

**VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL  
DEDICATION CEREMONY**

**INVITATION**



The Florida Vietnamese-American Memorial Committee  
cordially request the honor of your presence

**at the Vietnam War Memorial  
Dedication Ceremony**

to be held at  
10:00AM Saturday April 27, 2013  
at the Orlando Veterans Memorial Park  
2380 Lake Baldwin Lane, Orlando, FL 32814

Respectfully yours,

Yen Ba Chu  
Vietnamese-American Memorial Committee

## Vietnamese-American Memorial Committee in Florida, Inc.

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### Vietnam War Memorial

In the Vietnam War, American soldiers and Allied Forces fought bravely side-by-side with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam against the violent assaults of the entire communist block behind the North Vietnam Communist regime.

In the end, the United States of America suffered over 58,000 casualties, more than 300,000 wounded, and over 1,600 still listed as Missing In Action. The Republic of Vietnam suffered more than 250,000 casualties and more than 750,000 wounded. Therefore, Vietnamese-Americans would like our present and future generations in the United States to honor and respect those brave soldiers who fought and died for freedom and democracy in this unforgettable War.

In 2003, a Vietnam War Memorial in the City of Westminster, California, was dedicated to the public. Then, other memorials were built in Houston, Texas, and Wichita, Kansas.

In 2012, Mayor Buddy Dyer and the commissioners of the city of Orlando, Florida, approved for the Vietnamese-American Memorial Committee in Florida to build a Vietnam War Memorial in Veteran's Memorial Park. On May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012, we organized a Ground Breaking Ceremony.

We're now organizing a Dedication Ceremony at 10:00AM Saturday April 27, 2013, at the Orlando Veterans Memorial Park, 2380 Lake Baldwin Lane, Orlando, FL 32814.

We cordially invite you and your family to join with us during this remarkable time.

Vietnamese-American Memorial Committee

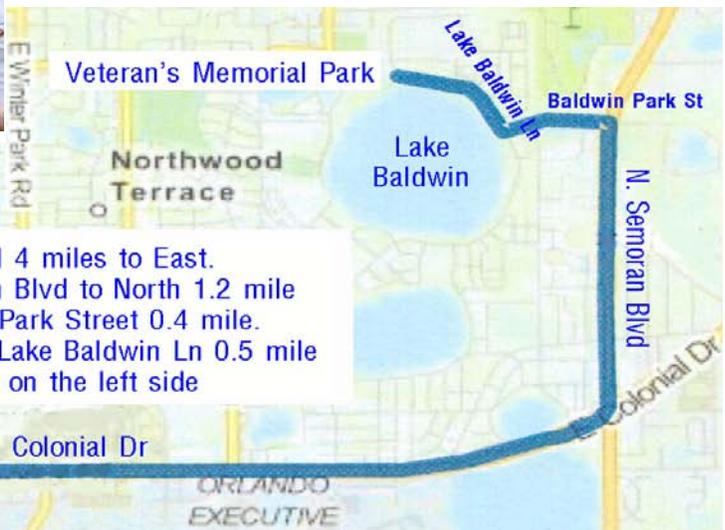


*Ground Breaking Ceremony May 26, 2012*

Ground Breaking Ceremony May 26, 2012

## Vietnam War Memorial

Veterans Memorial Park,  
2380 Lake Baldwin Lane,  
Orlando, FL 32814.



Exit I-4, go on E-Colonial 4 miles to East.  
Turn left and go on N. Semoran Blvd to North 1.2 mile  
Turn left and go on Baldwin Park Street 0.4 mile.  
At the end, turn right and go on Lake Baldwin Ln 0.5 mile  
Veteran's Memorial Pak on the left side

I-4

527

N. Orange

E. Colonial Dr

ORLANDO EXECUTIVE

N. Semoran Blvd

Colonial Dr

Veteran's Memorial Park

Northwood Terrace

Lake Baldwin

Baldwin Park St

Lake Baldwin Ln

# Vietnam War Memorial In Florida

From 1955 to 1975, South Vietnam was the battlefield where the Free World made a stand against the violent assaults of the entire Communist Pact. The soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam (AFRVN) along with the soldiers from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, The Philippines, and Thailand, had fought bravely in the Vietnam War. There were untold heroism and sacrifices made by these soldiers of the AFRVN, the U.S., and the Allied Forces. More than 58,000 American soldiers gave the ultimate sacrifice with their lives and more than 1,600 still are listed as missing in action (MIA). By the end of the war, more than 250,000 South Vietnamese soldiers had died, more than 750,000 were wounded, and 250,000 ended up in hard labor camps for up to 17 years after the war had ended.

The United States of America have honored the sacrifices of our soldiers in the Nation's most sacred grounds and in the homelands of Americans across the country.

Today, in Orlando, the center of the Great State of Florida, the Vietnamese Americans are going to build a great memorial. This memorial will serve as a place to remember, to thank, and to honor all the soldiers of the Free World who fought and made sacrifices during the Vietnam War. Together, we will build a memorial to help our children and grandchildren, and the future generations of proud Floridians to remember an emotional and heroic chapter of the history of the United States of America.



*The initial propose model*

The Memorial will be spearheaded by the Vietnamese-American Memorial Committee in Florida, VAMCIF, a non-profit organization founded and comprised of the Vietnamese American communities, Vietnamese Veterans associations in Florida and various communities

and veterans groups have worked closely with the VAMCIF to raise funds and design the Memorial.

From the day of inception, Orlando was chosen as the city for the Memorial due to its strategically centralized location, with the largest Vietnamese community in the state, and being known as a world-renowned tourist attraction. The Memorial's location will be easily accessible to the veterans and residents of the state. In addition, the Memorial will be an important and meaningful historical and cultural landmark for national and international visitors.

With the estimated budget of \$300,000 and the set goals and purposes, the committee is proposing to erect two eleven-foot tall bronze statues of an American soldier and a South Vietnamese soldier fighting side by side. The bronze statues will stand on a six-foot high concrete and black granite podium bearing the national flags of the allied countries that contributed soldiers who served during the war. In order to invoke sincere emotions of visitors while respecting the solemnity of the monument, visitors will be able to walk up and touch the soldiers from a handicap accessible ramp. Along the ramp is flanked by an eight-foot high granite wall with historical inscriptions and combat images imprinted on the granite.

The VAMCIF Memorial will also serve as an intimate gathering place for the surviving veterans and their family all year round and a public ceremonial place during national holidays. This requires the Memorial to be set in a park-like setting with well-designed hardscape and landscape that nestles between a natural park and a natural lake.





The committee has proposed two phases for the construction of the Memorial, which are described below.

Phase 1. After the committee has reached its goal of \$200,000, and the site has been selected, the committee will commence casting of the bronze statues and construction of the granite podium. Following the erection of the statues on the podium and completion of other minor site works, the Memorial will be opened for its first commencement ceremony. This will allow visitors to immediately visit and celebrate the Memorial.

Phase 2. With the continuing efforts of fundraising and supports, the committee will raise an additional \$100,000. This fund will allow completion of the hardscape, landscape and other accessory structures of the Memorial.

After the entire project has been completed, the committee will set aside \$20,000 to provide security and maintenance.

With the aforementioned design criteria and limited budget, it is essential that the Memorial should be part of the city's park system where built facilities nearby will be available to the visitors to the Memorial. It is also more fitting and symbolic to place the VAMCIF Memorial near or within a veteran's park in the Orlando vicinity so that all veterans and visitors can visit it with convenience.

Currently, the VAMCIF is fast-tracking the fundraising process through various venues. The process has been slow and difficult at times due to the difficult economic environment nationwide. The committee has been showcasing the seven-foot tall temporary design of the actual statues during its public and fundraising appearances. The reception to this sculpture and design has been very receptive, emotional, and heartwarming. However, to achieve the next milestone, the VAMCIF's main goal is to select and receive grants for the land with appropriate characteristics that fit the scope of the Memorial. The committee's goal is to accomplish this first milestone in 2012.

With the hard work and efforts of the committee's members and the general public, American veterans groups, Vietnamese communities and veterans, and most important of all, with the blessings of the spirits of those whom Memorial is to honor and remember, the Vietnam War Memorial in Florida will soon become a reality.

A proposal written by Vietnamese-American Memorial Committee in 2010

# City of Westminster, California

<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/services/visitors.asp>

## Guide for Visitors

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### HISTORICAL SITE

**Blakey Historical Park and Museum** 8612  
Westminster Blvd . Westminster, CA 92683  
(714) 891-2597

Anyone interested in the everyday life of Westminster residents in the 19th and early 20th century need look no further than the Blakey Historical Park and Museum. Exhibits include the McCoy-Hare House, which served as the community's first drugstore, built in 1874. The fully restored and furnished 1915 Warne farmhouse with its barn and windmill is another major attraction. The park is operated by the Westminster Historical Society. Special arrangements for guided tours are available.



### POINTS OF INTEREST

#### Vietnam War Memorial

Sid Goldstein Freedom Park  
14180 All American Way, Westminster,  
California

The dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial in Westminster was held Sunday, April 27, 2003. The Vietnam War Memorial Project was initiated by Westminster City Councilman Frank G. Fry in 1997. A committee was formed to select a sculptor/designer. Tuan Nguyen, a renowned sculptor/designer was unanimously chosen to sculpt the statue and design the immediate surroundings

