



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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NIM Releases Schedule of Events for Vietnam Commemoration

Weekend includes symposium, dinner, memorial dedication, free film

Columbus, Georgia – March 10, 2014: The National Infantry Museum will salute Vietnam veterans March 20-23, as part of the nation's ongoing 50th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War.

The highlight of the 4-day event will be the dedication of the new Vietnam Memorial Plaza, featuring the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall. A ceremony will be held **Friday, March 21**, beginning immediately following the 10 a.m. graduation of new Infantry Soldiers on the parade field adjacent to the museum. *We hope you will encourage all Vietnam veterans in our community to attend this event. There will be seating at both the graduation and the dedication reserved for Vietnam veterans and Gold Star families.*

At the close of the graduation, guests will be led to the site of the new memorial along Heritage Walk on the museum's east side. The brief ceremony will feature remarks by a representative of Dignity Memorial, the company that originally commissioned the replica of the Wall; MCoE Commanding General MG H.R. McMaster; General (Retired) Barry McCaffrey; and guest speaker Colonel (Retired) Jack Jacobs, a Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient. Veterans will lay a wreath at the Wall, and a 21-gun salute and Taps will close out the ceremony.

On **Thursday, March 20**, the National Infantry Foundation will host "Vietnam: Valor and Sacrifice," a half-day symposium and dinner featuring four Vietnam Medal of Honor recipients, four former Vietnam prisoners of war, and guest speakers. Three authors will sell and sign their books late Thursday afternoon. Registration is required for the symposium and dinner; tickets can be purchased at www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org. The names and bios of the panelists and speakers, and a schedule of events for the symposium, are enclosed in this packet.

On **Saturday, March 22**, at 4 p.m., there will be an exclusive screening of a new documentary about the Vietnam War. *Brothers in War* – produced by Lou Reda Productions for the National Geographic Channel – recounts the harrowing combat experiences of the men of Charlie Company — one of the last American combat Infantry companies to be drafted, trained and sent to fight together in Vietnam. The screening is free and open to the public on a first-come, first-seated basis.

All weekend, volunteers will be on hand to assist visitors in locating names on the Wall. Paper and pencils will be available for those who wish to make rubbings.

A full schedule of events follows. Media wishing to cover any of these events are asked to coordinate with National Infantry Foundation Director of Communications Cyndy Cerbin at 706-685-5808.

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The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park, a 200-acre tract linking Columbus, Georgia, and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, is the first world-class site to pay tribute to the U.S. Army Infantryman and those who fight alongside him. As the only interactive Army Museum in the United States, the museum showcases the contributions of the Infantry Soldier in every war fought by the U.S. by offering immersive participation and engaging visitors in the unique experiences of the Infantry Soldier. The complex also includes a parade field, memorial walk of honor, authentic World War II Company Street and 3-D IMAX[®] Theatre. For more information, visit www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, March 20, 2014

- 9:00 am – 1:00 pm** Registration in Patriot Hall
- 1:00 pm** Welcome by NIF Chairman LTG Carmen Cavezza
- 1:15 pm – 1:45 pm** Presentation by MG HR McMaster, Commanding General, Maneuver Center of Excellence
- 1:45 pm – 2:00 pm** Break
- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm** Valor Panel featuring Medal of Honor Recipients
LTG Robert Foley, COL Jack Jacobs, COL Joe Marm, and
COL Gordon Roberts
- 3:00 pm – 3:15 pm** Break
- 3:15 pm – 3:45 pm** Presentation by Alvin Townley, author of *Defiant*
- 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm** Sacrifice Panel featuring Prisoners of War from each
service: RADM Robert Shumaker, USN; COL Hal
Kushner, USA; LT COL Orson Swindle, USMC; and LTC
Ron Mastin, USAF
- 4:45 pm – 5:00 pm** Symposium Conclusion
- 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Books will be available for sale in the IMAX lobby.
Authors Joe Galloway, Alvin Townley, and Albert H.
Nahas will be available for book signings
- 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm** Cocktail reception for symposium guests
- 7:00 pm** Dinner in the Grand Hall for symposium guests, featuring
guest speaker Joe Galloway, Distinguished War
Correspondent and Co-author of *We Were Soldiers
Once...and Young*

Friday, March 21

- 10:00 a.m.** Graduation of Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry
- Immediately following graduation** Dedication of the Vietnam Memorial Plaza
- Authors will again sell and sign books in the museum lobby following the Dedication

Saturday, March 22

- 4 p.m.** Free screening of *Brothers in War* in the IMAX Theatre

GUEST SPEAKERS

H.R. McMaster

Major General, U.S. Army

Major General H. R. McMaster assumed command of the Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning on 13 June 2012. Prior to his arrival at Fort Benning he most recently served as Commander, Combined Joint Inter-Agency Task Force Shafafiyat (Transparency) in Kabul, Afghanistan. Previously he served as Director of Concept Development and Learning at the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. He was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1984. He holds a PhD in military history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

McMaster wrote *Dereliction of Duty: Johnson, McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam* in 1997, when McMaster was a United States Army Major. Its detailed accounting of military culpability for the failed conflict and charges of complicity among the Joint Chiefs of Staff touched a resonant chord among military officers.

Alvin Townley

Author, Defiant

Best-selling author Alvin Townley's recently released fourth book, *Defiant*, reveals the amazing and untold true story of eleven POWs in Vietnam, known as the Alcatraz Eleven - eleven Americans the North Vietnamese identified as their most uncooperative and subversive captives. The book also tells the story of the "Alcatraz wives," who fought for their husbands' safe return when it seemed nobody else would. This epic story - which takes place over eight years - has inspired praise from all corners of America and deeply affects everyone who reads it, including both Senator John McCain and President Jimmy Carter.

Joe Galloway

Author, Journalist

As a fresh, young reporter in 1965, Joe Galloway was on the frontlines in Vietnam as American ground troops began streaming into the country. By November he was embedded with the 1st Cavalry Division in the midst of the first major battle of the Vietnam War – the Ia Drang Valley. He would go on to serve a total of four tours in Vietnam. Galloway later co-authored two books, *We Were Soldiers Once...And Young* and *We Are Soldiers Still*, about his return to Vietnam four decades later. General H. Norman Schwarzkopf once called him “the finest combat correspondent of our generation.” In 1998 Galloway was awarded a Bronze Star with V for Valor for rescuing wounded soldieries under fire at Ia Drang. He is the only civilian to receive a combat medal from the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

SACRIFICE PANEL PRISONERS OF WAR

Robert H. Shumaker

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy, Retired

In February 1965, Shumaker was shot down on a mission over North Vietnam, captured and spent the next eight years as a Prisoner of War. He was held in various POW camps, including the infamous Hoa Lo complex in Hanoi, which Shumaker dubbed the "Hanoi Hilton." As a prisoner, Shumaker was known for creating all sorts of communication systems and his fellow POWs considered him a resister, leader and patriot.

F. Harold Kushner, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Colonel Medical Corps, U.S. Army, Retired

Army Colonel Floyd Harold Kushner's helicopter crashed into enemy territory on November 30, 1967. He spent the next five and a half years in captivity. In addition to beatings and malnutrition, he dealt with the frustration of not being able to practice medicine; although he had the medical know-how to treat his fellow prisoners, he was not allowed to help them. In 1971, he was forced to march 900 kilometers north to Hanoi, where he was imprisoned for the remainder of the war.

Orson Swindle
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired

On November 11, 1966, Capt. Orson Swindle's Crusader was shot down while on a mission over the Quảng Bình Province, North Vietnam. It was his last scheduled flight. Captured by the North Vietnamese near the city of Vinh Linh, Capt. Swindle spent the next seven years being shuffled around various prison camps, including the notorious Hanoi Hilton complex. While in captivity, he shared a cell with future senator and presidential candidate John McCain.

Ronald L. Mastin
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force, Retired

On January 16, 1967, while flying his 34th combat mission, Capt. Ron Mastin was forced to eject over North Vietnam and was taken as a Prisoner of War. After spending 2,239 days in captivity, Capt Mastin was released during Operation Homecoming on March 4, 1973.

VALOR PANEL
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Robert F. Foley
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army Retired

In November 1966, 25-year-old Captain Robert Foley led a fight to rescue a besieged American unit, single-handedly destroying several enemy positions near Quan Dau Tieng, South Vietnam. As a result of the recommendations of his soldiers, Foley was awarded the Medal of Honor on May 1, 1968.

Jack Jacobs
Colonel, U.S. Army Retired

Although seriously wounded, First Lieutenant Jack Jacobs dragged 13 fellow soldiers to safety after an ambush in Kien Phong Province, South Vietnam, on March 9, 1968. He was awarded the Medal of Honor on October 9, 1969.

Walter "Joe" Marm
Colonel, U.S. Army Retired

Second Lieutenant Walter "Joe" Marm, Jr., led an attack against a heavily fortified enemy force on November 14, 1965, personally knocking out several positions in the Ia Drang Valley, South Vietnam. He was presented with the Medal of Honor on December 19, 1966, and three years later volunteered for a second tour of duty in Vietnam.

Gordon Ray Roberts
Colonel, U.S. Army Retired

Under fire in A Chau Valley, South Vietnam, on July 11, 1969, Specialist Gordon Roberts destroyed three enemy bunkers while relieving a pinned-down unit and evacuating wounded. He received the Medal of Honor on March 2, 1971.

Harold Fritz
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Retired

On January 11, 1969, First Lieutenant Harold Fritz repelled an enemy ambush under withering crossfire near Quan Loi, South Vietnam, leading the defense until reinforcements arrived. On March 2, 1971, Fritz received the Medal of Honor.