



# REVETMENTS

The Official Journal of The Tan Son Nhut Association

A Memorial to the American Experience in Vietnam

SPECIAL EDITION AUGUST 2011

## TSNA MEMORIAL BENCH



### The Tan Son Nhut Memorial Is Moving Forward

The Tan Son Nhut Association is happy to announce the design phase of our project has been completed and we are ready to move forward with our goal of placing a monument at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, Dayton, Ohio. The planned date for the Memorial Dedication will be Friday, October 12, 2012 and scheduled as part of our reunion next year.

The Memorial's design has already been approved by the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The Association's Board of Directors and the Monument Committee both feel the design and words of dedication invokes the emotions we felt while serving at Tan Son Nhut. Because we have chosen to join and remain a part of the Association, that pride of service remains with us even to this day. None of us have forgotten our service during a difficult war nor the service of so many others. The memorial will be in the form of a black granite bench and is something we all can and will be proud of. As a special tribute, a small amount of soil from Tan Son Nhut will be embedded within the monument itself. This tribute will forever bind together Tan Son Nhut Air Base with the Memorial carrying its name. The memorial bench can be seen on our association's web-page at <http://www.tsna.org/bench/index.html>

Our monument will be dedicated in the Memorial Park section of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. It will serve the living Tan Son Nhut veterans by acknowledging their service, their commitment, and their devotion to duty. When the toll of time has taken all the Vietnam veterans,

our monument will stand silently alongside other similar memorials and continue to speak to the museum visitors of a place far away, a place called Tan Son Nhut. Our service at Tan Son Nhut is more than worthy of a lasting remembrance and dedicating this monument will do exactly that.

Almost fifty years ago, some of us started going to Vietnam to serve at a place called Tan Son Nhut. Then year after year, more and more of us went to this unknown place only to discover how important its mission was and how special and dedicated the troops serving there were. Looking back, those fifty years have passed almost in the blink of an eye. Time is once again upon us to serve and recognize that air base known to us as Tan Son Nhut.

We are now ready to embark on the next and most critical phase of the project. We have to raise the money to fund the cost. It is never easy to ask anyone to fund a cause using their hard-earned money. We do, however, feel this project is so important, so worthwhile it merits our asking you for your full support by making a generous contribution to the memorial fund. We respectfully urge you to give favorable thought on supporting this project and joining with fellow members as they work together in dedicating this lasting memorial. This is an opportunity to give one lasting "thank you for your service" for all those who served at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. You are now being asked to join all those who have already made a contribution in support of this project.

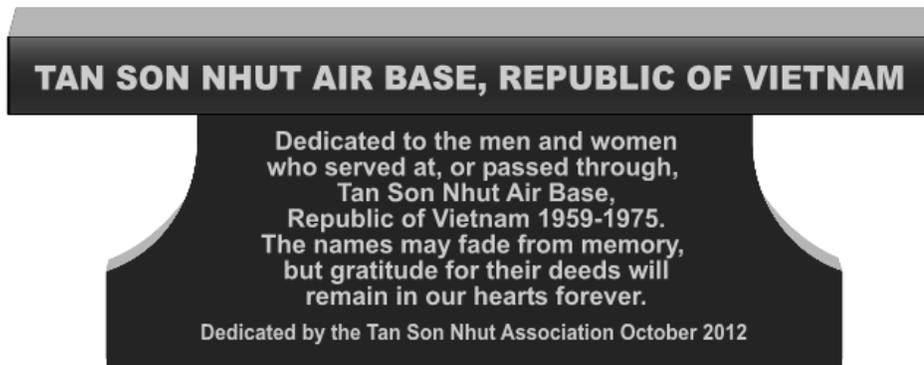
All contributions are most welcomed and only Carol Bessette, Larry Fry, and Johnnie Jernigan (because of

their responsibilities as members of the TSNA Board of Directors) will have knowledge of the amount of your contributions. There will be a posting of names having made a contribution but without any mention of the dollar amount. We served based on our abilities and we will contribute based on our abilities. Some members may wish to make contributions in honor of or in memory of individuals or groups. Such contributions are most welcomed and our web-page (and Revetments) will give recognition to both the person making the gift and the names being so honored.

The enclosed Donor Form gives full instructions on how to make your commitment and contribution as you affirm your support of our Tan Son Nhut Memorial. Since the campaign will last 14 months, we have the opportunity to make multiple contributions over several months to lessen the financial impact of a single contribution. Please be reminded of our Association's federal tax status. Since the Tan Son Nhut Association is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) (19) war veterans organization, gifts, contributions, and donations are deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.. A receipt will be provided to you for your tax records.

An opportunity lies before us. Let us all join together and move this memorial forward. Our goal for dedicating this monument as a memorial to Tan Son Nhut Air Base is \$6,000.00. So far, members have already contributed \$1,579.00 toward this goal. Please become a donor and make a generous contribution and help fund this project.

## DEDICATION SIDE



Right and Left ends  
are Identical



## AIR BASE SIDE



## MEMORIAL DIMENSIONS

SEAT: 54" L x 14" W x 4" D  
BASE: 46" L x 14" H x 8" D

### Why This Design

Tan Son Nhut was home to all branches of the military along with many civilians. The scope of its mission and the impact it had made for difficult decisions on what to include on the Memorial Bench. There were many options but little space.

Johnnie Jernigan met with the National Museum of the United States Air Force staff and reviewed museum guidelines. Guided by their input, we chose black granite because of its strength, low cost, and the end product look.

Our Tan Son Nhut Association logo could not be included in the bench design. Museum guidelines dictate only official patches and emblems recognized by the U. S. Air Force be permitted on memorials. Our familiar emblem is not recognized as official and therefore not permitted.

The museum staff recommends keeping the bench top smooth and without engraving to keep it clean and long lasting.

The words of dedication are used as a lasting tribute to everyone who put boots on the ground at Tan Son Nhut. Some troops spent their tour of duty there while others spent their first and last days there. Everyone's service deserves recognition even if their names are forgotten.

The silhouette of Vietnam with a plane leaving a runway gives the location of Tan Son Nhut within the Republic of Vietnam.

The POW/MIA emblem speaks about the war in Vietnam and its aftermath. Our reunions always have a very moving missing man ceremony and this emblem continues forever our acknowledgment of that missing man.

We conclude the design by placing our "all included- none excluded" motto on both ends. "Welcome Home" on both ends speaks to all troops who came home to a silent and indifferent nation.

# DONOR FORM

# TSNA MEMORIAL BENCH

The Tan Son Nhut Association has scheduled the Memorial Bench Dedication to take place on October 12, 2012.

TSNA is a 501 (c)(19) tax exempt veterans' organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

<http://www.tsna.org/bench/index.html>

Please use this form to make your contribution.

**A donation of any amount will be appreciated and accepted.**

Amount of your Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support. DO NOT SEND CASH.**

Make checks payable to:

Tan Son Nhut Association  
P. O. Box 236  
Penryn, PA 17564-0236

The TSNA Memorial Bench will be located at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, Wright-Patterson AB, OH

**Tan Son Nhut Association**  
**P. O. Box 236**  
**Penryn PA 17564**

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**Web Site: [www.tsna.org](http://www.tsna.org)**

Annual Membership: \$20.00  
Five Year Membership: \$80.00  
Life Membership: \$180.00

## Tan Son Nhut Association



### Memorial Bench Committee Terminates October 12, 2012

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Chaffee, Bob, Base Chaplain

Coup, Bill, Vice-Chairman, 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing

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