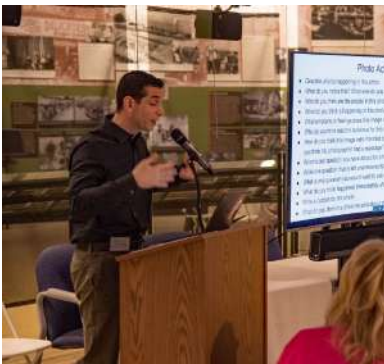


EDUCATION

2019 Teacher of the Year: Robert Gangi



This year, the Foundation recognized Robert Gangi as our 2019 Teacher of the Year. The NJVVMF introduced this honor in 2018 to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the opening of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Museum and Education Center.

Robert Gangi was selected by the Teacher of the Year Committee, consisting of

NJVVMF Staff and members of the Board of Trustees, for his commitment to the teaching of the history of the Vietnam Era. For over a decade Robert has brought students from his course, "The Vietnam War Era," to tour the Memorial as part of the curriculum. During these trips, he serves as an "unofficial" photographer of the Memorial and has captured dozens of beautiful images showing our tour guides interacting with his students. We have used some of his photos in our publications, as he is able to truly capture the passion our volunteers bring to their tour experiences with students.

When notified of the award, Robert said, "I am truly honored, for as you know I have great reverence for what all the staff and volunteers do every day at your outstanding museum and education center. I am indeed very proud to have a close working relationship with the NJVVMF, and it is always a highlight of my year to take students there. I really am touched by this honor."

Annual Interdisciplinary Forum



Hosted by the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation and the New Jersey Council for Social Studies, the 19th Annual Interdisciplinary Forum, titled "Civil Rights and Liberties During the Vietnam War", allowed educators to learn about new resources and ways to engage students in the classroom. Attending teachers receive 8.5 hours of Professional Development Credits.

The one-day conference featured a presentation and Q&A by Keynote Speaker Mary Beth Tinker from the Supreme Court Case *Tinker vs. Des Moines*. Mary Beth was 13 when she was suspended for wearing a black arm band to protest the violence of the Vietnam War. In the ruling, the Supreme Court upheld the First Amendment protections for students by stating that the school could not censor student speech unless it disrupted the educational process. Mary Beth continues to educate young people about their rights, speaking frequently to students groups across the country. She is an advocate for the rights of youth, particularly in the areas of health and education.



Annual Scholarships

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation awards two \$2,500 scholarships for post-high school education (college, university or trade school) each year. These scholarships are presented to the two winning students at our Memorial Day Ceremony. This year's winning scholarships were awarded to Meghan Helen Merenich of Mainland Regional High School to pursue her education at Duke University, and to John Grasso of Hammonton High School to pursue his education at Rowan University.