



War Dogs Memorial is sculpted, by world-renown sculptor, A. Thomas Schomberg. The bronze and granite War Dogs Memorial will stand 16 feet and 10 feet at its base.

(To see the Memorial reappear, click Refresh)

War Dogs! Memorial:

March Field Museum--the perfect location!

Need a ride, directions, VDHA connections & Discounts to attend the dedication?

Read on!

I was at the War Dogs Memorial today: [Read what it's like now!](#)

**How
to:**

[Get Air Travel help](#)

[Transportation from Airport; to the Hotel; to the events](#)

[Hotel Recommendation](#)

[Reservations for the Memorial Dedication, and VFW/VDHA prime-rib dinner](#)

[Directions to War Dogs Dedication](#)

[VDHA Members - Who's Signed Up?](#)

[LATEST NEWS & UPDATES !](#) (Can I leave a tribute at the Memorial?)

The simple fact is: American War Dogs were left behind in Vietnam -- abandoned -- intentionally.



About the War Dogs Memorial location - The first of two War Dogs Memorials will be unveiled on Presidents Day, 2000, at March Air Field (Air Reserve Base; adjoining the former AFB).

As a former USAF K-9 handler (Đà Nẵng, Blackie, 1965-1966), I believe March Field Museum is the perfect location for the towering War Dog and Handler monument. A prime location, both poetic and highly appropriate for honoring War Dogs and their partners. At sunset, the monument will silhouette against amber skies while quietly overlooking the green manicured lawns of our nation's largest veterans cemetery where over 114,000 are at final rest. The War Dog and Handler will symbolically watch over the park-like cemetery... while performing a *last patrol* on the outer perimeter around the giant Air Base, formerly known as March Air Force Base.

(Photo: Blackie (129X), was put down after six years of faithful heroic service from Đà Nẵng AB early 1965 to Tan Son Nhut AB, late 1970).



As you can see by viewing the map (courtesy of Thomas Guide), March Field Museum is located exactly halfway between the Air Base's flight line and Riverside National Cemetery, which is only a stones throw from the museum grounds (for scale, the runway is 3 miles long!), and parallels the heavily traveled 215 Freeway. You can also check out [March Field Museum's WebPage](#) for an aerial view of part of the grounds, and read about placing a tiled tribute on the grounds. I recommend the museum, have been there, and drive by it daily.

Don Poss

VDHA: Because of American War Dogs, there are thousands fewer names etched in stone on



The Wall of the National Vietnam

Veterans Memorial, at Constitutional Park, Washington, D.C.. Ironically, at the end of the Vietnam War, military officials *abandoned* almost all the war dogs. [VDHA](#) writes, "*Of the 10,000 men who served with K-9 units during the Vietnam War more than 265 were Killed in Action. Of the 4,000 Dogs that served, 281 were "Officially" listed as "Killed in Action", but only 190 were returned home at the end of the war. Over 500 dogs died on the battlefields of Vietnam.*" Nevertheless, there has been no tribute to these dogs until the *Discovery Channel* program, sponsored by *Nature's Recipe*, as envisioned and promoted by the [Vietnam Dog Handler Association](#) to raise the memorial's \$1,500,000!

The second War Dogs Memorial is at Ft. Benning's Infantry Museum on the east coast. Proceeds from WAR DOGS project has helped fund the \$1,500,000 memorials to honor those heroic dogs and handlers who served in Vietnam.

What's happening... and where?

**War Dogs! Memorial
March Field Museum**

Need a ride, directions, VDHA connections, where to stay, and discounts to attend the dedication? Read on--we're going to help!

**Tom Mitchell
VDHA Chairman**

AIR TRAVEL: If you are flying in, please contact **Joan Elder**, at 1-800-878-6991, so we can be sure it is taken care of properly and that we have the information for the shuttles we will be providing. Be sure you fly into **Ontario, CA International Airport!** If you fly to LAX (Los Angeles) or John Wayne (Orange County) then you have a two hours drive, minimum, and you will be on-your-own!

TRANSPORTATION: A great group of guys in Riverside have volunteered to shuttle us around -- plus there will be a number of guys from SoCal who will have cars to help with transportation.

HOTEL RECOMMENDED: We have chosen the Best Western Hotel on Magnolia Street in Riverside as the VDHA hotel. We will not have any events there though. It is about three miles from the VFW post and is in a good clean part of town.

- **VDHA Hotel Group Rate:** \$55 per night.
- **Bringing a dog?** you'll need to pay a \$100 deposit.
- **Hotel Reservations,** please call **Joan Elder** at 1-800-878-6991.

The Memorial...

War Dog Memorial Dedication - Directions:

11:00 a.m., Monday, February 21, 2000,
March Field Air Museum,
Center Courtyard,
22550 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside, CA

Take the I-215 Freeway / Van Buren Boulevard exit (south of I-60 Freeway)

To clarify, the War Dog Memorial is really not located on March ARB property (adjoining properties), so don't follow the signs to March ARB. It is just outside the west end of the base.

Tom Mitchell

... and Celebration Banquet

will be a *very special* event! Local dog handlers are gearing up with VDHA and VFW to make this happen-- including *rides from Ontario Airport*, discounts, car rentals, and a celebration banquet!

And don't forget Disneyland is nearby! If at all possible, join us at the War Dogs Memorial dedication--It will be something you will be proud of, and never forget!

Banquet Reservations, as of today, Friday, January 21: **108** from VDHA are coming -- including 44 members. 86 will be at the dinner and 16 of us will be at the Best Western. These numbers will soar quickly, as the majority of the members know nothing of these events as they are not online. *Your letter from Jeff Bennett should arrive very soon.*

Please let me know if you are coming to the Reception after the Dedication, at the Riverside VFW Post 9223 (corner of Tyler and Arlington) for cocktails at 5: 00 p.m., and a fantastic prime rib dinner at 6: 00 p.m. I am keeping track of how many will attend both Memorial & Dinner, for our VFW cook and the Museum Director at March Field Air Museum. All members are invited!

- Reservations are just \$15.00 per person.
- **Make your check payable to VFW Post 9223** (In Remarks: War Dogs Dinner), and mail it to:
VFW Post 9223
(War Dogs Dinner)
10303 Arlington Avenue,
Riverside, CA 92506

VDHA Members - Who's Signed up so far?

FYI Here is a list of 94 VDHA members who we have as attending the War Dog Memorial on Feb. 21. This list is *as of* Friday, Feb 11, 2000. Also included is their Vietnam unit and e-mail address, if they have one. Sometime tomorrow I will be sending more details on the dedication.

Tom Mitchell vdha@home.com

- Ron Aiello Marine Scout raiello@icdc.com
- Rusty Allen, Jr. 47th/59th Scout ipsd@gte.net
- Wilfred Baca, 46th Scout scoutdogg@aol.com
- David Baker, 632nd APS (RIP Feb 2, 2014)
- Billy Barnes, 50th Scout m100fink@aol.com
- Richard Baumer, 62nd CTT baumerR@aol.com
- Rita Bernier Supporter

James Black 37th Scout jdblack@jblack.com
John Burnam 44th Scout Burnam@erols.com
James Camp 42nd Scout setdog42@aol.com
Charlie Cargo 48th Scout k9nam@scoutdogpages.com
Bruce Carroll 47th Scout
George Cartter 31st SPS
Larry Chilcoat 12th SPS lar-dj@tisd.net
Donald Chubb 48th Scout CHUBB_D@madera.k12.ca.us
Albert Cianci 212th MP
James Click 366th SPS ljclick@aol.com
David Cooper 12th SPS ncdc34@aol.com
Douglas Davis 37th SPS douglasd@gtii.com
Vince De Guilio 37th SPS vdeguilio@aol.com
Fred Dorr Marine Scout k9usmc@tisd.net
Joan Elder Supporter arrcor@pachell.net
Colin Fallat 366th & 31st SPS cachuma@west.net
Scott Faust Marine Scout
Steve Garfield 12th APS sgarfield1@aol.com
Jimmy Gifford 366th SPS jwgiff@yahoo.com
Lloyd Goodin 981st MP lloyd52@hotmail.com
Jane Gorden Supporter angelsark@aol.com
Larry Grandy 37th SPS ducknose@msn.com
Karl Gross Marine Scout khgmarine@aol.com
John Hackett Marine Sentry jhackett@pachell.net
Gary Hansen 75th CTT ctt75@aol.com
Randy Harritan 50th Scout burandy@webtv.net
John Harvey USMC Scout jrhcpa@hhcpas.com
Gerry Heitsman Navy K9
Bertram Hubble 45th/47th Scout bhubble@attglobal.net
Daryl Hubble 45th/47th Scout dhubble@thehartford.com
Richard Humphrey 38th/44th Scout rolnrch@aol.com
Steve Janke 483rd SPS jank953208@aol.com
Dennis Jefcoat 58th Scout dennis.jefcoat@gte.net
Roy Johnson Supporter jay-me-lad@greatnorthern.net
Robert King 633rd SPS kingrobert@aol.com
Larry Laudner 377th SPS ezlar@clubi.net
Steve Lemish 47th/48th Scout stephenl@k-online.com
Alfred Libby cootie0104@netnevada.net
John Lidstrom Supporter slidstro@ix.netcom.com
Rob Longacre 981st MP s181rhl@zionsbank.com
Craig Lord 35th SPS clord@excelonline.com
Duane Lynde 366th SPS dandslyne@lightspeed.net
Byron Martin 366th SPS bymart@sdcoe.k12.ca.us
Michael Martin 3rd SPS mrmsales@pachell.net
Richard Marty 12th SPS rienpat@shasta.com
Bob Mc Cuen 14th SPS
Mike Mc Kelroy Marine Sentry Topusmc1@aol.com
Earl Mc Nelly, Sr. 3rd MP USMC mcnelly@cyberenet.net
Mac McDonough 377th/366th SPS
Robert Mendoza 65th/557th CTT rjm47@gateway.net
George Miller 6251st Combat Sq.
Tom Mitchell 12th & 31st SPS vdha@home.com
John Moore Marine Scout

James Mulligan, Jr 38th Scout babs13@adnc.com
Henry Nieto 12th SPS hooah66namk9@cs.com
Charles Norton Supporter cfn@pachell.net
Jim Ower 366th SPS K9dn@aol.com
Art Peterson 981st MP apeterson@ctcq3.com
Darlyne Pettinicchio Supporter deputyding@aol.com
Thomas Polek 6251st SPS
Don Poss 366th SPS DonPoss-LM37@vspa.com
Tim Prokop Supporter timprokop@mediaone.net
William Putney War Dogs Det wputney2@aol.com
Ronnie Rackley 366th SPS K9Rackman@Home.com
Don Ray 212th MP donray@donray.com
Norm Ream 42nd Scout nream@aol.com
Robert Reese Marines Sentry reese@quarternote.com
Stephen Reichenbach Marine Scout stever2@attglobal.net
Bob Rodocker 377th SPS aasbob@ecom.net
Gerald Sandvik 35th SPS gerald.sandvik@liquor.state.oh.us
Phil Savage 31st SPS philsavage@aol.com
John Sciascia Marine Sentry jscias1042@aol.com
Jose Serrato 56th SPS usctsgt@aol.com
Roger Smith 12th SPS
John Stark 366th SPS gstark@inreach.com
Lee Stewart 58th Scout lstewart@cts.com
Greg Terry 33rd Scout gregsterry@aol.com
Thom Thomas 35th Scout kaainoa@home.com
John Tyson 3rd SPS tyson@alpine.net
Edward Vymazal 377th SPS evymazal@cvn.net
Alan Walden 2nd CAG USMC
Jerry Walsh 40th Scout says@magnolia-net.com
Jim Watford 57th Scout jwatford@touchcontrols.com
Jim Watson 8th SPS eighththfw@aol.com
Victor White 12th SPS mr.white@thegrid.net
Vernon Whybrew 48th Scout gintyo@aol.com
Gordon Wildes 3rd SPS k9man2@uswest.net

LATEST NEWS, UPDATES, & SUMMARY !

FYI - I just got word from the "Riverside Team" that the War Dog Memorial has been installed at the March Air Museum and it looks fantastic! Bob Rodocker said the statue, which stands about 18-feet, really stands out and that you can plainly see it from the I-215 freeway. As he said, "It is the best location for the Memorial, by far." Thousands of motorists will see it everyday! The Memorial will be draped for the dedication and be unveiled as part of the ceremony on Feb. 21.

Here is all the info I think you will need. If I have not addressed something, please let me know.

Please check out these two websites:

- [VDHA Command Center](#)
- [Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc. \(USAF\) War Dogs Memorial \(You're Here Now!\)](#)

Both will keep you updated on the dedication info.

VFW Post 9223 will be the Command Post for the dedication. If you are flying in and need a ride, please call the VFW at 909-688-7170 for the shuttle to the hotel. The VFW is at the corner of Tyler and Arlington. We have eight VDHA members who live in the area, in addition, a number of VDHA members from Southern Cal will also have cars. Getting a ride will not be a problem.

The hotel is the Best Western, 10518 Magnolia St., Riverside, 909-359-0770. The hotel is about two miles from the VFW and about 8

miles from March Air Field Museum. Tyler street is just one block from the hotel, so it is a straight shot up Tyler to the VFW.

At the moment we know of 45 members who will be staying at the hotel. There will be a short meeting at 6: 00 p.m., at the VFW Post on Sunday evening. This will give us a chance to meet, if we have already done so, and to talk about your participation in the next day's dedication.

VDHA members will get dashboard cards for Priority parking at the dedication, so we'll need to hand those out too. If you are driving to Riverside on Monday morning we need to get you a Priority parking slip. We'll have a plan of attack on that in the next couple of days. I'll let you know.

There are no formal get-togethers of VDHA members, except for Monday night's dinner. The rest of the time you are on your own, but the VFW is the CP and a great place to "hang out." It is a very welcoming place and I know I'll be spending a lot of my time there.

The is NO DRESS CODE. I plan to wear a pair of slacks, nice shoes, and my VDHA T-shirt or Sweat shirt. John Langley is sending some merchandise to the VFW, so we will be able to buy some stuff there. For your guests, I'd suggest "business attire," something you would wear to a nice restaurant. Nothing really fancy, high-heels are not necessary. Pant-suits... that kind of thing.

Sunday, Feb. 20, 6: 00 pm, Dedication Briefing at VFW Post 9223.

Monday, Feb. 21 11:00 a.m. Dedication at March Air Field Museum

5: 00 p.m. Cocktails at VFW

6: 00 p.m. Prime rib dinner at VFW

Can I leave something at the War Dogs' Memorial, like at The Wall in D.C.?

YES! The March Air Museum is making a large space available for a temporary War Dog display during the Feb. 21 - March 3 time period. After that they will build, with the assistance of the VDHA, a permanent War Dog display. If you have photos or other dog team related memorabilia you can donate to the War Dog Exhibit please let us know. Time is getting pretty late for the temporary display, but if you have scanned photos you can e-mail to me, I'll try to get them printed up in time for the dedication next week.

Again, if I didn't answer one of your questions, please let me know.

Tom Mitchell vdha@home.com

[Click Here to a large War Dogs Memorial image](#)

First Notice, on 01-17-00, 9: 40 p.m.

I am sending this to all VDHA members online. I know most of you cannot make it to the War Dog Memorial Dedication, but just in case your plans change, I wanted to make sure you got this information. I hate long e-mails, but I have no choice on this one. Sorry

In the future I will only send Memorial information back to those who say they coming. That way I don't jam your computer with a bunch of unnecessary e-mails. If you still want the info even if you aren't coming, please let me know.

I was in Riverside most of today and there is only one word to describe what will take place there on February 21. FANTASTIC!

When I arrived at the museum I was surprised and happy to see that the museum has its own sign on the freeway, the very busy I-215. I turned off and also saw the sign for the National Cemetery, so I drove there first to check out the new Medal of Honor Memorial.

When I drove in to the cemetery I expected to see a sign, even a small one, directing me to the Memorial - Nothing. Nada. If I didn't know it was there... well, now I feel we are very lucky to have it at March. At least people will know it is there. Nothing against the cemetery, because they have been behind us all the way, but the Museum is a much better location. During the two-hours I was at the Museum I'd bet 50-100 people toured the area.

I meet with Laura Benge of the War Dog Memorial Fund; Steve Clark, the General Manager of the March Field Museum; and world-renown sculptor, A. Thomas Schomberg, who did the memorial. We spent quite a bit of time trying to figure out the best spot for the memorial. We found a location that is in the front courtyard. A place where everyone who comes to the museum will see and go to it. It will be a very high profile place. Heck, you'll be able to see it from the freeway!

The memorial is made of bronze and will stand 18-feet tall. The handler stands 8-feet tall! One big memorial. It will face south so the sunshine will really make it sparkle. A great site for a great memorial. Oh, I have not seen the memorial yet. It is due for installation on Feb. 15.

After that meeting, I met with VDHA member Mike Mc Elroy, who is also the VFW 9223 Commander . I checked out their facility and it will be a great place to hang out if you come to town prior to the dedication, as well as a great place for our dinner Monday night.

We have a dedicated team of VDHA members in the area who are helping out. Mike Mc Elroy, Don Poss, Scott Faust, Jim Camp, Dennis Jefcoat, Gerry Heitsman and Albert Cianci. Dennis has arranged for a nine-passenger van for the three day weekend. He is also working with Budget Rental to get a group deal on car rentals. I am very excited about this, especially sense it is all coming together so well. I hope you can make it.

We found some hotels today, but we have not set up a group rate with any of them yet. Please do not make reservations at a hotel until we can get the best rate. I will let you know in the next couple of days.

Everywhere I went today they wanted to know how many members were coming. The Museum wants to know, as does the VFW and the hotels.

So here is what I need:

1. Are you coming to the Dedication, if so how many are in your party?
2. Do you need a hotel? Arriving when and departing when?
3. Do you plan to fly?
4. Do you want a rental car?
5. Do you plan to have dinner at the VFW Monday night, and how many?

If you have already e-mailed me with information please do it again and include the above answers.

I sure hope this e-mail makes sense. I am way too excited!

Thank you very much.

**Tom Mitchell,
VDHA Chairman**

We Take Care of Our Own

[Click to Report BROKEN LINKS or Photos. or Comment](#)