

2023

Woodring Wall of Honor & Veterans Park Annual Report



24 Years of Honoring
our Veterans

Leading the Charge

When we began to establish the park on Make A Difference Day, October of 1999, we had no idea the impact we would make in the lives of our veterans and their families.

At the Woodring Wall of Honor, we take pride in preserving our military history both past and present and hold great anticipation for the future. In 2023, we refreshed our mission, marketing, and strategic plans to better reflect who we are as an organization today and where we want to go as a nonprofit veterans park in the future.

“It’s clear that the Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park has a passion for healing, honoring and remembering our veterans, educating our youth, and preserving the history of war. Recent years have posed a tremendous number of challenges for all museums. With our recovery from the covid pandemic, a poor economy and other enormous disruptions to our lives and services this past couple of years, we have emerged stronger with new ideas, exhibits, services, events, rapid growth, and great enthusiasm for our vision ahead.”

Steve Niswander, Vice President
Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park

WOODRING WALL OF HONOR BOARD MEMBERS



Elaine Johns
President



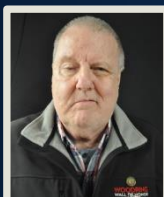
Steve Niswander
Vice President



Henry King
Sec/Treasurer



Dennis Morehart
Board Member



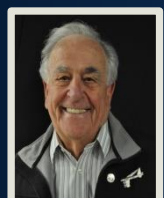
Jack Wagner
Board Member



Jack Toney
Board Member



Nicole Messenger
Board Member



Bill Shaw
Board Member

Sharing the Message

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

For 24 years we didn't give up and we have reaped the rewards this year.

Hello donors, volunteers, visitors and friends. I am honored to serve as your Executive Director and President of the Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park, Inc. in Enid, Oklahoma in 2023.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Report, which recounts our accomplishments over the last fiscal year. Our passionate board is proud to be part of one of the most growing veterans park and museums in Oklahoma and in the nation. Thousands of visitors toured our park, Vietnam Wall and exhibits

this past year.

We have unveiled some innovative exhibits, created new approaches to outreach and education, established a new website and social media presence, while continuing to identify and serve veterans and their families. We also expanded partnerships in new directions to promote our veterans park and bolster our efforts to honor, remember, educate and heal with the City of Enid and other organizations.

Thank you to our Board of Directors and to all the volunteers at the veterans park for staying the course, to see the vision that benefits our Nation's veterans and their families, while educating our youth to the value of our military. It is my pleasure to share this year's annual report, and I encourage readers to learn about the tremendous work accomplished by the Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park in 2023.

Recovering from the covid pandemic has provided the time to reflect on our very bright future and all that we hope to accomplish over the next several years. We began the process to create the veterans park in 1999 to serve as a permanent presence in Enid to honor our veterans and have far exceeded our initial expectations. I personally consider this a ministry and if we never waiver from our faith and dependence on a Holy God, then we will achieve all that He has for us to accomplish.

We give thanks to everyone who has supported us through all the challenges and victories of 2023. Together, we look forward to a bright future!

With Respect,

Elaine Johns
Executive Director
Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park, Inc.
580-233-4530 Office
www.woodringwallofhonor.com



“Huey, the Workhorse of Vietnam” Traveling Exhibit

We collaborated with the Oklahoma Humanities and the City of Enid Communications Department to reveal our newest military traveling exhibit entitled, "The Huey, the Workhorse of Vietnam." This exhibit, dedicated to those veterans of Vietnam in Nov 2022, includes an oral history excursion through life in a Huey during Vietnam. More than 1MM views of these heroic videos have been seen.



The project also included a portion of a 20 ft. high by 80 ft. long mural depicting the history of the Woodring Airport which includes a phenomenal rendition of the men of the US Army on the ground while the Huey helicopters fly overhead. The mural brings to life the experiences of the men on the ground in the Vietnam War and highlights the dependence of the famous helicopter. The exhibit has been showcased in several locations and events around Enid as a static display drawing thousands of visitors.

Woodring Airport Historical Mural Revealed on the 90th Anniversary of Woodring Field Dedication



On Memorial Day, May 30, 2023 the new historical mural was revealed during the annual City of Enid services. The mural depicts the history of the Enid Air Park as it transitioned to Woodring Field, Woodring Municipal Airport and as now known as Enid Woodring Regional Airport. The mural has portraits of the early day barnstormers who visited the field, Charles Lindberg, Amelia Earhart, and Wiley Post. Other upper portraits include Bert Woodring and Col Leon Vance, Jr. Other lower portraits include Bert Woodring, Clyde Cessna (who started his flying in Enid, Oklahoma), Ralph Baker, whose family sold the land to the City of Enid, now Vance AFB, Rachel Eshbaugh, the widow of a fallen hero, and Larry Stephens, a local veteran remembering at the wall. The Vietnam Wall, Oklahoma's official Vietnam War Monument, centers the mural. The "Lady Liberty" an actual flying WWII/Korea/Vietnam aircraft, based at Woodring Airport, is showcased along with the Huey/Fighting Men in the field in the right hand side of the mural. The mural was created and painted by Tox Morillo, a local Enid artist.

Community Partnerships Continued

Making an Impact through Community Partnerships

The Quilts of Valor Group, led by Jovita Lang, provides quilts for approved veterans. A beautiful handmade quilt was presented by the group to Jack Toney, a local Vietnam veteran.



Shirley Suttles leads another private quilting group and has provided more than 10 handmade patriotic quilts to our Legacy Veterans of the Year on Veterans Day, and for our Gold Star families on Memorial Day. The value of these quilts exceeds \$1,000 each.

The Harris Foundation provided funding to enhance the traveling exhibits that are on display at the OK Military History Exhibit at Oakwood Mall.

The Oakwood Mall partnered with our veterans park allowing us to create and display a 40,000 sq. ft. military exhibit in the old Sears anchor store location.

The Woodring Wall of Honor volunteers provided assistance to several veterans needing Aid and Attendance benefits to offset certified health services. We collaborate with the local Disabled American Veterans organization to make application and assist families through the benefit process. We have been successful in getting more than 10 veterans or surviving spouses with Assisted Living or Long Term Care Housing benefits.

Park Avenue Thrift and the Woodring Wall of Honor partner on creating 2000 STEAM swag bags for school tours. The Bags contain STEAM education and are provided free of charge to students. Bags include art supplies, color books, wooden aircraft, and activities for elementary age students. Boomerang Restaurant provided back sacks for those students. High School students receive a bag with activities for extra credit, scholarship information, and other items. This program was provided by a grant from Park Avenue Thrift.

“I am a 25 year veteran of the USAF. As a military pilot I flew missions into 54 countries, fought in a war and two conflicts. My wife and I heard about the newly opened OK Military History Exhibit in Enid, Oklahoma. We decided to pay it a visit. Steve gave us a personal tour of the entire exhibit. It was simply outstanding. The exhibit contained aircraft and weaponry from conflicts starting with WWI and continuing through present day. My wife and I highly recommend you take a look! It is something you will always remember.”

Col Dave Skalko, USAF Retired
Sun City, Arizona

Community Partnerships Continued

The Woodring Wall of Honor and the Corvette Club of Enid has a long standing relationship. The car owners host an annual event and disburse the funding to local non-profits. Due to their generosity, over the past few years we have been able to purchase a riding lawn mower to help maintain our grounds, a golf cart, for transportation for our disabled, and this year they partially sponsored our new mural. Without partnerships like this, we couldn't expand and grow our exhibits and park which honor our veterans.

Vance AFB is a key asset to our community not only economically but with their community involvement. The airmen from Vance have donated many hours of volunteerism and support to the park. They wash the Vietnam and Living Walls, helps with yard work and gardening, and assist with programs and events. Many airmen volunteered their skill sets to help with the launch of the new OK Military History Exhibit.

The Boy Scout Council of the Plains has been a 17 year partner with the Woodring Wall of Honor through the Eagle Scout Program. Our organization has identified several worthy projects that allow the boy scouts to achieve the Eagle Scout rank. This year we had three successful candidates who completed their projects to support veterans. A flag box for collection of damaged/worn flags was built and installed at the Educational Center. A flag burn box with both organizations logos/cutouts were designed and welded with assistance and mentorship from Jack Toney and EH Welding. The final rank was achieved with the renovation of the interior of a Huey helicopter along with assembling oral history portraits for The Huey, the Workhorse of Vietnam.”



When I walk up to the Vietnam Wall at the Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park, I am reminded that I lost 58,318 brothers and sisters (and to this day, still counting), that gave their lives to protect and preserve the freedoms we enjoy in our beautiful America. I think of all their families and friends that suffered and are still suffering all across our great country at the loss of their loved one's. The Vietnam Wall is a visual history of the cost of war.....it also reminds us of all the many other past wars that cost us so many lives in the preservation of being a free nation. Love America and always remember the extreme cost it takes to remain free.

Jack Wagner, Board Member
Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park

Partners for the Cause

City of Enid, Woodring Regional Airport and the Woodring Wall of Honor present these annual events:

March 29th – Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony & Breakfast

May 27th – Red Dirt Run of Honor & Medal of Honor Ride

May 29th - Memorial Day Ceremonies & Hall of Honor Awards
Free Luncheon for Veterans and Families

June 17th – Rose Day at the Wall

November 4th – Ride to Remember Motorcycle Rally

November 4th – 11th – Celebrate Freedom Week

Monday Kick-off Ceremony – School Art Contest

Tuesday – Tree Planting Vance AFB

Wednesday – Free Luncheon for Veterans

Thursday – Sara Evans Concert

Friday – Legacy Award Ceremony

Saturday – Veterans Day Parade

Community Partnerships Continued



In 2023, the Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park became the first Chapter of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation. The Military Heritage Foundation founded the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame to honor Oklahoma veterans. It limits honorees to 12 new members per year. There are many more heroic and patriotic Oklahomans deserving of significant recognition so the Hall of Honor was established in 2023 to expand the impact of the Foundation and honor additional veterans.

Supporting community chapters were developed to administer the programs locally. These chapters will identify and nominate honorees who will receive a Hall of Honor citation and medal with a maroon ribbon lanyard. The local chapter coordinates presentations. Selections for the Military Hall of Fame are made annually in October. The Hall of Honor awards are made throughout the year. We were honored to present Hall of Honor awards to five worthy veterans on Memorial Day, 2023. USA veteran Bill Parker's award was presented in Tulsa, Judge Robert Lovell, USA; HB Evans, USAAF; RD Lawrence, USAAF and Ed Bray, USA were presented by the Heritage Foundation Founder, General Douglas Dollar, USA Retired. Five more recipients have been identified and will be presented on Memorial Day, 2024.

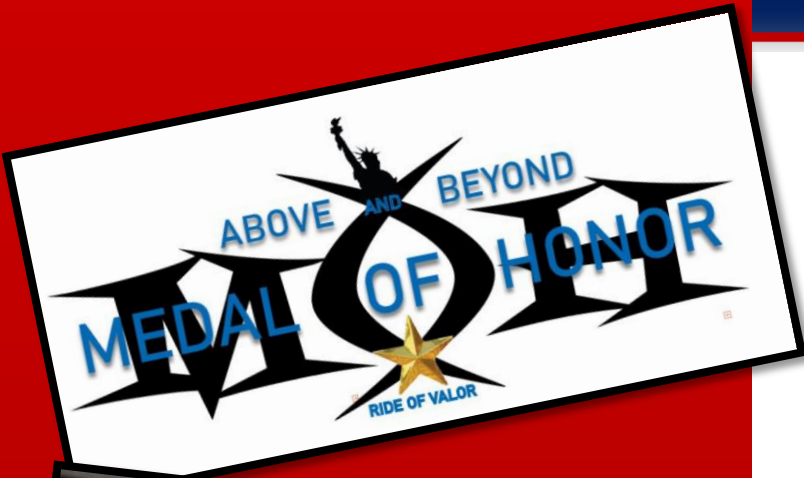
Community Partnerships cont.

Our greatest partnership is with the volunteers that make our organization what it is today. There are great values gained when individuals volunteer in non-profit organizations. Volunteering is a way to express one's humanitarian values that provide personal growth and development. Volunteering is a way to improve career prospects. It also helps develop and strengthen social ties. It is a way to gain knowledge, skills, and abilities. Our volunteers are our greatest asset. Their knowledge, passion and connections have allowed us to continue to grow and prosper in our mission to honor, remember, educate and heal. Their dedication to the veterans is unmatched and we are thankful for all they do. From mowing and treating the lawns to organizing fundraisers to serve as docents to securing additional exhibits for the collection, each role is so important to our overall goals. With that, we wish thank each and every one of them! Know you are appreciated!

**The passion to volunteer never stops.
We volunteer wholeheartedly!**



Impacting the Community



On Memorial Day, each year, we continue the strong support that Enid shows its military armed forces through services and events that honor our fallen and remember the sacrifices of those who served before us. Enid leads the charge to honor these honorable men and women who defended our nation. We have honored 210 of Oklahoma's fallen heroes since 2000.



This year we added a unique way to honor those who have earned the Medal of Honor through the Medal of Honor Ride. Vehicles and motorcycles rode to three sites in NW Oklahoma to pay tribute to three Medal of Honor recipients.

The Red Dirt Run of Honor is a 5K run that honors the fallen of Oklahoma. This year, we postponed the race but still had runners come out and run regardless. They vow to never forget.



We dedicated a bridge this year to the USMC veterans Henry & George Bellmon which was sponsored by the First Bank and Trust of Billings and the Billings Fairchild Center. The cost of the highway signs were \$1,400.



An amazing event occurred at the NJCAA Baseball World Series this year. WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and today's warriors carried a flame around the bases ending up at home plate. The families of two Medal of Honor recipients, two WWII USAAF airmen and Lt. Col Christina Hopper raised the flame at home plate as a Blue Star Mother extinguished the flame following the "flame run" to begin the series.

Impacting the Community - Education

This year, for Black History Month, we were honored to have George Washington share about the famous Buffalo Soldiers. The Lawton-Fort Sill Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers hosted a presentation at Enid Woodring Regional Airport recently on the history of one of America's lesser-known military units. The Buffalo Soldiers were activated as a U.S. military unit in 1866 following the Emancipation Proclamation with the creation of four infantry units and two cavalry units. The Buffalo Soldiers had numerous commendations and 42 Medal of Honor recipients. This highly decorated unit was a key to success in many battles and missions.

Our goal is to educate our next generation of the value of all members of our armed forces. We host several oral history presentations each year. Previous testimonies include Chuck DeBellevue, USAF; Bob Ford, USA; RD Lawrence USAAF, Walter Scheffe, USAAF; Fran Hoad, USAAF; RD Bland, USAAF; HB Evans, USAAF; Bo Gritz, USA; Randy "Duke" Cunningham, USN; David McCoy, USN; Rick Allison, USMC; Jim Goodrich, USMC; Jake McNiece, USA; Spads Hoffman, USN; David Smith, USN George Bellmon, USMC; Bill Schwertferger, USAF; and ML Becker, USAAF.

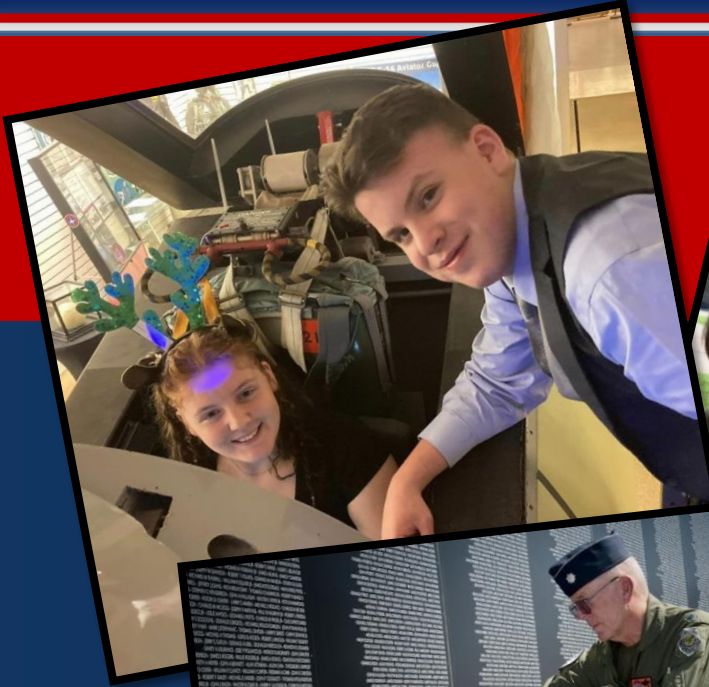
Our Huey, the Workhorse of Vietnam exhibit included more than 40 testimonies of veterans who were tied to the Huey helicopter during the Vietnam War. Those oral histories are currently on display at the OK Military History Exhibit at Oakwood Mall. The testimonies range from crewing the aircraft, to flying the warbird, to being medi-flighted out of the war zone, to being transported to other drop zones. One testimony from a POW.



Education and Outreach Oral History Presentations



Impacting the Community - Education



Impacting the Community – Honor & Remember

This year, we honored six veterans at the annual Legacy Award Ceremony. More than 60 statewide veterans have been honored over the years. A highlight of the program was the presentation of the French Legion of Honor to HB Evans, a 101 year old Army Air Corps veteran by the country of France.

Our organization has been privileged to have five successful Legion of Honor awards to statewide WWII veterans and a high school diploma to a WWII veteran.

The Legacy Award Ceremony From the Greatest to the Latest Generation



Pictured L to R: Ed Bray, USA; Larry McNulty, USN; Charles Henneke, USMC; RD Lawrence, USAAF; HB Evans, USAAF; Ben Robinson, USAF; Jerald Gilbert, USA

Pictured L to R Senators Brenda Stanley & Roland Pederson H.B Evans & R.D. Lawrence USAAF French Legion of Honor

Building American Pride & Patriotism



On November 4, 2023, the Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park expanded their exhibits to include this 40,000 educational OK Military History Exhibit at the Oakwood Mall.

**We are open Thurs., Fri., and Sat.
11 - 4 pm**



- F-4 Full Motion Simulator
- Cobra Helicopter
- Kiowa Helicopter
- Huey Helicopter
- F-86 Saberliner Jet/Jack Nicholas Jet
- MIG-21 Polish Aircraft – Vietnam era
- Bird Dog Aircraft – US Marine Corps
- Vehicles & Jeeps
- Heroes from the Heartland Portraits
- Vietnam era Mobile Kitchen Trailer
- Oral Histories
- Constitution
- Navy Deck & Fire Station
- Fall of the Berlin Wall
- German POW Camp – Alva, OK
- Mash Unit & Gulf War Ambulance
- Kids Zone & T-33 Simulator
- Meeting Space Available – Seating 100+

In late 2022, we were approached by the Kansas Military History Museum about their closure and the acquisition of their collection with a value of more than \$500,000. It took six months to bring the collection down to Enid for storage in the old Sears anchor store in the Oakwood Mall. Under the direction of one of our key volunteers, Justin Messenger, we began unpacking boxes, assembling aircraft, transporting vehicles and the process of setting up our merged collections into an educational history of American war. This collection continues to expand its educational videos and we'll be scheduling school tours for all age groups in the Spring of 2024. Teaching modules for educators are on our new web site.

"I think that the only reason everyone holds onto memories so tight is because memories are the only thing that doesn't change."

Rachel Eshbaugh
Gold Star Spouse

Building American Pride, Patriotism & Education



One of our main goals is to establish a Veterans Park as a regional and community park with diverse activities for people of all ages. Our park includes opportunities for school tours, educational events, festivals, STEM activities, lending library, museum, community rooms, walking trails, and special attractions. With the existing assets and the new acquisition of the Kansas Museum, we are well on our way to establishing our goals. We have a proven record of successful events, ceremonies, and tours. We have established strategic and marketing plans in place. Over the last few years, we have

continued to add additional assets and programs while remaining a 100% volunteer non profit status. We continue to expand our events to include programs and free meals for veterans, contests for school children, Events that have expanded into week-long celebrations. We have developed multiple school curriculums for a variety of 2/4/6 hour tours with STEM activities and docents providing tailored educational experiences.

We've made partnerships and connections that reach far beyond Oklahoma and serve as a "go to" resource regarding veterans oral histories and experiences. We have become more than a small local veterans park and will leave a legacy of military history for our next generation and beyond.

Building American Pride, Patriotism & Education

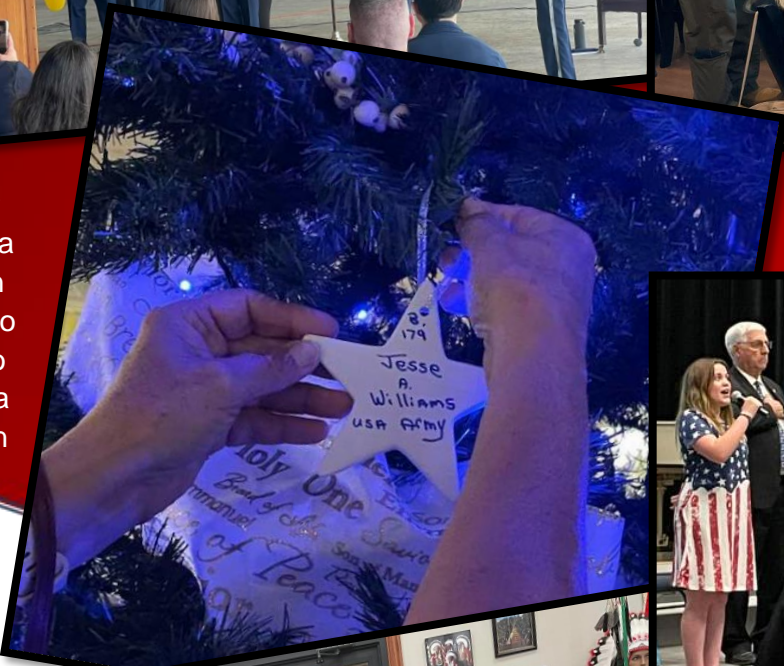
Vance Military Retirement Ceremony



WWII vets share experiences with Vance airmen



Visitor places a star on the Hero Tree to honor a veteran



Youth involved in ceremonies to honor our veterans during Celebrate Freedom



Wives make Christmas Wreaths while husbands meet in the back office at the Educational Center



Youth involved in free luncheon for veterans by entertaining, serving and cleaning up following the event



Ways to Give



MEDAL OF HONOR RIDE OF VALOR

SATURDAY ~ MAY 27TH ~ 11 AM - 6 PM

ACTUAL MEDAL OF HONOR
FOR HAROLD KINER
ON DISPLAY



SERVICE ABOVE
AND BEYOND THE CALL
OF DUTY



- **Donate an Artifact** – Donate your military memorabilia, gun, knives, or vehicles/aircraft to the museum.
- **Monthly Giving** - Make a difference all year long in this easy, efficient and tax-deductible way.
- **One-Time Donation** - Every donation can make a difference. Make an impact now.
- **TV Advertising** – Place advertising on our TV's showcasing your business
- **Organize an Event** – Organize an event donating the proceeds to the Woodring Wall of Honor
- **Memorial/Honorary Gifts** - Honor a person close to your heart by making a gift in their name today.
- **Gift Planning** - Leave a legacy of caring by including the Wall of Honor in your estate and financial plans.
- **Stock Gifts** - Giving stocks or mutual funds is a win-win for you and for all the veterans we serve.
- **Donate a Vehicle** - Donate your car, truck, RV or boat—you could qualify for a tax deduction at the same time.
- **Real Estate Donation** - Donating real estate to support the Woodring Wall of Honor and our veterans is easy!
- **Corporate Partnerships** - Fulfill your company's objectives and create a lasting impact within your community when you partner with us.



Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors who continue our mission to honor, remember, educate and heal.



2022 Financial and Operational Performance

To view the financials in its entirety, please inquire at the ML Becker Educational Center offices.



Form **990**

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

OMB No. 1545-0047

2022

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2022 calendar year, or tax year beginning , 2022, and ending , 20

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Final return/terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C **WOODRING WALL OF HONOR AND VETERANS PARK INC**
PO BOX 248
ENID, OK 73702-0248

D Employer identification number
20-1154941

E Telephone number
(580) 297-5322

F Name and address of principal officer: **HENRY KING**
Same As C Above

G Gross receipts \$ **686,324.**

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? Yes No
H(b) Are all subordinates included? If "No," attach a list. See instructions. Yes No

I Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3) 501(c) () (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

J Website: **N/A**

K Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other

L Year of formation: **M** State of legal domicile: **OK**

Part I Summary

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: TO PROVIDE A SUITABLE SETTING AND SITE TO RECOGNIZE THOSE SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY			
2 Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.			
Activities & Governance	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	8
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	8
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2022 (Part V, line 2a)	5	0
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	0
	7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0.
	7b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, Part I, line 11	7b	0.
			Prior Year
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	19,264.	686,158.
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)		
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	19.	166.
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	5,037.	
	12 Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	24,320.	686,324.
Expenses	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)		500.
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)		
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)		
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11c)		
	16b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25)		
	17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24e)	64,925.	114,018.
	18 Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	64,925.	114,518.
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	-40,605.	571,806.	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	Beginning of Current Year 638,058.	End of Year 1,209,864.
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	0.	0.
	22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	638,058.	1,209,864.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here

Signature of officer: **HENRY KING** Date: **SEC/TREASURER**
Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name: **WILLIAM B HANN, CPA** Preparer's signature: **WILLIAM B HANN, CPA** Date: _____
 Firm's name: **Hann Plummer, PLLC** Check if self-employed PTIN: **P00422480**
 Firm's address: **206 E Randolph** Firm's EIN: **82-3162934**
Enid, OK 73701 Phone no.: **580-297-5322**

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions. Yes No



HONOR
REMEMBER
EDUCATE
HEAL

“As a Vietnam veteran exposed to Agent Orange and living with those results, it is my passion to remember the men and women on this wall. It was my honor to be a part of building this monument and to be part of the legacy to never forget their sacrifices.”

Pat Healy, Director Emeritus
Woodring Wall of Honor and Veterans Park