

To: American GI Forum of San José
Board of Directors and Membership



On behalf of the San José Vietnam War Memorial Foundation Board of Directors "THANK YOU"!

On Veterans Day, 11/11/11, the San José American GI Forum presented a most memorable float in the annual Veterans Day Parade honoring Vietnam Veterans who registered for the armed forces of America in San José never to return home again. One hundred and forty three veterans from San José died on Vietnam soil. The theme of the War Memorial with all 143 names printed on it was the "Sons of San José".

As the Vietnam War Memorial float entered the parade route in downtown San José it made an immediate impact on the public. They were spiritually and emotionally moved as if they were seeing something sacred. Veterans and people of all ages saluted as tears flowed down their faces. They were solemnly drawn with hopes of seeing a loved one's name on the replicated black granite stone. As the memorial slowly traveled through the corridors of our metropolitan business district people's reactions were heartfelt as the memorial silently echoed, "Freedom comes with a cost".

The 143 valiant warriors from San José who died on Vietnam soil represent all 5 of the armed forces of America, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient and all cultural heritages. It is evident that 40 percent of the names on the memorial are Latino. The actual memorial is currently in the process of becoming a reality. Spearheading the project is the non-profit San José Vietnam War Memorial Foundation www.sjwarmemorial.com supported by many business professionals, the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County and local and State American GI Forums. We are on a mission to leave an honorable memorial in remembrance of our fallen comrades. They will never be forgotten!

Driven by passion members of the San José American GI Forum joined together and bonded as one unveiling the most memorable Veterans Day float in years. The membership made an immense effort and succeeded in accomplishing the ultimate goal, building an image that will be remembered by all. The San José Vietnam War Memorial Foundation Board of Directors would like to say thank you. Thank you for all your dedicated hard work, thank you for your outstanding support and congratulations on your unparalleled, unselfish, paramount accomplishment.

In commemoration our Vietnam War Memorial dedication reads as follows:

*To the 143 men of San José
Who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.
They ask not to be judged by the politics of the
Vietnam War: They would rather be remembered
For their bravery. They ask not to weep for
Their passing, instead appreciate their courage and
Let them never be forgotten.*

1961-1975

God Bless These Heroes

THE SONS OF SAN JOSÉ

Sincerely,

Mike Salas
Board of Director, SJ Vietnam War Memorial Foundation, Inc.