

To: Bryan City Secretary  
From: Councilmembers Saenz and Pena  
Subject: Agenda Item Titled: Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 937 Monument

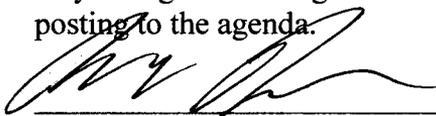
Please place the following item on the Bryan City Council Regular Agenda for the June 10, 2014 or the first regular meeting in June 2014: **Discussion consideration and possible action to provide funding to the Downtown Vietnam Veterans Memorial.**

**Description:** This monument will be placed in front of the library between the library and the Children's Museum which was agreed to by the City Council. The purpose of this location was to provide a central location for Vietnam Memorial events. College Station has already provided a Veterans Memorial, however the Bryan Memorial will be unique in that it lists the names of service members that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation from the Brazos Valley. Over 50 service members from the Brazos Valley that have been identified as killed in Vietnam. It will also be a destination activity that will support and enhance the attraction of Downtown Bryan. The monument will serve as a meeting place for many Veterans Groups for years to come. VVA Chapter 937 will hold at least two annual ceremonies at the monument to remember those who died in Vietnam. In order to build the monument we are in the process of raising approximately \$70,000. The City Manager has agreed to have the city construct the concrete foundation for the monument. However, funding is still needed to complete the construction of the monument. Therefore, the The attached press release shows 50 service members from the Brazos Valley that have been identified as killed in Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 937 asks the city to participate in the funding of this project in the amount of \$25,000.

**Presentations:** Councilmember Pena and Saenz.

This agenda item placement is in accordance with the Bryan City Charter (j) (1) a. 2. Also the Texas Attorney General Opinion Number DM-228 (1993) states no policy can preclude a councilmember from placing an item on the agenda for public discussion.

Any changes to this agenda item must be approved in writing by both under signs prior to posting to the agenda.



Date: 5-23-14

Rafael Pena, Councilmember, District 2



Date: 5-23-2014

Al Saenz, Councilmember, District 1





In Service to America

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
CHAPTER 937  
PO Box 2771, Bryan, TX 77805-2771  
979 229 7805**



May 23, 2014

Honorable Mayor and Council Members  
Bryan City Council  
Bryan, Texas

Dear Council:

The purpose of this letter is to request the City of Bryan's assistance in funding the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be constructed in downtown Bryan at the Clara Mounce Library by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 937 a 501 c (19) nonprofit organization.

This monument will be placed in front of the library between the library and the Children's Museum which was approved by the City Council. The purpose of this location was to provide a central location for Vietnam Memorial events. College Station has already provided a Veterans Memorial, however the Bryan Memorial will be unique in that it lists the names of service members that have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation from the Brazos Valley. It will also be a destination activity that will support and enhance the attraction of Downtown Bryan. The monument will serve as a meeting place for many Veterans Groups for years to come. VVA Chapter 937 will hold at least two annual ceremonies at the monument to remember those who died in Vietnam.

In order to build the monument we are in the process of raising approximately \$70,000. The City Manager has agreed to have the city construct the concrete foundation for the monument. Thank you very much. However, we still need funds to complete the construction of the monument. Therefore, our organization asks the city to participate in the funding of this great project in the amount of \$25,000.

The attached press release shows 50 service members from the Brazos Valley that have been identified as killed in Vietnam. We expect this to be a draw from all over Texas to have people come here and pay respects to those that served. During the ground breaking (press release attached) as many as 100 hundred people were in Bryan from out of the area.

Please find also attached a picture of the mockup that we used for the ceremony and a drawing rendering of the monument and depicting final placement in front of the library.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

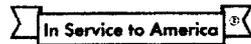
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Griffin".

Michael W. Griffin  
President Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 937



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 937  
Mike Southerland, President



Phone 979 229 7805, Email: [msoutherland@suddenlink.net](mailto:msoutherland@suddenlink.net)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 937 Groundbreaking Ceremony in Downtown Bryan**

The Brazos Valley Chapter 937 of the Vietnam Veterans Association of America proudly announces the ground breaking Ceremony for the Brazos Valley Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Memorial is to honor all that served in the Vietnam War and dedicated to those who died there. The names of the service members, from the seven counties of the Brazos Valley, who died in Vietnam will be inscribed on the monument.

The ceremony will be held on November 3, 2013 at 2:30 pm on the grounds of the Clara Mounce Library, located at 201 East 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Bryan, Texas. Please join us to initiate this meaningful project to honor and remember those who sacrificed so much in this pursuit of freedom.

### **Vietnam Veterans Names to be Inscribed**

#### **BRAZOS COUNTY**

CHARLES F ALLEN  
GERARD R BONIFAZI  
ANHONY E CURRIE  
JOHNNY W FREE  
JOHNNIE L GARNER  
CHARLES E HEBRON  
WALTER L HOWARD  
ROBERT H JOHNSON  
CHARLES C JONES  
CONVERSE R LEWIS III  
CARL E LONG  
SAMMY A MARTIN  
J MICHAEL MORAN  
EUGENE C OATES III  
GEORGE T TAFF JR  
CHARLES E THORNTON  
WILLIAM L TOLIVER  
ALBERT A VAQUERA  
NEAL C WARD  
MURRAY L WORTHAM  
DAVID W WATSON

#### **BURLESON COUNTY**

JOHN J CAREY  
DALMER D JUREK  
CLYDE R WELCH  
ROBERT L OLDHAM  
CHARLES W CLINARD

#### **ROBERTSON COUNTY**

PATRICK L RICE

#### **GRIMES COUNTY**

LESTER C COOK  
ROBRT L MCINTYRE  
AUBREY E NOBLES  
RICHARD D NORWOOD  
RAYMOND STEPTOE  
HAROLD J WESOLICK JR  
JAMES M VRBA, JR

#### **LEON COUNTY**

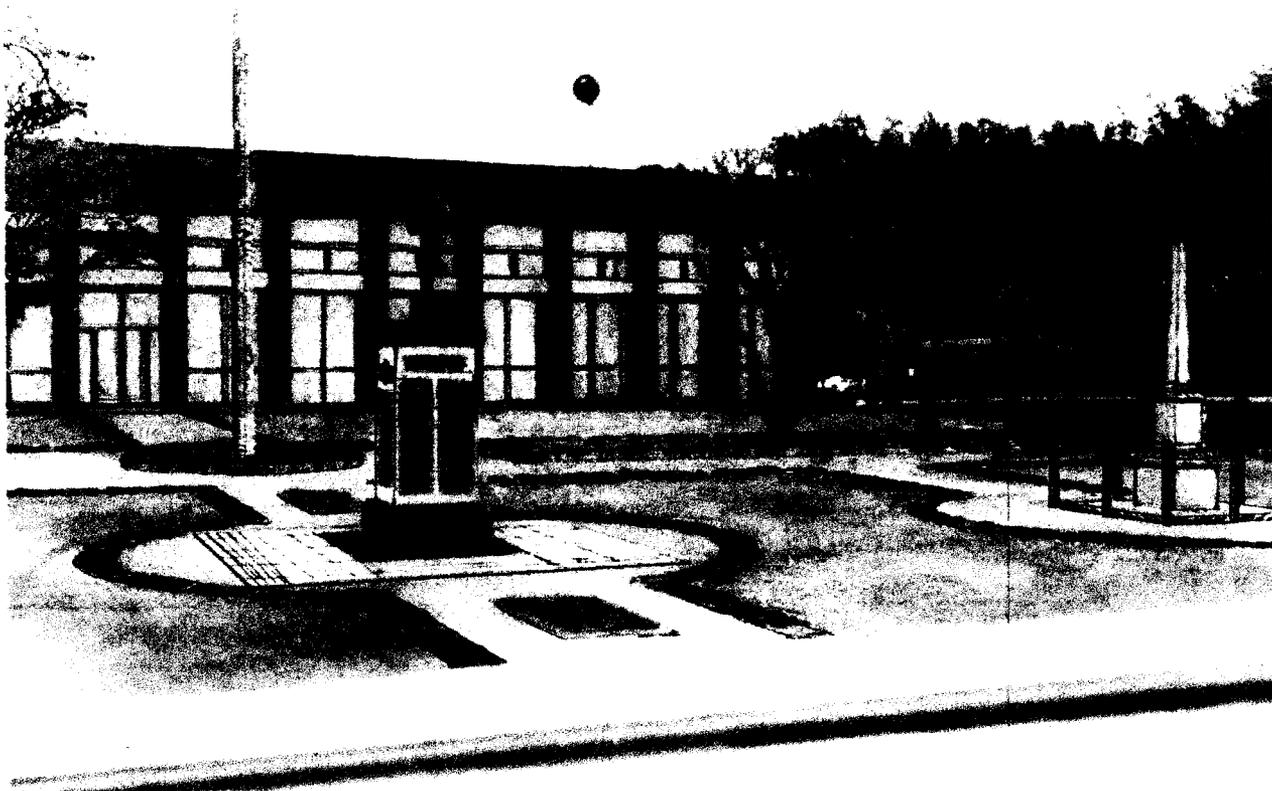
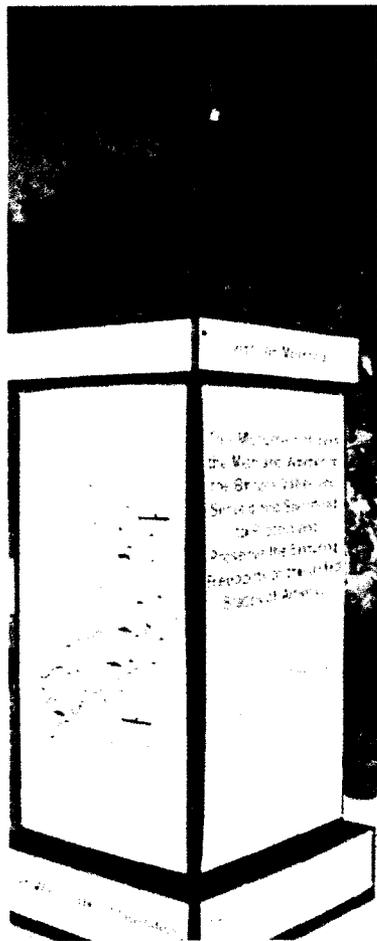
KENNETH R HAWLEY  
CALVIN L MCDAVIS  
HERBERT PLUMMER JR

#### **MADISON COUNTY**

MICHAEL O BATSON  
JOHN L HOUSE  
IRVIN W MOSLEY

#### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

BEN O JOHNSON  
WASHINGTON C MABLE  
LEONARD J MATELSKI  
ASTOR SCALES JR  
HOWARD A SEILHEIMER  
HOWARD M STEINFELD  
LARRY A WESSINGER  
FRED B BECKERMANN JR



## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM**

**FEBRUARY 1961 - MAY 1975**

The United States made a sustained effort to bolster an endangered republic and stem the advancement of international Communism in Southeast Asia.

Advisors from the different services started arriving in Vietnam in 1954 and stayed in the advisory capacity until 1965.

The first combat troops to land in country were U. S. Marines and U.S. Navy Corpsmen, landing to defend Da Nang airfield. The Marines continuing efforts were concentrated, mainly in the I Corps and II Corps areas. Primary in their engagements were the defense of the city of Hue and the Battle of Khe Sahn during the Tet Offensive of 1968.

The U.S Air Force began support of the endangered Vietnamese regime from bases in Southeast Asia outside Vietnam, prior to the first U.S. troops arriving in country. As the war progressed, the Air Force roll ran the gamut of close support of ground troops in Vietnam to strategic bombing of North Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, initially from Da Nang airfield.

The U.S. Navy provided both strategic and tactical support to combat operations by means of air support and extremely accurate naval gunfire from two stations in the South China Sea, known as Yankee Station and Dixie Station. The Navy also provided river patrol boat crews in the Mekong Delta, as well as, Corpsmen, (medics), to all U.S. Marine units.

U.S. Army troops began pouring into Vietnam during a huge buildup in 1965, deploying from Cam Rahn Bay south to the Mekong Delta. Soon after, a major engagement involving the Army's 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) occurred at the Battle for Ia Orang Valley. It was the first test of the airmobile concept of troop deployment, which became the icon of the war in Vietnam.

U.S. Coast Guardsmen performed the very important strategic task of protecting vital ports from insurgent gunships and mine warfare. Also, an important contingent of U.S. Coast Guardsmen was involved in river boat patrols in the Mekong Delta.

From 1954 to 1975, more than 3 million American women and men served in Vietnam, of those, 58,178 made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives, including at least 41 from the Brazos Valley of Texas.