



# Reflections from the Memorial

## TO REFLECT AND HONOR AND TO DREAM THINGS THAT NEVER WERE

by Paul C. Smith

Our Veterans Memorial Amphitheater is a place of beauty. It is a place of sacrifice, gratitude, honor, and solemnity, but it is also beautiful. It is effective, public, memorial sculpture. It is art that communicates, that surrounds you as you walk around and through it. It is a visceral experience as you walk by, and perhaps touch, names. I can never forget the first time I walked down, into the Vietnam Memorial, in Washington, D.C. At first the names are at the level of your shoes, but as you descend, the names rapidly increase, and suddenly the names are above your head. You are surrounded by names. Names of people that once were, who are no more, yet their names continue in granite, as powerful symbols.

As I sat contemplating the beauty of our Pittsburg memorial, appreciating its art, its messages, and its power, I was somewhat startled by what at first seemed a bizarre association: the Oklahoma City National Memorial. Then I realized that it, too, is effective,

public, memorial sculpture. The arches, reflecting pool, the rows of chairs (illuminated at night, each chair representing a victim) also honor those who are gone. There was an artistic association, not a comparison, for the reasons the two places were “sculpted” are radically different, of course. One is saddened, sickened and infuriated with the results of McVeigh’s madness, but the place itself now is also a place of architectural beauty. It is a place of both lunacy and art; it is a place of overwhelming oxymoron.

At both sites, I thought we imperfect human creatures need places of art, solitude, and reflection, places of honor and appreciation. Places where melancholy, bewilderment and frustration might be a bit lessened. And then George Bernard Shaw’s words pierced the solitude: “Some men see things as they are and ask why. Others dream things that never were and ask why not.”

Can there ever be a time when war



Paul C. Smith

memorials are no longer needed? Is there any chance that our species in the year 5000 might be able to look back at the first two millennia and wonder, wistfully, why the species took so long to learn how to resolve conflict without armed violence?

It may not be possible to prevent one person’s madness. McVeigh could not be stopped. Hitler’s rise to social and political power could not be stopped, but we were able to, and we had to, stop his military power. And we honor those who fought and sacrificed. But, the history of warfare seems to have more to do with human pride, power and greed, than with stopping one maniacal person. Can human nature evolve and improve?

Can there be a better time? The past is distant, a kind of temporal

(see Memorial, pg. 8)

## PROMISES KEPT

by James M. AuBuchon  
*Vice President, University Advancement*  
US Army 1963-1996

As winter fades and spring approaches, we will soon re-fill the reflecting pool and ready the Memorial for the anticipated influx of visitors. As of this writing, nearly 43,000 visitors have experienced this "special place" since its official opening last May.

### MUCH HAS HAPPENED...

Much has happened at the Memorial since the last issue of this newsletter in fall, 2004. The new entry sign has been installed. Night lighting for the parking lot has been added. We have conducted three major programs at the Memorial, noted in detail elsewhere in this publication. We have completed the addition of the Phase I Expansion - additional space for new engraved pavers. And the sense of honor, respect, and solemn contemplation endures.

### LOOKING AHEAD...

Eight special events and programs are scheduled for the Memorial through June. This is further evidence of its growing popularity and acceptance. These programs, as well as our external marketing efforts and collaboration with the Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau will serve to increase awareness and interest in this unique venue.

### OUR MANY FRIENDS...

We are honored that two great Americans, John Devitt and Larry Salzman, have agreed to assume initial leadership roles as we get our promised "Friends of the Memorial" up and running. The success of this new support group is vital to assure our long-term viability and will provide assistance to fulfill our programming and educational mission. A separate mailing will arrive soon that will serve as the official launch of the membership campaign. Please consider joining.



## MEMORIAL DAY AT THE MEMORIAL

James M. AuBuchon  
US Army 1963-1995

Planning is underway for the 2005 Memorial Day at the Memorial program which will be May 30 at 2 p.m. Invitations have been extended to the major program participants and, hopefully, they will be confirmed soon. Invitations to all donors and friends of the Memorial will be mailed approximately May 1.

One of the major tasks to be accomplished at the 2005 ceremony is to officially unveil the nearly 200 new pavers that have been ordered since November, 2004. Those new pavers will be laid in the recently opened Guy and Claire Sutherland Entrance Plaza.

We expect to have a program fitting for the occasion including a featured speaker, music, taps, and tributes to Veterans. Please mark your calendar and plan to be in Pittsburg for the 2 p.m., May 30 program.

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## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA WATCH FIRE

The Watch Fire Ceremony sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America is scheduled for Friday, April 29 starting at 1 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater. The ceremony is intended to bring focus to the issue of the nearly 1,900 missing and unaccounted for during the Vietnam War. Having a proper accounting for those still missing is a high priority for the Vietnam Veterans of America.

The Watch Fire is a 24-hour vigil that will end about noon on Saturday, April 30. During the period of the vigil, the Tiger Cage Ceremony will be conducted which will highlight the names of 32 still missing and unaccounted for from the State of Kansas.



## GUY AND CLAIRE SUTHERLAND ENTRANCE PLAZA

Guy and Claire Sutherland, Bartlesville, Okla., were among the first donors to support the Pittsburg State University Veterans Memorial. Their gift in 2003 helped to launch the formal fund-raising effort that resulted in more than \$1.2 million in charitable gifts being received for this project. In recognition of their generosity and early endorsement of the PSU Veterans Memorial, the newly constructed entrance plaza has been named for Guy and Claire Sutherland. The Sutherland Entrance Plaza features engraved granite pavers purchased by individuals to pay tribute to veterans and support the Veterans Memorial. In addition to the individual pavers, visitors to the Memorial will now be greeted by the names of two of the project's first and most ardent supporters.

# VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE HONORS INDIVIDUALS AND ALL VETERANS

A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL VETERANS WERE SINGLED OUT FOR RECOGNITION DURING THE 2004 VETERANS DAY CEREMONY AT THE PSU VETERANS MEMORIAL AMPHITHEATER BUT PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALL VETERANS REMAINED THE TRUE FOCUS OF THE DAY.

PITTSBURG MAYOR RAIPH MCGEORGE TOLD THE ASSEMBLED CROWD THAT, "A SOLDIER TOLD ME ONCE THAT WE LEFT ALL THE HEROES OVER THERE, BUT TO ME ALL OF THEM ARE HEROES. THEY FOUGHT ON WHEN THEIR BROTHERS FEEL."

PSU PRESIDENT TOM BRYANT REMINDED THOSE IN ATTENDANCE THAT THE PSU MEMORIAL HONORS ALL VETERANS, NOT JUST THOSE KILLED IN COMBAT OR THOSE WHO SERVED DURING TIMES OF WAR.

THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER, BRIG. GEN. RITA M. BROADWAY, DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL, 89TH REGIONAL READINESS COMMAND, TOLD THOSE ATTENDING, "AS I SPEAK, 275,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS ARE SERVING AROUND THE WORLD, IN THE DESERTS OF IRAQ, IN AFGHANISTAN, IN THE BALKANS."

THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY NOW JOIN TOGETHER IN MOURNING FOR THOSE WHO FALL IN BATTLE, SHE SAID, BUT FOR EACH FAMILY, IT REMAINS A VERY INDIVIDUAL LOSS.

AMONG THOSE VETERANS SINGLED OUT FOR INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITION DURING THE CEREMONY INCLUDED TWO WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING SERVICE THIS COUNTRY.

FIRST LT. CANDACE VOEGLE-DANIELS WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 11-159TH AVIATION REGIMENT WHEN SHE WAS KILLED IN A UH-60 BLACKHAWK TRAINING ACCIDENT NEAR FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON APRIL 26, 2004. VOEGLE-DANIELS WAS A 2001 GRADUATE OF PSU, WHO WAS HONORED AS A DISTINGUISHED MILITARY GRADUATE AND WAS A CADET BATTALION COMMANDER.

FIRST LT. SAMUEL R. GARDNER, THE ONLY SON OF RACHEL GARDNER, WICHITA, WAS A U.S. ARMY PILOT WHEN HIS HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN BY ENEMY FIRE ON MAY 5, 1968, AT QUANG TIN, SOUTH VIETNAM.

RACHEL GARDNER, A RETIRED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER WHO RECEIVED TWO DEGREES FROM PSU, WAS IN ATTENDANCE AT PSU'S VETERANS DAY CEREMONY.

ONE VETERAN IN ATTENDANCE AT THE CEREMONY WAS TRULY SURPRISED WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO COME FORWARD FOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION. VERNON E. ANDERSON, EL DORADO, KANSAS, WAS PRESENTED MEDALS FOR HIS SERVICE IN KOREA IN 1952.

ALTHOUGH HE HAD NEVER RECEIVED THE MEDALS, ANDERSON EARNED THE ARMY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL, NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL, KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL WITH ONE  
(see Veterans Day, pg. 8)



*The Veterans Day ceremony at the PSU Memorial included a surprise for one veteran in attendance. Vernon E. Anderson, El Dorado, who served in Korea from February 1952 to December 1952, was presented numerous medals including the Good Conduct Medal and the Korean War Service Medal. Gen. Rita M. Broadway, the keynote speaker, presented the long overdue medals to Anderson.*



*PSU Vice President James AuBuchon, US Army 1963-1996 and master of ceremonies at the Veterans Day Ceremony at the PSU Veterans Memorial, recognized Rachel Gardner, a PSU graduate and retired elementary teacher from Wichita. Her son, a U.S. Army pilot, was killed in Vietnam in 1968. His name is engraved on the half-scale Vietnam Memorial Wall. AuBuchon told those gathered "We honor your son and his sacrifice for the nation to remain a free nation."*

## SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY HOLDS VETERANS CEREMONY

Sigma Chi fraternity hosted their 40th anniversary reunion at Pittsburg State University in October 2004. Retired Colonel Thomas Speck ('65) took the initiative to add a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater to the reunion activities.

"When I pledged the fraternity, probably two-thirds of the members were veterans," says Speck. He believes that was part of the attraction to the fraternity for a lot of the young men during his era. Xi Omega was a local organization, and they were making a bid to become a national fraternity. "Those members who had been veterans were older. We had a common goal to become Sigma Chi." So it was only natural that they honor those members who have served in the military throughout the fraternity's 40-year history.

The ceremony was simple but touching. The rain ceased just minutes before reunion attendees disembarked buses at the Memorial. Speck welcomed guests and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. James AuBuchon ('63), PSU's Vice President for University Advancement, who is a retired Brigadier General and a member of Sigma Chi, shared the story and symbolism of the Veterans Memorial.

Retired Major General George Lampe ('65) recognized those members of the fraternity who have served and are serving. "We are exceptionally honored to have a young man with us tonight, Lt. Col. Bill Sullivan, of the Tennessee Army National Guard." Sullivan was being deployed to Iraq within the next 60 to 90 days. Nine of the ten living Xi Omega's then laid a wreath at the arch.

The ceremony concluded with Marsha Mauersberger singing "America the Beautiful." Event planners were moved by guests' spontaneously who reverently joined in singing. When asked his reaction to the PSU Veterans Memorial, Speck stated, "I still get choked up just thinking about it." And as far as the ceremony goes, "It was so positive that we've decided we want to do this every five years."

# SIXTY-FIVE HOUR CEREMONY PAYS TRIBUTE TO VIETNAM VETERANS

More than 200 volunteers from the campus, Pittsburg and surrounding communities, and area veterans organizations endured early mornings, late nights and cold and wet weather in the days and hours leading up to the Veterans Day 2004 as they read the 52,229 names inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

The Ceremony of Remembrance at the Pittsburg State University Veterans Memorial

Amphitheater was an event that participants say they will never forget.

The youngest reader was 12-years-old. The oldest reader was more than 80-years-old. The reading of names, which took a total of 65 hours, began on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 7, and continued through midnight. The reading continued that following Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 6 a.m. to midnight each day. The final names were read in a blustery rain early the morning of Nov. 11 - Veterans Day 2004.

The volunteers all shared in the experience of paying tribute to the individuals who while fighting on behalf of this country, lost their lives in Vietnam. Some volunteers read to a small audience, others were joined by a fellow reader or another volunteer.

James Bishop, president of the PSU Foundation and a Vietnam veteran, was the first reader of names.

A pilot in the U.S. Air Force, Bishop flew 238 combat missions over Vietnam, earning an Air Medal with 13 Oak Leaf Clusters and a Distinguished Flying Cross.

In emotional remarks as part of the opening ceremony, Bishop shared with the crowd that during his training to become of U.S. Air Force pilot, he became close to a fellow student pilot, Lonnie Pat Bogard.

Bogard died on May 12, 1972, during his second tour of duty in Vietnam.

"I will forever remember him," Bishop said.



*More than 200 volunteers read names during the Ceremony of Remembrance.*

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

James M. AuBuchon, *Vice President  
for University Advancement*

The Ceremony of Remembrance was a prelude to the Veterans Day Ceremony and involved over 200 volunteers reading each name that is etched on the Vietnam Wall. This ceremony went nearly non-stop for 65 hours of reading time during night and day, rain and shine, wind and cold. It was a somber, respectful time to honor those who gave their all in the defense of freedom.

Following the ceremony, several of the volunteer readers shared with me their thoughts and reflections of their reading experience. That sparked an idea in my mind to invite some of the readers to commit their thoughts to writing to be published in this newsletter. Ten readers agreed to write about their experience and their reflections follow. To these special "10," thank you for sharing with the larger readership of this newsletter.

BOB JOHNSON, *Retired PSU  
faculty member and coach*

Standing in the rain at 10:40 p.m. reading the 243 names on my list, the immense feeling of loneliness and sadness came over me; then I noticed each name I read became louder and when I finished I immediately wanted to read them again! What an honor! As I left the podium I thought I would try to find those I read on the wall. I had not gone 20 feet and there they were in sections W7 and W8. I went from sadness to elation and felt so very proud that I had done something so very meaningful for so many! To the donors of this memorial, you are so very special and will always be appreciated by the families of these 58,000 great men and women!

REBECCA VINEY, *Administrative  
Assistant, PSU College of Business*

I reported for duty to read the names of veterans at 9 p.m. on a cold, wet night. The only people present when I arrived were the young couple who were reading before me and their baby, who was asleep and snuggled warmly into its stroller. All was silent except for the voice of the young woman solemnly reading names

*(continued on next pg.)*

to an empty amphitheater. Her voice was quietly echoing in the open space: her husband was sitting on a cold metal chair, watching the baby and waiting for his turn to read. When I stepped up to the podium, the young couple left, and I stood alone, slowly and carefully reading the names of the dead. I had practiced them for several days, worried that I would not pronounce them correctly. That night, although I was reading to an absent audience, it seemed very important that I get the names correct, that mispronouncing them would somehow add insult to an already grievous injury. About halfway through my list of names, it hit me, and hit me hard, that these names belonged to real persons, once alive with hopes and dreams and anticipation of the future. My eyes blurred with tears, and I had to stop and wipe them and take several deep breaths to steady my voice. I finished the list and stepped aside for the next reader. As I walked out of the amphitheater past the Vietnam Wall, I reached out and touched the engraved names on the cold wall.

JANNETTE ALLAI,  
*Pittsburg community member*

The Ceremony of Remembrance was indeed very meaningful. Volunteering for this event turned out to be quite emotional. I felt honored to read the names of the men and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. We must continue to be thankful and support the men and women in the armed forces. God Bless America.

AL ORTOLANI,  
*Retired PSU Athletics Trainer*

I was honored to be able to read the names of the American soldiers who gave their lives in the fight for freedom. They were called to duty to fight against oppression and gave their lives so that we might live in a more peaceful world. The American way has always been to fight for the underdog and the oppressed people of the World, but while doing so we have lost many American lives. These heroes should never be forgotten and with that thought in my head, I waited to read the names on my list. A storm was moving in but all was quiet in the dark except for the speaker ahead of me. He slowly read through

his list, the rain fell, and I drifted to the names that I knew. Memories of Lt. Ralph Redmond raced through my head. Ralph was a lanky 6'5" Gorilla basketball player who was recruited to play his beloved post position for Coach Lance. His heart was set and his future was bright. When he arrived at Pittsburg State, he found that he was not going to play post but was moved to forward for the good of the team. Ralph, in his unselfish way, did what was asked of him and never complained. He was just proud to be a Gorilla and wanted to do his duty. He had the same attitude when he was called up for Vietnam. He went and served proudly; a strong, African-American soldier laying it all on the line in the name of freedom. I wanted his name to ring out; I wanted everyone to know how special he was. These were not just names; they were heroes and they all had a story. So as I stepped up to read the 250 names on my list, I felt honored and humbled by their sacrifice. We must never forget the Ralph Redmonds of this world who gave so much for us and made us so proud. God Bless them all!

WAYNE GILMORE, *Parsons  
Optometrist and PSU Alumnus*

For those who have had the opportunity to visit the Veterans Memorial during the day, you know the sense of reverence and pride one feels when they enter the Memorial. Well, for me, on Sunday evening of the Ceremony of Remembrance, that sense of reverence and pride was multiplied by ten. First, if you have not visited at night, do it. Second, with my dad being a Vietnam veteran and knowing he could have been a name on this wall, for me personified the memorial. Those men and women gave so much, and for this I am both grateful and proud. This memorial is an extremely powerful place, and one we are lucky to have at Pittsburg State University.

JACKSON OLDHAM,  
*12-year-old student, Oswego, Kan.*

When I read the names of veterans, I felt I was connected to something bigger than just a memorial. I thought about the families of those dead patriots. Where are they? What are

they doing now? I hope that I never have to have my name read at one these.

I think we definitely need to pay our veterans a lot of respect, and I would definitely read names again - even though I don't support war.

RUTHELLYN HINTON,  
*PSU Nursing Professor*

It was dark and cold when I arrived at the PSU Veterans Memorial Amphitheater at 11 p.m. Monday, November 8, 2004. After checking in, I walked down the sidewalk through the east entrance of the Amphitheater itself and sat down. The lighted array of flags stirred slightly as I listened to the reader ahead of me. A sense of reverence surrounded us. I noticed that I was near the pavers engraved with the names of my three brothers and three nurse colleagues who had served in the military. Then it was my turn and I truly felt honored to read the names on my list, which included a young man who was from my hometown and a classmate of my youngest brother. The minutes passed quickly and as I stepped away, another person stepped forward to continue. My part of this Ceremony of Remembrance was brief but the memory of it will remain with me always.

ANGELA MEYER,  
*PSU Junior in Justice Studies*

On November 10, 2004, it was cold and rainy. In my hands, I held the list of 200 names of individuals who died for their country. As part of the 2004 Veterans Day ceremonies, like many students taking part in the four day event, I volunteered to read a portion of the names on the Vietnam Wall. Having no immediate family who had been part of a war and from a generation that has never seen a violent, full scale conflict until recently, I was surprised and saddened by the emotion of reading those 200 names. Set in the large amphitheater with the permanent replica of the Vietnam wall as a backdrop, I slowly uttered the names. There in the rain I understood the sacrifice and bravery of those who died protecting the rights, ambitions, and lives of others. In 20 minutes, my eyes were opened. A sense of duty now existed, there in the rain I felt empowered with courage and duty, the same those

(see Reflections, pg. 8)

## SBC SUPPORTS VETERANS MEMORIAL

Brett Sayre, Director of External Affairs for SBC in Kansas, made a special visit to campus to present a \$10,000 check to President Tom Bryant and Vice President Jim AuBuchon in support of the PSU Veterans Memorial Amphitheater.

The funds will help purchase an information kiosk for the Memorial. The kiosk will provide computerized access to the listing of names on the Vietnam Memorial Wall, as well as a guide to those honored in the Memorial granite pavers in the amphitheater and Guy and Claire Sutherland Entrance Plaza. The kiosk also will serve as an easily accessible source of information on the schedule of events, the Memorial design and facility usage guidelines.

The grant proposal submitted to SBC was written and developed by Steve Robb, Interim Director of PSU's Business and Technology Institute.

Dr. AuBuchon said, "The SBC gift is an outstanding start toward the funds needed to install the kiosk. We know visitors to the Memorial will greatly appreciate the information provided by such a kiosk. We appreciate SBC's support of this enhancement planned for the Memorial."



*Shown above (l to r): Dr. Jim AuBuchon, Brett Sayre, and President Bryant.*

## FRIENDS OF THE MEMORIAL

What now? The final notes of Taps have been played, the smoke from the cannons long since cleared from the grounds of the Pittsburg State University Veterans Memorial. Thousands of men, women, and children have stood in chilling silence in front of the black panels and reflected on what it means to serve in the United States military. But again the question is asked over and over...What now?

Answering that question is a group of individuals who view the Veterans Memorial as a valuable tool to remember those who served and educate those who remain behind. These concerned individuals, led by Larry Salzman, Girard, Kan., and John Devitt, San Jose, Calif., see the need for ongoing programming at the Memorial to ensure that the message of duty and honor is heard for decades to come and that the full effect of the project is felt by all who walk through the massive concrete entrance portals. This special group understands that the Veterans Memorial is a living tribute, something that must be cared for and nurtured over time.

If you too feel a responsibility for the care and development of this amazing structure and the message that it conveys to generations of visitors, then joining the Friends of the Memorial group is a logical next step. For an annual investment of \$25, you and your fellow Friends will play an important role in moving the Memorial beyond serving as a site for annual ceremonies. Instead, this group will ensure that the Pittsburg State University Veterans Memorial becomes a hub of ongoing activity focused on sharing our nation's story of service and honoring the names of those men and women who served in one of the branches of the military.

For all those who ask "What now?" the answer is obvious. Join the Friends of the Memorial and become a pivotal part of what will make this project a national symbol of pride and honor. Later this spring, a special mailing inviting people to join the Friends of the Memorial will be sent to donors and other people who have indicated an interest in the PSU Veterans Memorial. Watch for your packet or call the Office of University Development, 620-235-4768.

## ONE DOLLAR AND SIXTY-SEVEN CENTS

by Pam Ehlers, *PSU Director of Career Services*

Exactly 52 coins were collected out of the new reflecting pool by the physical plant workers during the very first cleaning project at the Pittsburg State University Veterans Memorial. Fifty-two coins representing 52 very special desires, hopes and wishes. As I stare at these coins I realize that every person comes to the PSU Veterans Memorial with a different mindset—some leave flowers honoring the memory of a loved one, some take pictures to capture its true beauty, and some throw coins in the reflection pool to make a wish. Perhaps it was a wish and a prayer for the soldiers whose name appears on the wall and who gallantly sacrificed their lives for the rest of us to enjoy freedom; or perhaps the coin represented a wish for peace in the world; or perhaps someone wished for the protection and safe return of a friend or loved one proudly serving their country somewhere in the world today. Whatever the wish, there is no doubt in my mind it was made with valued intention.

So, the plastic cup with rusty coins totaling \$1.67 is actually a cup full of hopes, dreams and desires. Somehow these first few coins seem sacred and special because they represent a moment that resurrected hope in a weary heart. I am positive that many more who pass through the portals of the memorial will toss their hopes and dreams into the reflecting pool. Many visitors will leave tokens of love and respect, giving or taking mementoes for different reasons. By doing so they form a communion with God that the sacrifices of their loved ones will not be in vain; that tomorrow will be a safer world for everyone; that we will continue to be the greatest nation on earth and that freedom will prevail and endure.

To those who tossed the coins I want to say...may all your wishes come true.

## DEMAND FOR ENGRAVED PAVERS CONTINUES

Many visitors to the PSU Veterans Memorial can be seen walking with their heads bent down as they look for the name of a loved one engraved in a granite memorial paver. Even in the wind and rain on Veterans Day 2004, visitors were not deterred from finding the names of their loved ones honored with engraved pavers.

More than 2,300 granite pavers have been purchased to honor individual veterans or veterans' organizations since the pavers first went on sale. Nearly 800 engraved granite pavers purchased between the dedication ceremony in May 2004 and September 2004 were dedicated during the Veterans Day 2004 ceremony. The main plaza area of the amphitheater is now filled with granite pavers. A second paver display area, the Guy and Claire Sutherland Entrance Plaza, is now partially filled with engraved pavers. The Sutherland Entrance Plaza is located immediately south of the flag rampart.

Proceeds from the sale of the pavers supported construction of the facility. Proceeds from future paver sales will fund ongoing maintenance and site enhancements.

The Office of University Development continues to accept orders for engraved pavers to be installed in the Sutherland Entrance Plaza. Pavers purchased by April 7, 2005, will be installed prior to Memorial Day 2005 ceremony when the newest pavers will be dedicated.

Pavers are \$125 for an 8"x8" or \$250 for a 12"x12." To purchase a paver, call the Office of University Development 620-235-4768.



## PEOPLE COUNTERS INSTALLED AT VETERANS MEMORIAL

Electronic devices that count the number of visitors who pass through the entry portals at the PSU Veterans Memorial Amphitheater were installed during the fall. Dr. Jim AuBuchon, Vice President for University Advancement, said the computerized counting equipment was installed because it is important to keep track of amount of the traffic at the Memorial for future grant applications.

Nearly 43,000 people visited the Veterans Memorial since the dedication on Memorial Day 2004 and the end of the 2004 calendar year. That estimate is based on the crowd size at several special events at the Memorial and the weekly traffic

counts. During the first two months of 2005, more than 2,357 people have visited the Memorial, based on the new electronic counting equipment.

"The data provided by the new equipment illustrates that weather conditions, special events and holidays have an impact on the number of visitors," AuBuchon said.

Response to the Memorial has been tremendous, AuBuchon said.

"We already have groups on a regular basis asking about holding special events at the Memorial. We expect the interest in the Memorial to continue to grow."



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Several groups have scheduled special events at the PSU Veterans Memorial in the coming months. In addition, the University will hold a ceremony on Memorial Day 2005, which will include the dedication of granite memorial pavers installed since Veterans Day 2004. Here are the upcoming events scheduled at the Memorial.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

Harley Davidson Cycle Connection  
Ride to the Memorial - 2:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Memorial Program service for the annual "Blessing of the Bikes" - 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

PSU Half Century Club  
alumni reunion tour - 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 &  
SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Vietnam Veterans of America  
Watch Fire Ceremony

FRIDAY, MAY 13

Pittsburg State ROTC  
Commissioning Ceremony - 10 a.m.

MONDAY, MAY 30

Memorial Day ceremony - 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Pittsburg High School reunion  
Class of 1955 Memorial Service  
9 a.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Pittsburg Garden Club  
at the Memorial

## Reflections *(from pg. 5)*

men had when they sacrificed their lives for others, nameless, faceless strangers thousands of miles away. I gazed as members of the community, businessmen and women, students and individuals from surrounding communities volunteered their time. We read names on a night of dreary, miserable weather. Every drop of rain and cold breeze created the atmosphere in which those soldiers fought and died for their country. While I may have not been directly impacting someone's immediate life, I left that place knowing today in this place I had honored someone. Though they may not have been alive, somewhere their family still grieved and mourned their loss, and for a brief moment I was fortunate enough to be able to recognize their sacrifices.

EVAN BESPERRAT,

*PSU Junior in Business Administration*

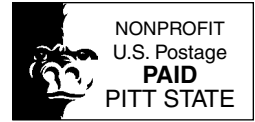
Reading at the Ceremony of Remembrance was special. It was special in the sense that as I was reading, I realized something that I hadn't before. The names I was reading were not just names. The names represent people. Every name I read aloud represented a person who gave their life for their country to ensure that I (and many others) wouldn't have to. For that reason, my appreciation for these men and women is tremendous. Knowing they did that for people they would never even meet truly says something about their character, will, and dedication.

JENNIFER WERNER, *PSU*

*Sophomore in Business Administration*

I will never forget reading the names at the Veterans Memorial. The idea that I was one of many that helped in recognizing these heroes is very heart warming. This little act of reading 200 names helped in the remembrance of the thousands of men and women that died for my freedom today. It was definitely a reflective time to think of all of these freedoms. I hope that by this Ceremony of Remembrance, all of the names on the wall will be remembered for all of time.

Pittsburg State University  
Office of University Advancement  
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## Veterans Day *(from pg. 3)*

bronze service star, United National Korean Service Medal, Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal, a Combat Infantryman Badge, Overseas Bar, and Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

During the Veterans Day ceremony, Brig. Gen. Broadway pinned two of the medals on the surprised Anderson, who was joined at the ceremony by several family members who were responsible for getting the unsuspecting veteran to the ceremony.

Other highlights of the ceremony included posting of the colors by the PSU ROTC Color Guard, singing of the national anthem by PSU Staff Member Judi Fast, and singing of "America the Beautiful," by Marsha Mauersberg, another member of the PSU staff. Janet Cremer, past commander of American Legion Post 394, gave the welcome, and Constance Gangwer, current post commander, lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Merlin Zollars, Chaplain of the 3rd District American Legion, gave the invocation and Rev. Ted Wynn, New Life Baptist Church of Franklin, delivered the benediction. A memorial wreath was placed by Carol Aikman, trustee of the VFW Auxiliary.

## Memorial *(from pg. 1)*

abstraction. (What does Vietnam mean to today's teenagers?) Yet there is nothing abstract about a name in granite. It is real, and the hurt is real.

And the present is real. The PBS News Hour presents the names and faces of men and women who have recently died in Iraq. They are presented at the end of the hour, "in silence" to show respect. Like sculpture, words and sounds are important to me. I say their names and ages out loud during those silences. I have never seen those faces before, but I look with sorrow and appreciation into their eyes, and wish those young lives could have been both better and longer.

Can we dream things that never were and ask, why not?

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