

# 2018 Annual Report

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NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL  
VIETNAM ERA MUSEUM & EDUCATIONAL CENTER

# In REMEMBRANCE

## Mike Ioli



Mike served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967 as a Military Police Officer with the 127th MP Company. Following his passion for music and playing drums, the Electrical Banana was formed with his band mates. The first 60’s rock band in Vietnam, they played in NCO and Officer’s Clubs. Their experiences are immortalized in the book, *Rock n’ Roll Soldier, A Memoir*.

After completing his tour, Michael was stationed at Fort Monmouth, NJ where he met the love of his life, Maryanne. They were married on June 7, 1970, and shortly afterwards, he graduated from Montclair State University. Together they raised their 2 girls, Lori and Joanne, in Oakhurst, NJ.

Michael was dedicated to his family and community. He loved photography, was a member of the Knights of Columbus, volunteer at St. Jerome School, Treasurer of the 127th Military Police Alumni Association, member of the Disabled American Veterans Association, and a Tour Guide at the NJ Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial.



Mike with the Electric Banana, the first 60’s rock band in Vietnam

## Romano Peretti



Born in Tezze, Italy, Romano proudly served this country in the Army as a Sergeant during the Vietnam War and was the recipient of a Bronze Star.

Romano was an Account Manager at EDS of Bedminster for 30 years. He was a Past Commander of the VFW Post 6061 of Colonia and a member of the American Legion of Rahway. He was a Volunteer at the VA in East Orange and was a Tour Guide at the NJ Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial. Romano also volunteered in the Community Outreach Program in the Woodbridge Public Schools educating the students about Veterans.

This year lost,  
but not forgotten.

## Edward J. Smrcka, Jr.



Born in Baldwin, WI, Edward J. Smrcka, Jr., known to friends as Jim, lived in the Wyckoff area for the past 30 years. He served his country proudly during the Vietnam War in the United States Army. Jim saw much action as a helicopter pilot flying more than 1000 missions during his two tours of duty in country.

He was recognized for his bravery, receiving the Bronze Star and Purple Heart while flying under harsh conditions. Jim continued his joy of flying in his civilian career as a helicopter pilot for Citi Bank, Teterboro Airport.

Jim was a regular at NJ Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial events including our annual golf outing.



Jim’s legacy and service to NJVVMF are honored with an engraved paver installed at the base of our Huey.

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NEW JERSEY VIETNAM VETERANS’ MEMORIAL  
VIETNAM ERA MUSEUM & EDUCATIONAL CENTER

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# MESSAGE

## from the Executive Director

### Friends of the Foundation,

On behalf of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation, I am excited to share our 2018 Annual Report with you. It has been an exciting year with the expansion of our staff, audience, programs, and collections.

As we grow, we remain rooted in our mission and our community, especially those who have served, those who continue to serve, and their families.

With their legacies in mind, we look toward our future, embracing new technology and launching a Capital Campaign which will enable us to remain relevant and better serve future generations. Through updating and building upon our public spaces, enhancing our exhibitions, and expanding our unique and powerful collections, we will continue to teach the lessons of the Vietnam Era and its lasting legacy.

As a self-sustaining non-profit organization, we rely on the generosity of our community to advance our mission. I invite you to become a part of our important work in the coming year.

Sincerely,

**Sarah Taggart**  
Executive Director



Sarah Taggart; Chuck Sevola, VP Veterans Initiatives, Prudential Financial;  
Jeff Sohn, State Commander, Jewish War Veterans, Department of NJ



# Mission

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Foundation offers a meaningful and engaging experience that recognizes the sacrifices, courage and valor of Vietnam veterans and that encourages and fosters a thorough understanding of the Vietnam Era including the political, historical, social, cultural and military aspects which affected the United States, and especially New Jersey.

# Vision & Values

As an organization, we value the foundation built by the Vietnam Veterans and community groups that has enabled us to evolve into a thriving, community-oriented nonprofit.

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Foundation maintains a unique site; a Memorial that remembers our state’s sacrifices and Museum focused on the Vietnam Era as a complex period of history. We strive to be respectful, inclusive and to convey an unbiased historical perspective through our programs, exhibitions and ceremonies.

We understand that museums are reflections of our culture and that our role is continually evolving. We are committed to embracing this role and working toward remaining relevant to current and future generations by using technology to enhance the way we teach about and share our stories, collections and resources.

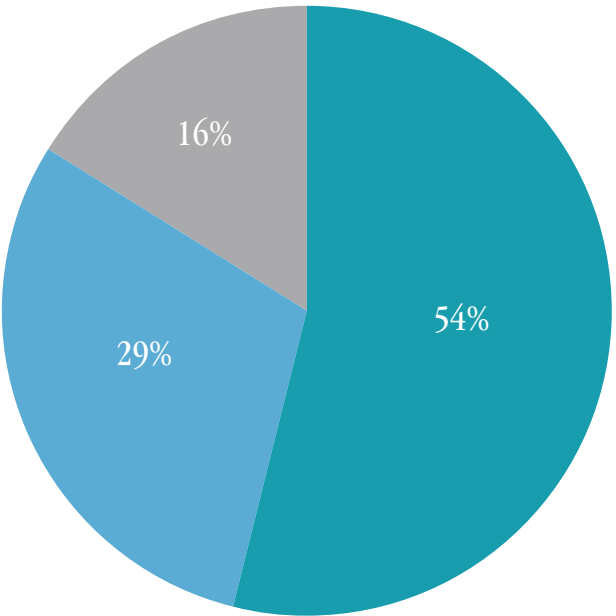
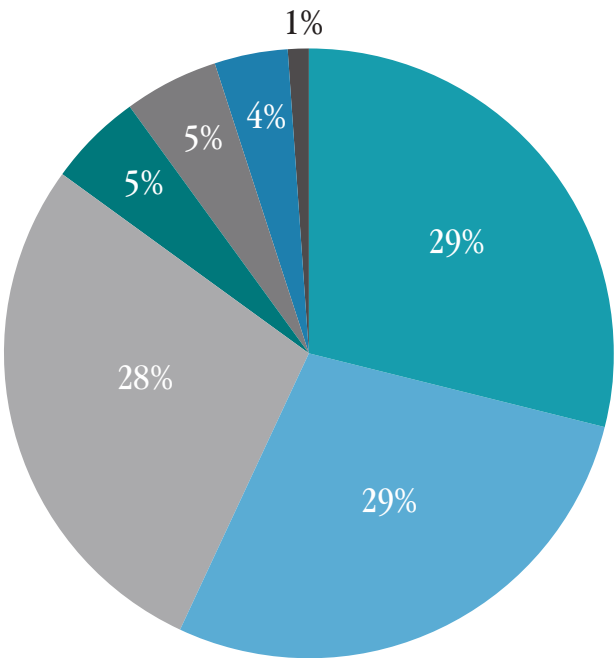
We are committed to strengthening our relationships with the Veterans community and organizations that serve and support that community. We are committed to empowering all who serve and their support systems.

We maintain transparency in our practices, values and mission to foster and preserve the confidence of our community. We strive for a standard of excellence in best practices and professionalism of our Board, staff and activities.

# Statement of FINANCES

## Operating Income

Donations .....	29%
\$284,417	
Donated Services & Facilities .....	29%
\$276,421	
Special Events.....	28%
\$268,559	
Admission Fees.....	5%
\$46,292	
Merchandise .....	5%
\$46,288	
Investment Income .....	4%
\$40,058	
Membership .....	1%
\$7,784	



## Operating Expenses

Programs.....	54%
\$595,369	
Administration .....	29%
\$323,448	
Fundraising .....	16%
\$179,539	

# Honoring Our LEGACY

## 20 Years of Service and Growth

In September of 2018 the Vietnam Era Museum turned 20 years old. We are incredibly proud to still be the only Museum in the country dedicated to the Vietnam Era, its complexities and importantly, its lasting impact.

It's always important to look back at the people who contributed to our continued success, those who laid down the roots of our work and made a strong commitment to our mission which we carry forward. Thank you to all who have contributed to our work through time and support.

In 1982, the power of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. spoke to a group of Vietnam Veterans from New Jersey. Over the next decade, these Veterans worked with state legislators, Veteran and community groups to generate support for a tribute to all New Jerseyans who served during the Vietnam War.



Hien Nguyen with Memorial model at the unveiling ceremony, 1988

In 1987, Governor Kean signed legislation appropriating \$25,000 toward a design competition for the Memorial. Over the next year, more than 420 entries were considered. In July 1988, the winning design by Hien Nguyen, a naturalized American citizen who had escaped from Vietnam thirteen years earlier, was unveiled and work towards the Memorial's construction began.

## The Last Patrol



In 1989, The Last Patrol, a group of fifteen New Jersey Veterans and three Nurses who served in Vietnam traveled over 200 miles from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. to the future site of the NJVVMF. Rubbings of the then 1,486 known New Jerseyans on the D.C. Memorial were placed in a box and attached to Henry Rossi's wheelchair for the trip home. The group made the walk back to New Jersey over the next fifteen days raising awareness about and support for the Memorial.

## Remembrance Day

As support increased, the Foundation became a formal non-profit organization with a growing staff and Board. Working together, Governors Florio, Kean and Whitman found support from the state's corporations and contractors.



New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day Ceremony

In April of 1991, May 7th was officially designated as New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day, eternally recognizing the sacrifices made by New Jerseyans and their families. It has remained our central ceremony. By 1995, funds and support had been raised and the Memorial was completed.



Last Patrol member Henry Rossi entering the Memorial site with rubbings

## Memorial Dedication



Dedication of the Memorial, May 7, 1995

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial was dedicated on May 7, 1995. Supporters including the Whitmans, General Norman Schwarzkopf and state legislators processed into the Memorial behind the Last Patrol, completing a project that had been a labor of love for so many over the past decade.



John Whitman, Lawrence Cody, Honorable Christine Todd Whitman, and U.S. Senator John McCain

## Vietnam Era Museum

By the spring of 1993, preliminary plans for the Memorial's companion project, the Vietnam Era Museum, had begun. The Museum was dedicated in September 1998, three years after the completion of the Memorial.

The Vietnam Era Museum became the nation's first and only museum dedicated to the context of the Vietnam Era. The Museum was designed to welcome students, Veterans and the general public through expanded programming and class trip programs. These resources have grown exponentially over the past two decades as the Foundation has evolved into a recognized and professional organization.

Other Monuments followed as the NJVVMF expanded its collaborations with Veterans' and military organizations across the region including the U.S. War Dogs Memorial, the Women's Meditation Garden, New Jersey Gold Star Families Monument and the Vietnamese-American Monument.

The NJVVMF strives to become a national center recognized for its unique programs, exhibitions, collections and ceremonies. Our dedication to our mission and our community guides every aspect of our work. Each year we work with nearly 10,000 students and educators from across the region, thousands of Veterans and their families and other visitors to the site.



New Jersey Gold Star Family Monument

“ NJVVMF is about keeping alive the memories of our 1,563 Heroes on the Memorial Wall, which include 1,562 Men and 1 Very Special Woman, Captain Eleanor Grace Alexander. ”

Jim McGinnis, Vietnam Veteran, NJVVMF Volunteer

We are grateful to the countless people whose commitment created this unique and important site. It is based on this commitment that we look forward to the next chapter of our work.

# Special EVENTS

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Foundation is a private non-profit organization which operates both the Memorial and the Vietnam Era Museum. We rely on the generosity of our community to continue our work and keep our site open to all who wants to visit. Each year, we host several special events. Partnering with members of our community, we encourage our supporters to get to know our work, our Veterans and become advocates for the Foundation.



Morning introductions, clay shoot

## Clay Shoot

In June, we kicked off our event season with our Annual Clay Shoot. Hosted by the Hudson Farm Club in Andover, NJ, the event is one of our key fundraisers.

## Golf Outing

Our Annual Golf Outing at Eagle Oaks Golf and Country Club took place at the end of June. With a full course and beautiful weather, the event was a great success.



Grounds, Eagle Oaks Golf and Country Club



2018 Golf Outing winning foursome



Documentarian Ken Burns visits the Vietnam Era Museum

## Salute to Patriotism Gala

At our annual Salute to Patriotism Gala in October, Emmy Award winning Documentarian Ken Burns shared insight on his latest project, The Vietnam War.



Sarah Taggart, Ken Burns, Jess LeVine and Bill Linderman at the Memorial

Burns spent that morning touring the Memorial and Vietnam Era Museum with staff and Trustees, learning about our mission and the work we do. The documentary, produced as the result of ten years of research, travel and interviews premiered on PBS in September.

# CEREMONIES

Our annual ceremonies continued to strengthen our relationships with the Veterans community, legislators, and the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

## Vietnamese American Community Association



Vietnamese American Community Association

In April, the Vietnamese American Community Association commemorated the fall of Saigon with their annual Ceremony. Members of the community remembered the impact of the Vietnam War on their families, community and country while celebrating the resilience of that community.



Leonard Mueller, President VVA Chapter 200 escorts an In Memory Family at our Memorial Day Ceremony

## May Ceremonies

In May, Colonel Mark Piteriski, Deputy Adjutant General, State of NJ spoke at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans’ Remembrance Day Ceremony. Thirty nine Veterans received their New Jersey Service Medals during this touching event. The month concluded with our Memorial Day Ceremony where Chuck Sevola, Vice President, Veterans Initiatives for Prudential Financial spoke about his service and the meaning of Memorial Day. We also inducted six Vietnam Veterans into our In Memory Program.

## POW, MIA & Gold Star Mothers Recognition Ceremony

In September, we were honored to hear Gold Star Sister, Susan Barker Rilliet speak about her brother, Lance Corporal Jedh Colby Barker, USMC. Trustee and Blue Star Mother, Kim Guadagno also spoke about her son Kevin, serving in South Korea. In a very touching ceremony, members of the Blue and Gold Star Family communities, POWs, those missing in action and their families were remembered and thanked for their sacrifices.

## New in 2019: In Memory Ceremony

In March of 2019, we will be adding a ceremony to our annual calendar focused on the In Memory Program. At our In Memory Ceremony, we will honor twenty Vietnam Veterans and their families through induction into our In Memory Program. The event will be held each year on March 29, National Vietnam War Veterans Day ensuring that these sacrifices are never forgotten.



NJVVMF Office Manager Gerry Appel with family members during the induction of their father into the In Memory Program

Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom



Rolling Thunder motorcycles lined up outside the Museum during the annual Ride for Freedom

This year marked the 23rd Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom. The ride ended at the Memorial with a touching ceremony ensuring that those still considered POWs and those missing in action are remembered. David Cichon also spoke about his father Walter Cichon, one of those honored on our Wall.



NJ Run for the Fallen

New Jersey Run for the Fallen

Each September, NJ Run for the Fallen ends their three day run at the New Jersey Gold Star Family Monument on our site. In an apolitical reflection of remembrance, a team of military runners from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and other locations across the US come together to embark on a 190+ mile journey from Cape May to Holmdel, to honor every New Jersey service member killed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn and other conflicts. Each mile is dedicated to a fallen NJ Hero and their Gold Star Family with the goal of creating a 190+ mile memorial trail through New Jersey.

Wreaths Across America

In December we were once again honored by a visit from the Wreaths Across America Caravan on December 13th. During a ceremony that honored nineteen Gold Star Families and the 1,563 memorialized on our Wall, the organization made sure that these individuals and their families will not be forgotten. During the ceremony, 366 wreaths were laid at our Memorial, one for each panel, a first for Wreaths Across America.



Gold Star family members, Wreaths Across America



366 wreaths line the Memorial Wall during Wreaths Across America

Cremains Project

The Foundation is proud to support and recognize the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 for their Cremains Project. Since 2011, members of the Cremains Committee have worked tirelessly to bring home fellow Veterans whose cremains have remained unclaimed in New Jersey funeral homes. This project is just one example of the lasting legacy that these Vietnam Veterans are making every day. Their mission, to ensure that all Veterans are honored, is both important and a shining example for future generations.



For Online Version: Remember Clip: <https://bit.ly/2EVFgWd>

In November 2017, the Foundation worked with Chapter 12 to capture this work and the emotions that accompany the completion of such an important mission. Thanks to producer Tom Phillips and his team, the clip at the end of this piece ensures this legacy will continue to inspire others to continue this important work.



Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery

“ Being a tour guide at the NJVVMF is rewarding because I can provide a living history lesson to enlighten the students, future generations and visitors about my perspective on the Vietnam War, helping them understand the larger picture. ”

James Biringer, Vietnam Veteran, NJVVMF Volunteer

Wall Washing

Members of VVA NJ State Council, VVA Chapter 12 and our great friends at Home Depot continued their support washing our Memorial in preparation for our Veterans Day ceremony. The group came together to share coffee, stories and volunteer their time. This bi-annual site-wide clean up is something we look forward to twice a year. We are grateful to Chapter 12 and Home Depot for their hard work and support in keeping our site in great shape.



Home Depot and VVA volunteers cleaning the Memorial

Volunteers are the core of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation. Working with regional students and teachers, assisting with ceremonies and staffing our front desk, our volunteers enrich our work in countless ways.

Volunteers pictured under the Huey



Jim Biringer  
Carl Burns  
Andy Butzko  
Bob Cattrell  
Tom Chalfant  
Michael Coale  
Anthony D'Altrui  
Susan DiBarba  
Frank Dunn  
Cappy Everhard  
Joe Formola

Monthly volunteer lunch



“Volunteering at NJVVMF is my form of giving back to the youth of New Jersey.”

Joe Rosato, Vietnam Veteran, NJVVMF Volunteer

Robert Frost  
Dick Furlong  
Rich Goldstein  
Ron Guralnick  
Ken Gurbisz  
Pat Keating  
Joe Kochanski  
Joe Leone  
Bill McClung  
Jim McGinnis  
Frank McGory



Tour Guide Joe Leone at the Memorial

Mike McMahon  
Peter Merola  
J.J. Minor  
Rich Molinari  
Gary Monsees  
Ellen Mulligan  
Charlie Murray  
Mike Napolitano  
John Nugent  
Dan O'Leary  
Vernon O'Meally  
Joe Rosato  
Joe Scalora  
Will Smith  
Matt Swakowski  
Jean Tom-Suden  
Pat Julian Vellucci  
Spence Wickham

Tour Guides in the Memorial



“The NJVVMF has provided me with comfort, gratitude for my service, and a very welcoming atmosphere. I feel it's my privilege to be able to give back.”

Spencer Wickham, Vietnam Veteran, NJVVMF Volunteer



Tour Guides preparing for a tour

Shalan Webb  
Dave Weiss  
Linda Wilson  
Margaret Wojciechowicz  
Tom Wojciechowicz

# STAFF OUTREACH: Out & About

## Jillian Decker



In July, Jillian Decker joined our staff as the Foundation's first Director of Development. Jillian brings over four years of nonprofit sector experience

including fundraising, grant writing, donor stewardship, and database management. Her work is focused on building relationships with our donors, expanding our support from fundraising and grants, and raising funds for our upcoming capital campaign. Jillian is a key part of our fundraising team, which will allow us to expand our Vietnam Era Museum to improve educational experiences and expand the exhibitions of our growing collections.

This summer, Jillian presented her research, Architectural Spatial Theory in Museum Design for Improved Visitor Engagement, at the 9th Annual International Conference on Visual and Performing Arts in Athens, Greece, and at the 11th International Conference on the Inclusive Museum in Granada, Spain. In October, she presented her paper, Building Ludwig I's German Identity: The Parthenon and German Hellenism, at the 76th Annual Southeastern College Arts Conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jillian is excited to join our team at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation and looks forward to working with our veterans, volunteers, donors, and community.

## Greg Waters



Our Museum Curator Greg Waters was busy this year as he put on his first major exhibit at the Vietnam Era Museum, Soundtrack of A Changing

Nation: The Music of the Vietnam Era. As part of this work, he made new connections with other museums and organized loans of artifacts that are currently on display as part of the exhibit. This included traveling to the Museum at Bethel Woods, the official museum of the Woodstock music festival, and the Bruce Springsteen Archive and Center for American Music at Monmouth University.

In May, he attended the American Alliance of Museums conference in Phoenix, Arizona. This conference is the largest gathering of museum professionals in the nation with thousands of attendees. Greg was able to learn directly from leaders in the museum field about proven strategies and new ideas that will help NJVVMF meet the expectations and needs of future visitors.

In June, he attended a three-day workshop at Fort Eustis in Newport News, Virginia, put on by the American Association for State and Local History. The workshop focused on best practices in the museum field with a special focus on working with military collections. He was able to network with dozens of other museum professionals and learn how to better care for NJVVMF's growing museum collections.

## Keri Giannotti



Museum Educator Keri Giannotti was selected to attend a Gilder Lerhman Seminar focused on the Vietnam War. Their innovative

programs are based in historical resources including artifacts, engagement with historians and in this case, Vietnam Veterans. During the seminar, she spent time with leading Vietnam War Studies scholars at the First Division Museum at Cantigny. During this unique opportunity, Keri was able to network with scholars, Vietnam Veterans and other educators while advocating about our work.



Gilder Lerhman Seminar



Gilder Lerhman Seminar Vietnam War Scholars  
Dr. Paul Herbert, Col. James Willbanks, Bob Brigham, Ron Nash from Gilder Lerhman and Greg Daddis, not shown is George Harring.



Keri Giannotti, Michele Knell, Sarah Taggart, Gerry Appel, Greg Waters

Keri also presented at the annual NJEA Teachers' Convention. Following the theme, Standing Together: Social Justice = Education = Success, Keri spoke about the importance of memorials in light of the recent discussions about memorials in Charlottesville and other cities across the country.

Using memorials across New Jersey as examples, she addressed the complicated history of Memorials, especially those connected to the military. Based on a lesson plan she developed, participants learned ways to apply conversations about inclusiveness in the classroom.

## NJVVMF Staff

- Sarah Taggart, Executive Director
- Gerry Appel, Office Manager
- Jillian Decker, Director of Development
- Keri A. Giannotti, Museum Educator
- Michele Knell, Gift Shop and Tour Manager
- Greg Waters, Curator
- Nelida Malet and Barbara Whitworth, Guest Services

## Community Engagement

This year, our staff worked with students and educators from across the region. These schools represented 60 districts with a number of first time attendees. Our Tour Guides worked with 9,600 students and teachers both onsite and in the classroom. We also worked with a number of community groups including VA PTSD groups and senior centers.

Through social media and our website, we engaged with 1,403,636 community members online.



Vietnam Veteran and NJVVMF Volunteer Michael McMahon with school group

## New Programs

By popular demand, we are now offering personal tours of the Memorial and Museum each day we are open. Our Vietnam Veteran Tour Guides are generously sharing their time, expertise and stories with visitors each day the Museum is open from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. They are also on site the first Saturday of each month starting at 11 a.m.. Their experiences offer unique insight into the history of the Vietnam Era and our site. Please plan your next visit while they are on site!

Our Memorials on the Move traveling kit is available to teachers to bring our site into their classrooms. Featuring 17 poster sized images and related lessons, students can analyze the symbolism and meaning behind the different parts of the Foundation's site. With many schools unable to travel to the site for class trips, this program allows brings the site to them along with the legacies shared by our Vietnam Veteran Tour Guides.

Our You Be the Curator traveling kits were expanded to include Soundtrack of a Changing Nation: The Music of Vietnam, an in-classroom experience based in our latest exhibition. Working with our website, students are assigned a song from a curated playlist taken from the exhibition. After listening to the song and exploring the lyrics, students create a photo exhibition with photos from the Vietnam Era that help breakdown the context and meaning of the song.



Social Studies Teacher Stacy Schiller uses a traveling kit at Raritan High School

Professional Development Programs

In February, our Classroom Connections series kicked off with Soundtrack of a Changing Nation: The Music of the Vietnam Era. In conjunction with our exhibition, the program gave teachers tools to bring the rich musical history of the Vietnam Era into their classrooms. Vietnam Veterans Joe Leone, Michael Ioli and Jim McGinnis along with Veteran John Antonellis shared their perspectives on how music shaped their tours of duty and lives after they returned home. Our 17th Annual Interdisciplinary Forum on the Vietnam Era, hosted in partnership with the New Jersey Council for Social Studies (NJCSS), was a sold out success. The morning began with an inspiring presentation from Medal of Honor Recipient Paul “Bud” Bucha. Callie Wright, Educator for the VVMF presented on using literature about the Vietnam Era in the classroom. NJCSS Executive Director Hank Bitten shared his insight into teaching about Vietnam in the classroom during the Vietnam War.



Medal of Honor Recipient, Bud Bucha

In celebration of the Vietnam Era Museum’s 20th Anniversary, this year’s Forum featured our first annual Teacher of the Year Award, given to an Educator who has made an impact on the region’s classroom curriculum by teaching about the Vietnam Era. Frank Dunn of Boonton High School was our first awardee. Recently retired, Frank, a Vietnam Era Veteran, has joined us as a Tour Guide.



Hank Bitten presenting about the impact of the Vietnam War on his teaching in the late 1960’s



Frank Dunn, Teacher of the Year 2018



Burns Scholarship Recipients Ryan Kylat (Ocean Township High School) and Erin Tulko (Middletown High School South) with Vietnam Veteran and NJVVMF Volunteer Carl Burns

An American Legacy

“It’s a place that people can embrace, remember and understand the turmoil times, and that it impacted the lives of a Vietnam Veteran.”

Jim Biringer, Vietnam Veteran, NJVVMF Volunteer

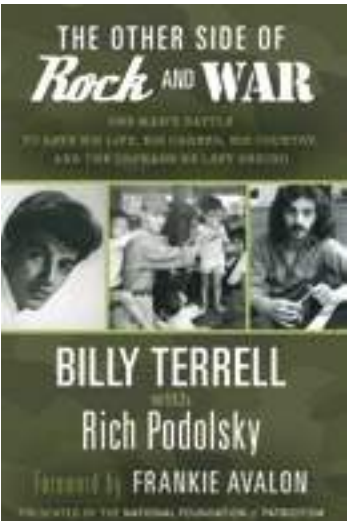
Thanks to a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities we hosted Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis: Preservation and Grace and the American Legacy. Actress Jill Lawrence brought Mrs. Kennedy to life, conveying her personal and professional struggles and victories, a poignant portrait of the First Lady, wife, mother, and activist vividly came alive.



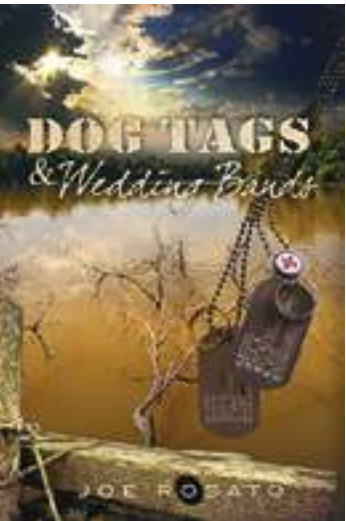
Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis: Preservation and Grace and the American Legacy

Vietnam Voices: Books & Joe

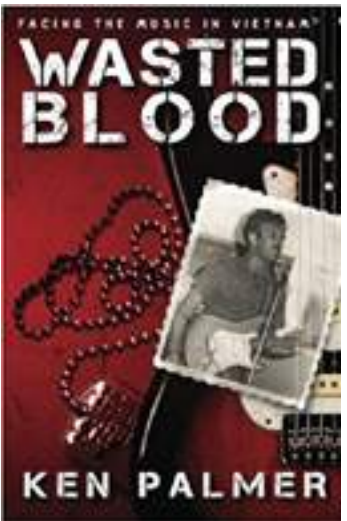
This fall, we launched our Vietnam Voices: Books & Joe series featuring Vietnam Veteran authors from around the region:



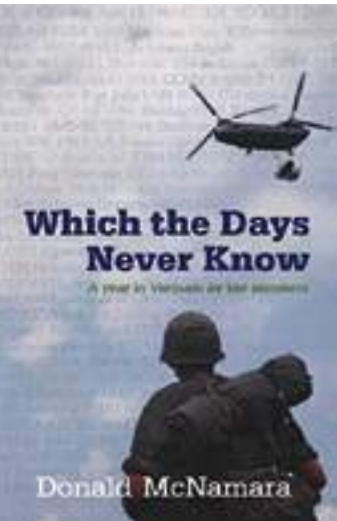
Billy Terrell  
*The Other Side of Rock and War: One Man’s Battle to Save His Life, His Career, His Country, and the Orphans He Left Behind*



Joe Rosato  
*Dog Tags and Wedding Bands and Voices Over Troubled Water*



Ken Palmer  
*Wasted Blood: Facing the Music in Vietnam*



Donald McNamara  
*Which the Days Never Know: A Year in Vietnam by the Numbers*



# CURATORIAL

2018 has been an exciting year at the New Jersey Vietnam Era Museum. In addition to our Historic Timeline showing two concurrent timelines — one reflecting the activity in Vietnam and the other reflecting political, cultural and historical events in the United States - and our Circle of Letters - a chronological display of items collected from those who served and their supporters back home. These personal accounts help make the connection between the facts of War and the lasting effects it has on people's lives - are our rotating exhibits featured throughout the year in our lobby area. These temporary exhibits complement our permanent collection and enable all visitors to learn about the myriad forces that produced the conflict abroad and the dissension at home. The Museum provides an atmosphere where appropriate materials and exhibits help visitors understand the significance of the Memorial, the reality of the conflict, and the social, political and cultural complexities of the Vietnam Era.

## Exhibitions

Thousands of visitors have already seen our current temporary exhibit, Soundtrack of a Changing Nation: Music of the Vietnam Era. It explores the extreme changes that took place in popular music during the turbulent decades of the 60s and 70s. It also features the stories of several aspiring musicians from New Jersey who had their careers interrupted and their lives cut short by the Vietnam War.

Among them are Barton Haynes, a young drummer from Freehold who started a band with some neighborhood friends. They later recruited a young Bruce Springsteen to play guitar. Barton later joined the Marines and was killed by mortar fire in Quang Tri Province in October of 1967. Also featured is Frankie Boyce, a singer and guitarist from Plainfield who started a band with two of his brothers and a family friend. The Plainfield Admirations were later signed to Warner Brothers Records and toured with some of the biggest stars of the era. Frankie received his draft notice on his 21st birthday and was killed in action in January of 1969. The stories of these men and the others told in the exhibit are powerful reminders of the lost potential of those who never came home. Soundtrack of a Changing Nation will be open until December 29, 2018.



Soundtrack of a Changing Nation



## Collections

The museum also continues to collect important artifacts from the Vietnam War Era. Among our recent acquisitions have been letters written by soldiers and their families, photographs, military decorations, and other items that will help us share these stories with current and future generations of visitors. We are currently limited in what we can take in due to space constraints in our collection storage areas. We are actively raising funds for an annex to the museum that will allow us to greatly expand our ability to collect and preserve artifacts from the Vietnam era.

We are looking forward to another exciting year in 2019. We are currently working on two temporary exhibits.

The first, opening in March, will explore the significance of the Medal of Honor in American history. The second, opening in December, will feature art on loan from the National Veterans Art Museum in Chicago, Illinois. We hope to see you in the coming year.



The AN/PVS-1 was the first starlight scope fielded for combat use in SE Asia.



# Biography Project: WALL OF FACES

We are excited to announce that we have made great progress with our Wall of Faces Project. The goal of this work is to connect a photograph to every name on our Memorial. We have been working on this project for many years and are finally coming close to having a picture for all 1,563 names on our Memorial. There are, however, 27 men whose pictures we still need. If you have any information about these men and where we might find pictures of them, please contact Greg Waters at [gwaters@njvvmf.org](mailto:gwaters@njvvmf.org).

- Roger Brown, Newark
- Richard Burgans, Newark
- Cecil Dixon, Trenton
- Joseph Francis, Jr., Camden
- Edward Gray, Newark
- Arthur Jordan, Patterson
- Frank Kohlmyer, Pennsauken
- James Lang, Neptune
- Luis Lopez, Mount Holly
- Alphonza Mason, Newark
- Herbert Moore, Patterson
- Thomas Newman, Saddle River
- Clarence Nofford, Newark
- Raul Orta, Parlin
- Robert Ortiz, Patterson
- Albert Raitt, Neptune City
- Vidal Sanchez, Jr., Shiloh
- Luis Santiago, Camden
- William Simmons, Newark
- Alfred Smith, Dunellen
- Charles Sterling, Ocean City
- Charlie Taylor, Pleasantville
- Melvin Taylor, Patterson
- Alfred Wiggins, Jersey City
- Leroy Williams, Newark
- Lester Williams, Bridgeton
- Ronald Wyatt, South River

A special thanks to Susan DiBarba for her efforts in this important work.

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Thanks to everyone who made  
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