

Choctaw Col Frank Plummer has worked since 1988 on a project to turn several acres in McAllen, Texas into a world-class Veterans Memorial.

Located next to the McAllen Convention Center, the memorial honors the sacrifice of approximately 1.4 million American military men and women who have been killed in all the wars and conflicts of the United States.

Col. Frank S. Plummer's first tour of duty with the U.S. Army was 1943-1946. He re-enlisted again 1948-1975, serving in the Pacific and Philippines. He was on active duty in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Places he served included Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Alaska, Italy and Norway. He retired from active military after 32 years of service.

Highly decorated, Col. Plummer's awards include the Silver Star, Bronze Star w/V device, Purple Heart, Vietnam Army Distinguished Service Order 2nd Class, seven Crosses of Gallantry, seven Air Medals, three Legion of Merit Medals, two National Service Medals, Vietnam Service Medal with silver clasp, Philippine Liberation and Independence device, Vietnam Jump Wings, U.S. Master Parachutist, Glider Wings, and Presidential Unit Citations.

"Col. Plummer was a real warrior. He was a Green Beret, Ranger, Special Forces and in Intelligence," said Col. Plummer's sister, Pat Straiton, in a letter. "He was also a Commander in the Paratroopers."

Col. Plummer holds a B.S. Degree in political science from the University of Maryland and did graduate work at the same University. His studies include Russian Language School, Command General Staff College, and the Army War College. He taught for two years at John Tarleton University.

Born at Coalgate, Oklahoma, Col. Plummer and his wife make their home now in McAllen, Texas, where he has devoted over two decades to the building of one of the nation's most significant military memorials. The Veterans War Memorial of Texas, in McAllen, has a 105-foot spire as its nucleus. Granite walls bearing noteworthy information on branches of the military, wars, substantial impacts to military efforts, and even letters from youth, surround the spire in a beautifully landscaped area that makes for pleasant visit and walk.

Col. Plummer is proud to say that the huge monument is all paid with donations – millions of dollars that poured in through fundraising efforts (led by him, although he humbly doesn't proclaim this publicly). The vision for the monument was also an inspiration of Col. Plummer, and he decided that he would not rest until it was completed. He began the designs in 1988, wanting to honor U.S. veterans from all conflicts. The land was donated, money for the monuments was donated, and Col. Plummer worked with each entity to make sure the wording on each granite wall was perfect.

Col. Plummer turned 97 on November 7th 2022.

BIO

Col. Frank Slater Plummer Jr. graduated from Officer Candidate School in January 1975. Assignments began as Platoon Leader, Company A, Heavy Weapon Company, 24th Infantry Regiment, Camp Maxey, Texas. Later duty assignments include: Operations Officer, Army Exchange Service, Headquarters, Armed Forces, Western Pacific; Anti Tk Pit Ldr, Headquarters Co, 71st Div, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Loading Officer, Berlin . Airlift, 7795 Traf Regulating

Company, Rhein Mein, Germany; Wpns Platoon Leader, Co C, 26th Inf, 1st Inf. Div, Bamberg, Germany; Executive Officer, Co I, 26th Inf, 1st Inf Div, Bamberg, Germany; Asst PMS7T, John Tarleton State College, 4305 Army Support Unit, Stephenville; Intel Off, Field Operation Intel, Armed Forces Far East, 8177 Army Unit, Korea; Asst G2, Headquarters Co, 82d Abn Div, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Company Commander, Co E, 2d/S03 Abn Battle Group/82d Abn Div, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Battalion Executive Officer, Comd & control Bn, 82d Abn Div, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Chief, Production Br, Office Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, Pentagon, Washington, D.C; G-3, III Corps, US Mil Asst Comd, S. Vietnam; Bien Hoa; Bn Commander, 18th Bn, 5th Bde, USA Tng Comd, Fort Knox, Kentucky; Actg Bde Commander, 5th Bde, USA Tng Comd, Fort Knox, Kentucky; Staff Off, Exercise Div, ODCSOPS, Headquarters USAREUR & Seventh Army, Hiedelberg, Germany; Comd Off, 1st Abn Bde, 8th Inf Div, USAREUR, Maintz, Germany; G2, HHC, V Corps, USAREUR, Frankfurt, Germany; Sr Advisor, 18th Div, US Mil Asst Comd, USARPAC, III Corps, Vietnam; Director, Combat System & Support Directorate, Headquarters U.S. Combat Development Command, Fort Benning, Georgia; Director, Combat System & Support Directorate, Headquarters Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia; Director, Combat System Directorate, Headquarters Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Col. Plummer is highly decorated for his time in service. His awards and decorations include: Gallantry Cross w/Silver Cross; Gallantry Cross w/Bronze Star; Gallantry Cross w/Gold Star; Three Gallantry Cross w/Palm; Vietnam Army distinguished Service Order 2d Cl; Air Medal w/7 Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Commendation Medal w/1 Oak Leaf Cluster; Legion of Merit w/3 Oak Leaf Clusters; Purple Heart; Bronze Star w/V Device; Silver Star.