



BARBARA POTTER©



A Community Partnership for Veterans

*Nashville's 35th Anniversary Star-Spangled Salute to
Vietnam Veterans Report*

October 9, 2016 Centennial Park | Nashville, TN

Nashville's 35th Anniversary Star-Spangled Salute to Vietnam Veterans

OCTOBER 9TH, 2016 AT CENTENNIAL PARK

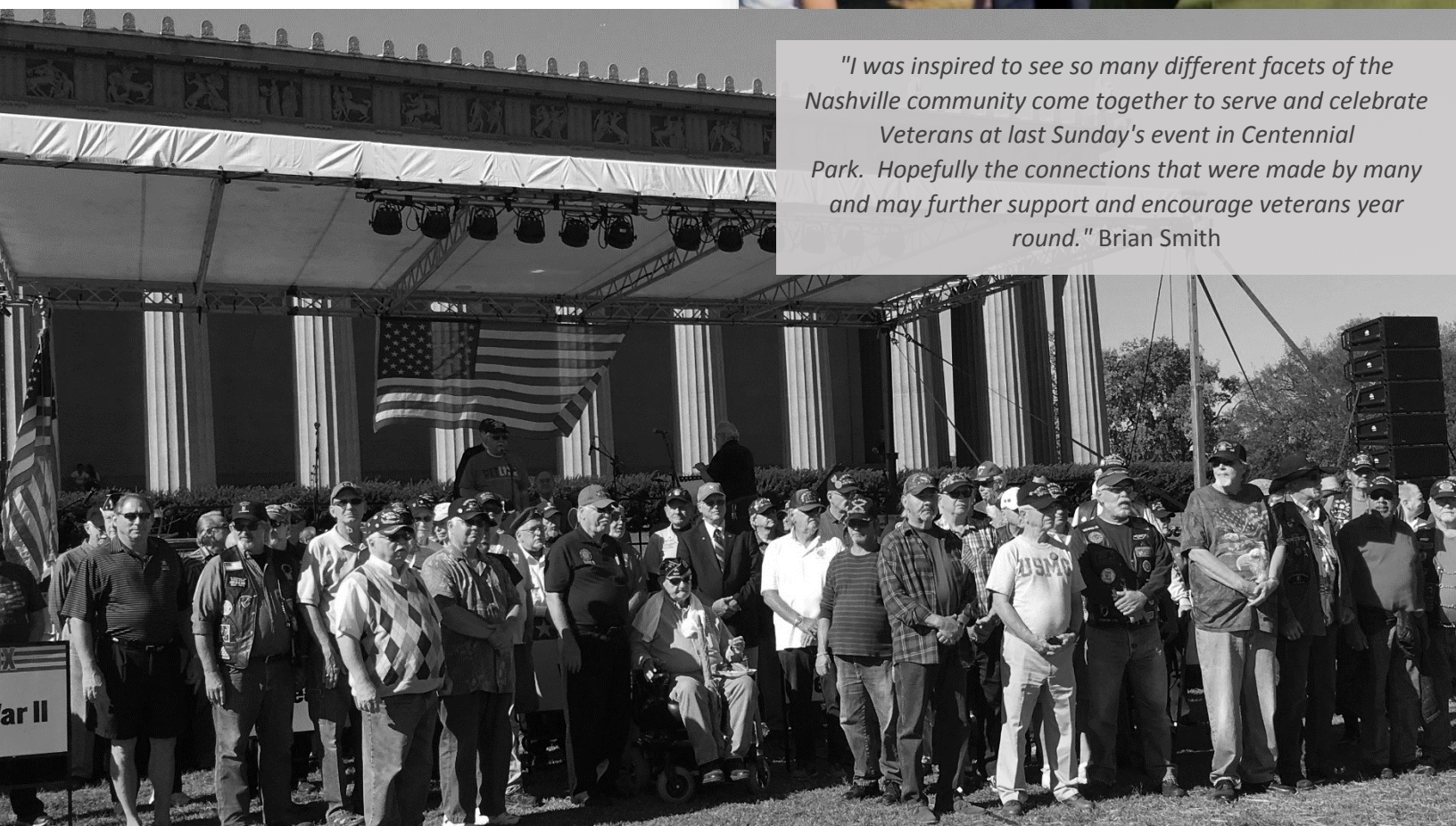
In pictures and quotes

"The event was festive and well organized, with good food and music on a beautiful day. I spoke with several veterans who were really happy to talk about their booths or displays, and one man gave a WW2 victory medal to one day give to our 2 year old son Rudy, who is named after our grandfather who was a WW2 veteran. Overall it was a great way to spend a Sunday morning."

Sam Bledsoe



"I was inspired to see so many different facets of the Nashville community come together to serve and celebrate Veterans at last Sunday's event in Centennial Park. Hopefully the connections that were made by many and may further support and encourage veterans year round." Brian Smith





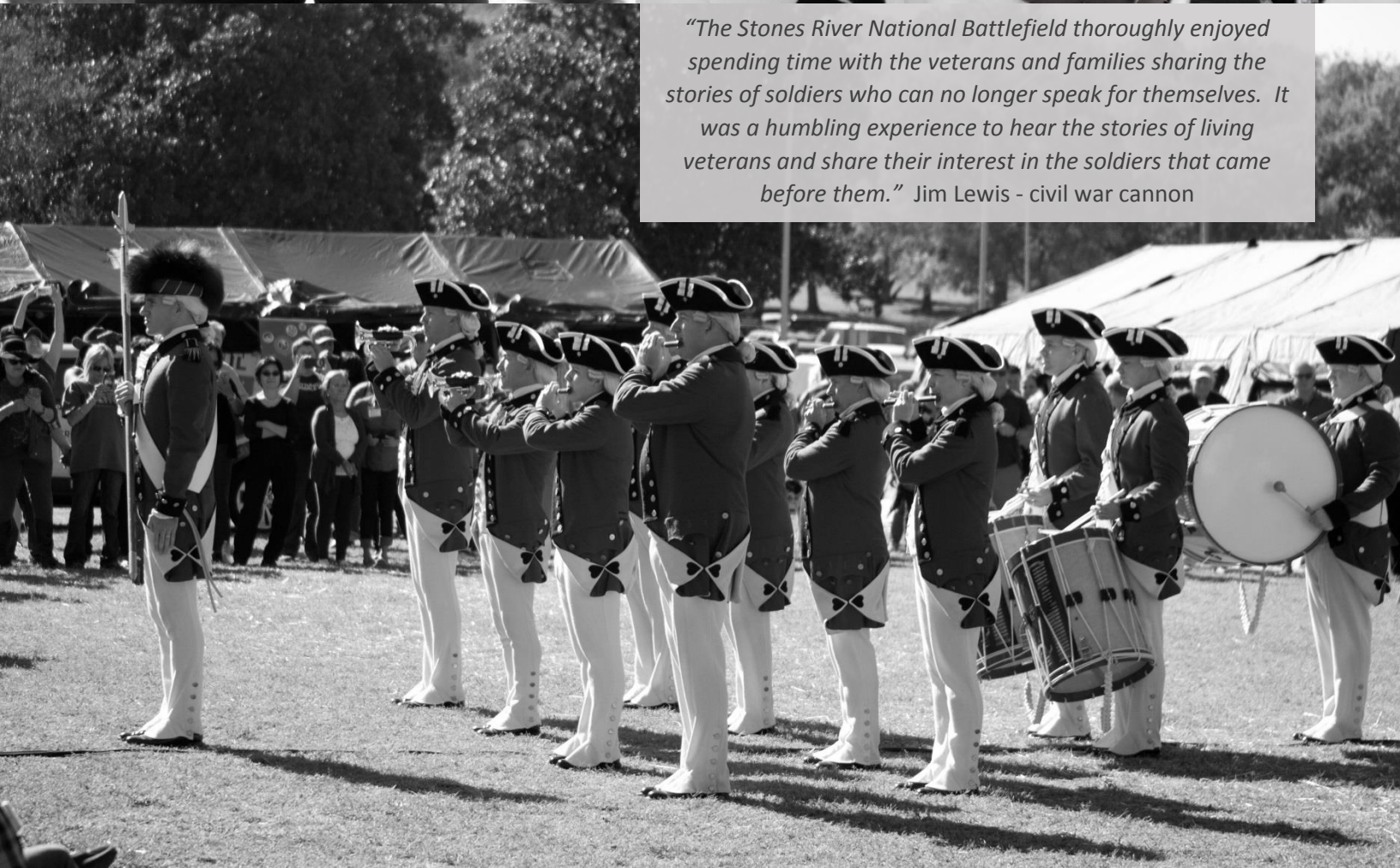
"I was a platoon leader in A/4/3 Inf. Regt. in the Central Highlands of Vietnam during 1969. How extremely meaningful for me to meet and get to know The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps during their recent visit to Nashville, TN at the "35th Anniversary Star-Spangled Salute to Vietnam Veterans"! Last year we also met during the Nashville Medal of Honor parade. In 2013 the officers of my old rifle company, A/4/3 met me at the WW2 memorial while I accompanied WW2 veterans on the last Music City Honor Flight. I consider this my welcome home. My family and I are proud and honored to maintain contact with the currently serving outstanding personnel of The Old Guard Regiment!" - Jim Sobery

"My daughter and I enjoyed talking with people making crafts in the kids' section, and watching the Old Guard perform. We even got a chance to talk with the Old Guard - each member was eager to speak about their work, and each in his own friendly and fascinating way." Kate Bledsoe





"Sam, Rudy, and I greatly enjoyed seeing all the veterans, listening to the music (Led Zeppelin) and participating in a community event. Rudy really enjoyed the old ATV/jeep from Vietnam. He wanted to get "up! up!" in it. There was a nice young man that told us all about it. Additionally, a veteran gave Rudy some old WW2 medals. It's very interesting to see all of the veterans and try to imagine what it must have been like to go to war. We are eternally grateful." Leslie Bledsoe



"The Stones River National Battlefield thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the veterans and families sharing the stories of soldiers who can no longer speak for themselves. It was a humbling experience to hear the stories of living veterans and share their interest in the soldiers that came before them." Jim Lewis - civil war cannon

It was truly a job well done! Of course when you have a person such as John Furgess as MC you can't go wrong either. Then topping things off with the US Army Fife and Drum Corps was perfect.

Out local TV news folks don't know what kind of an opportunity to talk with they had to shine in the eyes of Nashville/Tennessee veterans and their families. Oh yeah - past Mayor Richard Fulton was really made us proud to be part of what he started so many years ago. I'm sure he'll well remember what actually occurred Sunday Oct. 9, 2016.

- Tom Meredith



Former Mayor Richard Fulton and his wife, Kolleen Hudgins and husband Jim Atwell.



"Alice and I thought there was a very good turnout on a beautiful day. We felt the event was well organized and enjoyed the afternoon."

Terry Hill

"Me and my guys had a great time. We got to speak with a lot of veterans from a lot of wars and were told by a lot of the Vietnam veterans that they really appreciated us being there. I know Scott, the units Vietnam vet was surprised to meet a fellow Seabee who served the same years as him. All in all the event was a very positive experience and all of us buys were honored to be asked to attend. If you know of any more events like this or if this becomes an annual event we would be more than happy to help out. Thanks for the wonderful day and keep in touch."

Thomas Killion- 11th Armored Cavalry Regt. in Vietnam display



"It was indeed an honor to offer the invocation on Sunday. My wife and I enjoyed visiting with so many veterans who served in Nam, who were sadly not welcomed home. At that time I was in law enforcement and witnessed some of the terrible disrespect. The Sunday salute is a great way to remind our community of the service and sacrifice of all veterans." Rob Michaels

Thank you to all of the Veterans, family members, and friends who attended and hope you enjoyed the day! We are deeply appreciative of the volunteers, sponsors and supporters for making this day possible!

United States Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps
 Tennessee Army National Guard Armory
 11th Armored Cav Regiment Display
 A Family Legacy
 Addiction in America
 Adoration Homecare & Hospice
 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
 American Legion Post 5
 American Legion Auxiliary Post 88
 American Legion Auxiliary Post 82
 AMVets Post 1776
 Barbara Potter Photography
 Bigg Staxx BBQ Truck
 Blue Star Moms
 Bradford Health Services
 Bradley's Creamery
 Character Development Program
 Civil War Artillery
 Continental Health Alliance
 Copart

Copeland & Tullock
 Copy Solutions Inc.
 Davidson County Service Officer Lisa Kiss
 Death From A Bun
 Department of Veteran Affairs Regional Office
 Direct Auto & Life Insurance
 E&B Coffee
 Et Voila Bistro & Bakery
 Exit Realty Elite
 Faith & Courage-"US Military Chaplains WWII – Present
 Fire & Ice Gourmet Street Grub
 Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park
 Freebirds World Burrito
 Guidant Partners
 H3O Aquatics and VARF (Veterans Aquatic Rehabilitation Foundation)
 Hooligan Recordings
 Lend Lease
 Let's Explore the Veteran Roots of your Family
 Major General George H. Thomas
 Marine Corps League
 Mary Kay Cosmetics
 Mary League
 Military Motor Pool of TN
 Music City Skydiving
 Nashville Mounted Horse Patrol
 NATIONAL Crisis Response Canines
 Natural Sciences Institute-101ABD-ARMY
 Neuro Med TMS Centers
 Operation Stand Down Tennessee
 Penn Mutual

Project Healing Waters
 Queen Bee Pollinators
 Reenactors WWII American Red Cross Uncle Sam
 Renegade Radio Nashville
 Retrieving Independence
 Rolling Thunder
 SBA/ SCORE Nashville
 Score Nashville
 Signs First Franklin
 Sitech Tri Rivers
 Soldiers And Families Embraced (SAFE)
 Sports Clips – VFW Help a Hero
 Spots Pet Supply
 Tacos Maria
 Tennessee Department of Veteran Services
 Thaddeus Tea Company
 The Bruce Firm
 The Grilled Cheeserie
 The Iraq War Veterans
 Therapy ARC
 Thompson Machinery
 TN Department of Labor
 Turnip Green Creative Reuse
 Two Thompsons Catering
 USO
 VA Regional Office
 Veteran Local
 VFW Posts
 Vietnam Veterans of America Ch 240
 Vietnam Veterans of America Ch 953
 Volunteers!

Event Committee Chairs and Committee Members

Faye Baldwin, Entertainment	Robert Brooks, Outreach	John Furgess, Program	Ralph Land, Outreach
Denise Barnes, Outreach	Rebecca Bullion, Vendors	Don Gedge, Logistics	Diane Sackle, Outreach
Hugh Bennett, Stage & Sound	Sue Cantrell, Outreach	Marilyn Garcia, Outreach	Jim Sobery, Military History
Ron Bottomley, Outreach	Jim Ferguson, Security	Koleen Hudgins / Jim Atwell, Advisor	Lindy Wyant, Outreach

Special Thank You to Guest Speakers and Color Guard

Congressman Jim Cooper <i>U.S. Representative TN 5th District</i>	John Furgess <i>VFW, American Legion</i>
Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder <i>TN Department of Veteran Services</i>	Barry Rice <i>TN State Council VVA</i>
Rob Michaels <i>Serve and Protect</i>	Color Guard <i>VVA Ch 953, VVA Ch 240</i>

"What an honor to be a part of that day! When I spoke with exhibitors and volunteers they were all saying make this an annual event. Although the word didn't get to as many veterans as I hoped the main ones that were there were thankful, I had several tell me next time we will get the word out. The musicians and entertainers did an awesome job." Lindy Wyant