



CURATORIAL

2018 has been an exciting year at the New Jersey Vietnam Era Museum. In addition to our Historic Timeline showing two concurrent timelines — one reflecting the activity in Vietnam and the other reflecting political, cultural and historical events in the United States - and our Circle of Letters - a chronological display of items collected from those who served and their supporters back home. These personal accounts help make the connection between the facts of War and the lasting effects it has on people's lives - are our rotating exhibits featured throughout the year in our lobby area. These temporary exhibits complement our permanent collection and enable all visitors to learn about the myriad forces that produced the conflict abroad and the dissension at home. The Museum provides an atmosphere where appropriate materials and exhibits help visitors understand the significance of the Memorial, the reality of the conflict, and the social, political and cultural complexities of the Vietnam Era.

Exhibitions

Thousands of visitors have already seen our current temporary exhibit, Soundtrack of a Changing Nation: Music of the Vietnam Era. It explores the extreme changes that took place in popular music during the turbulent decades of the 60s and 70s. It also features the stories of several aspiring musicians from New Jersey who had their careers interrupted and their lives cut short by the Vietnam War.

Among them are Barton Haynes, a young drummer from Freehold who started a band with some neighborhood friends. They later recruited a young Bruce Springsteen to play guitar. Barton later joined the Marines and was killed by mortar fire in Quang Tri Province in October of 1967. Also featured is Frankie Boyce, a singer and guitarist from Plainfield who started a band with two of his brothers and a family friend. The Plainfield Admirations were later signed to Warner Brothers Records and toured with some of the biggest stars of the era. Frankie received his draft notice on his 21st birthday and was killed in action in January of 1969. The stories of these men and the others told in the exhibit are powerful reminders of the lost potential of those who never came home. Soundtrack of a Changing Nation will be open until December 29, 2018.



Soundtrack of a Changing Nation

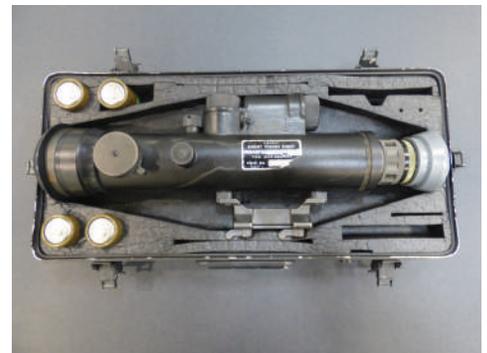


Collections

The museum also continues to collect important artifacts from the Vietnam War Era. Among our recent acquisitions have been letters written by soldiers and their families, photographs, military decorations, and other items that will help us share these stories with current and future generations of visitors. We are currently limited in what we can take in due to space constraints in our collection storage areas. We are actively raising funds for an annex to the museum that will allow us to greatly expand our ability to collect and preserve artifacts from the Vietnam era.

We are looking forward to another exciting year in 2019. We are currently working on two temporary exhibits.

The first, opening in March, will explore the significance of the Medal of Honor in American history. The second, opening in December, will feature art on loan from the National Veterans Art Museum in Chicago, Illinois. We hope to see you in the coming year.



The AN/PVS-1 was the first starlight scope fielded for combat use in SE Asia.