Honoring Colorado's Heroes: The Golden History Museum Vietnam Veteran Welcome Home Exhibit

On September 24, 2026, members of the Rocky Mountain Chapter attended the Grand Opening of the Golden History Museum's Vietnam Veteran's Welcome Home Exhibit. Held in conjunction with the 50th Commemoration Anniversary of the Vietnam War, the event was a deeply moving opportunity to honor and welcome home our Vietnam veterans. Stephanie Gilmore, Curator of the Golden History Museum, envisioned the commemorative exhibit as a meaningful way to honor Golden's local veterans, as well as all Vietnam veterans across Colorado.

The opening marked the culmination of nearly six months of close collaboration between the museum, the VHPA, and various other Vietnam War veteran organizations. The comprehensive exhibit will remain open to the public for one year.

A diverse collection of artifacts was loaned to the exhibit by the Helicopter War Museum, multiple veteran organizations, and individual participants. Representatives from the Rocky Mountain Chapter played a hands-on role in bringing the history to life—offering conceptual ideas, helping build the displays alongside museum officials and volunteers, and creating personal Biography Books (Bio Books) to be showcased among the artifacts. Active chapter participants included Bill Bates, Richard Bares, Carl Cavalluzzi, Bruce Girvan, Dale House, Doug Neil, and Chuck Wiley.

The Grand Opening also provided a fitting backdrop for a Commemorative Pinning Ceremony to honor the service and sacrifice of these veterans, who upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces.

In collaboration with the Commemorative Partner Program—originally authorized by Congress and the President in 2012—the Golden History Museum thanked over 23 local Vietnam veterans on behalf of a grateful nation. Every attending Vietnam veteran received a distinctive commemorative lapel pin and a Proclamation Certificate. Among them were our own Chapter Members, James Clark, Donny O'Conner, Greg Mann, and Mike Silva.

This pinning ceremony is part of a larger national outreach program designed to honor the estimated 2.7 million soldiers who served in-country, and the 9 million veterans who served during the Vietnam War era. The Rocky Mountain Chapter proudly partners with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Program to honor all veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975.

Another Highlight of the evening ceremonies and in conjunction with the pinning ceremony Terre Deagan Young, our favorite Donut Dolly also became the recipient of a distinctive commemorative lapel pin and a Proclamation Certificate. Her devotion to the American fighting man in Vietnam for over a year and one of only 760 American Red Cross worker volunteers of the entire conflict was absolutely delighted to be honored in this way. We Love Her.

The night concluded with a heartwarming surprise. A special Quilt of Valor was presented to Vietnam veteran Chuck Wiley. The quilt was lovingly and secretly crafted over the past year by his wife, who chose this historic ceremony as the perfect moment to present it to her husband.



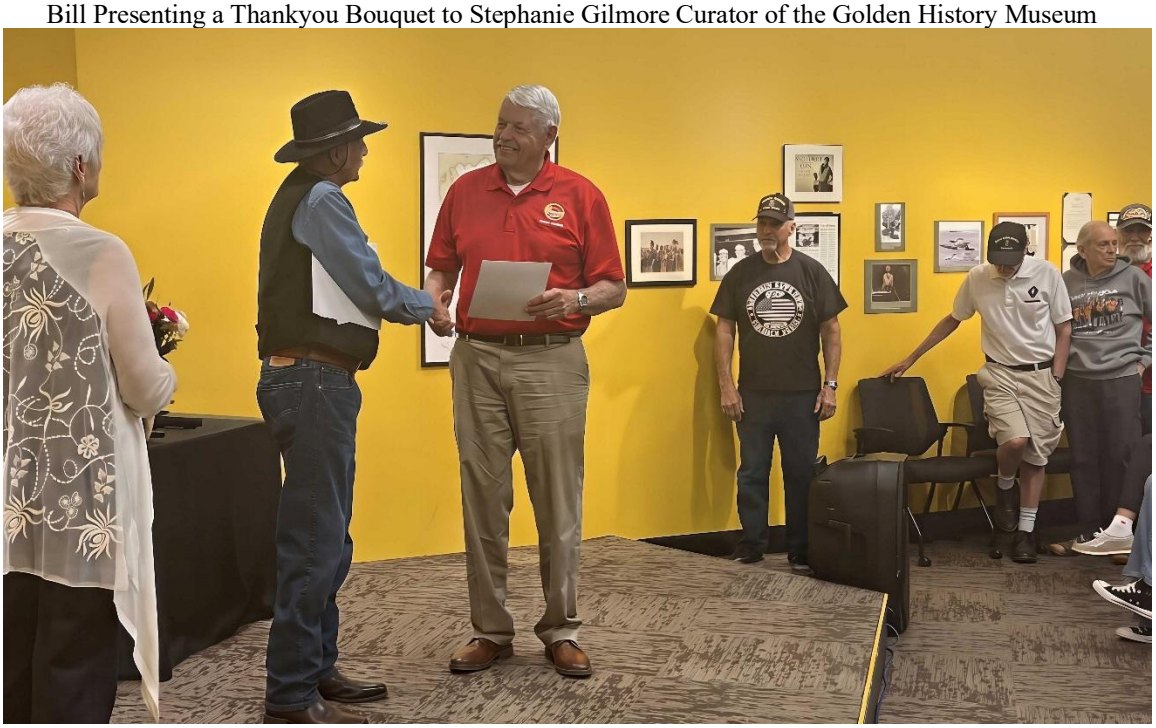
The Entrance to the Welcome Home Exhibit at Golden History Museum



Biography Books made by members for the Exhibit at Golden History Museum



Bill Presenting a Thankyou Bouquet to Stephanie Gilmore Curator of the Golden History Museum



Presenting Vietnam Commemoration Pins to Veterans at the Golden History Museum



Mike receiving a Vietnam Commemoration Pin by Dale House



Bill with his Sister (far right) talking about his Tour in Vietnam with a guest holding his Bio Book



Presentation of Honor Quilt His Wife, Terri made to Chuck



Chuck and Terri holding up the Honor Quilt She made for Him



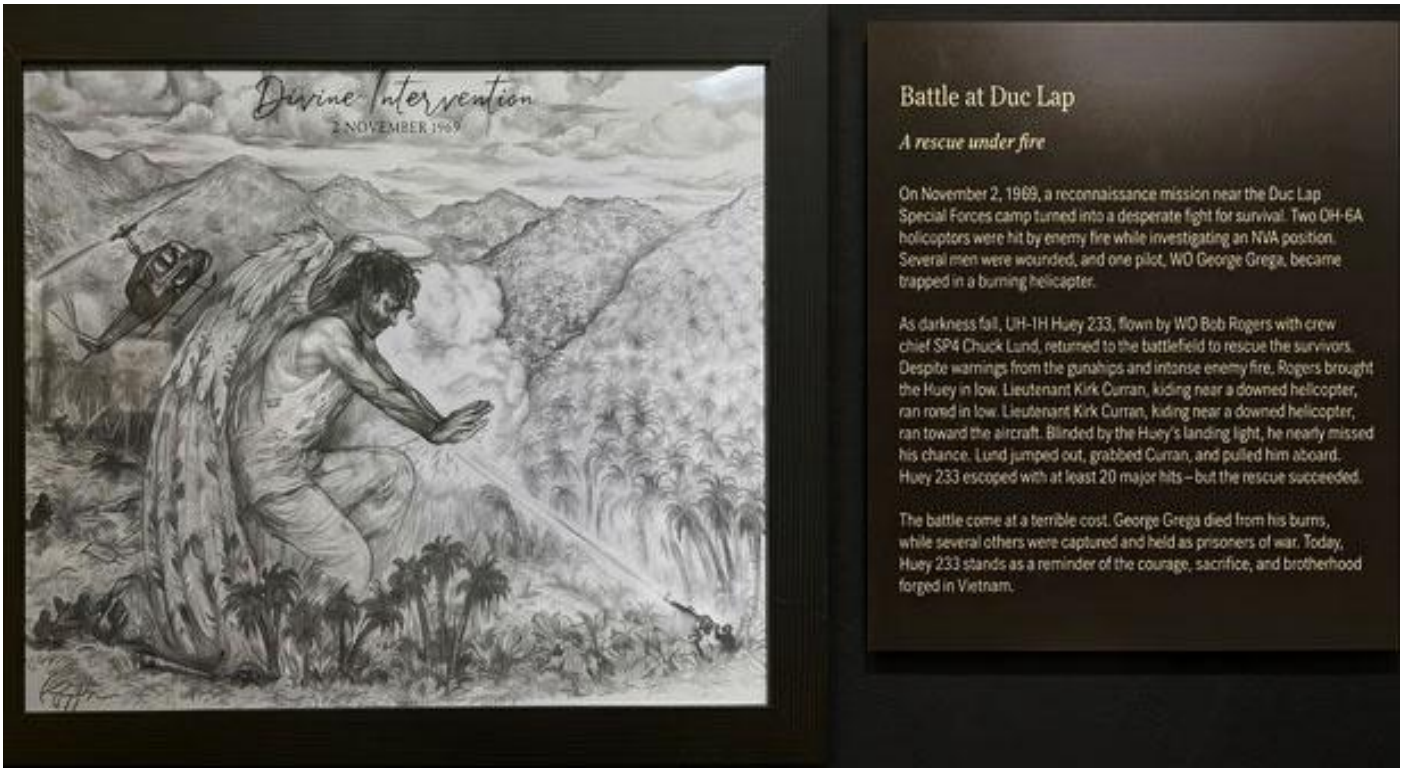
Presnting Vietnam Commemoration Pin to Terri Deagan Young by Dale House



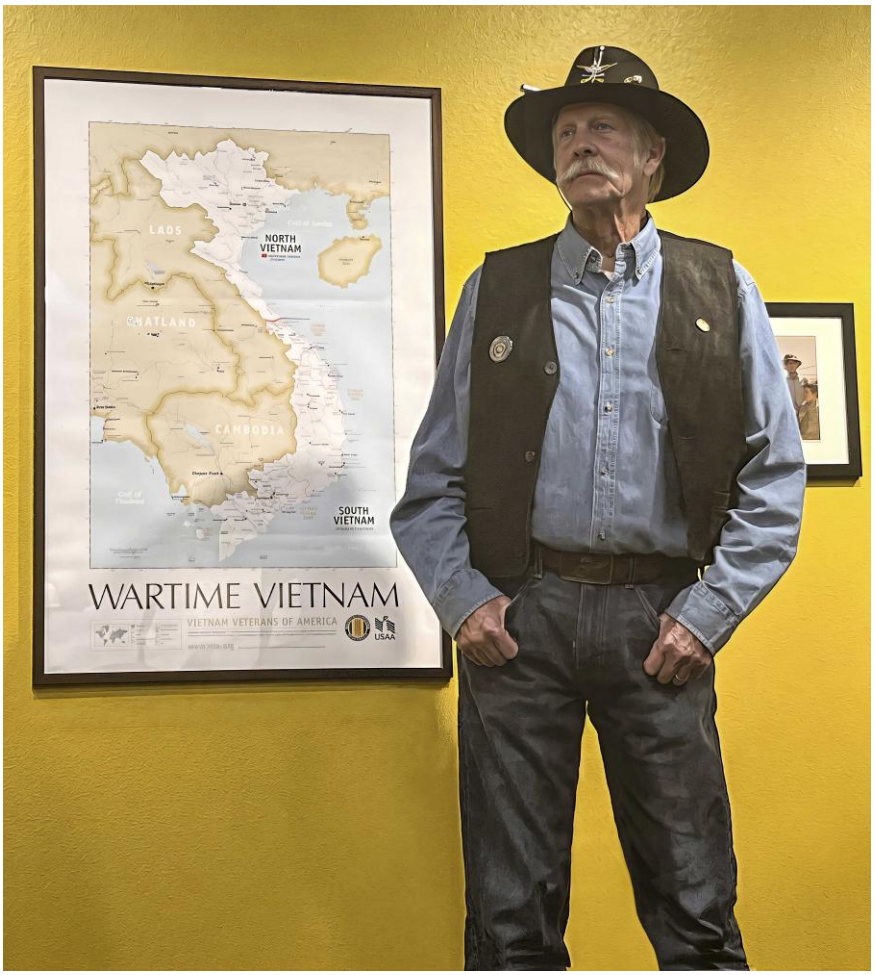
Bill Dressing a Manniquine Aviator for the Exhibit.



Bill with his Quilt



Divine Intervention at the Battle of Duc Lap


LAOS
NORTH VIETNAM
CAMBODIA
SOUTH VIETNAM
WARTIME VIETNAM
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
USAA





Army Helicopter Pilot Uniforms before and after the Nomex Flight Suit. A replica of the Helicopter War Museum (HWM) with the History of the HWM and our association with Coors Brewery. Nomex Flight Suit and Jungle fatigues provided by Dale House



Red Cross Volunteer aka “Donut Dolly” Uniform Display including her Fatigue Jacket Loan by Terri Deagan Young