combines content from the previous VVMF site along with information about: www.vvmf.org

- **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

◆ **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

◆ **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

◆ **VietNow:** Membership organization formed nearly twenty years ago to support veterans' causes, including major support for SDIT. www.vietnow.com

◆ **Vietnam Casualty Database:** Provides search options for casualties from the war: www.no-quarter.org

◆ **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

◆ **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

◆ **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

◆ **The American Legion:** Veterans Service Organization with more than 3 million members worldwide: www.legion.org

◆ **The Veterans of Foreign Wars:** Veterans Service Organization providing all veterans with programs and services: www.vfw.org

◆ **The Military Order of the Purple Heart:** Congressionally chartered organization for combat-wounded soldiers: www.purpleheart.org





"They Were Our Fathers..."

Post Office Box 1596
Arlington, VA 22210

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

Address Service Requested



"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.