

Frank Plummer interview

Col. Frank Plummer

Greatest invention of Mankind, electricity.

What have you seen in your lifetime that has amazed you the most? Space travel – man walking on the moon.

How has COVID affected you?

The virus has come on us so fast. I think the Lord is trying to tell us something.

Do you have a message for future generations?

That they would all come to the Lord

What makes you happy you have lived this long?

I love life and other people. I want to see my family grow up.

In 1988 I had a concept. I went to the community? Chamber of commerce? City? And told them I needed some land. They gave me five acres. They were getting ready to build a convention center. The mayor was very (visionary) far-sighted. They let me sign a contract. I worked on the memorial until about 2004 and the project was getting too big!

No one was ever paid – it is all volunteer work! We raised roughly \$3.5 million dollars. I became the lead builder. I really enjoyed it. Everybody has helped. Children, schools, purple heart groups. We have had an outpouring of veterans who want to help. There are about five sections. I didn't know if I could really do it or not.

It doesn't look like the design I had in my mind when I first started. I first wanted to put a statue in a park.

Where did Col. Plummer get his original idea? He was on a trip to Vegas with his wife and saw a design of a unique fountain. "It had water shooting out from a pipe. The water was coming out in all directions from a mound in the center." Plummer said he thought to himself, "That is it! The mound in the center could represent the United States and the water coming out could represent the different branches of military and histories. The water kept going right back to the center."

I didn't want to fail. I started talking to everyone I could meet. I wanted to know how others had built their memorials.

I started a committee up and off we'd go! It took four years to build the last section – the fifth section. It took six months to build each of the other sections.

There are sentinels, or guardians at the walls. We plan to put down as many bricks with three lines of 16 spaces. People can buy those as a fundraiser at \$25 each.

There are 18 walls finished, a 105 foot spire in the center of everything, Flagpoles with the American flag and a Children's Plaza, with Children writing short stories of history for those walls.

"The American Spire of honor", a 105' tall black granite, five sided spire is nearing completion and is located in the center of the Veterans War Memorial of Texas, McAllen, Texas. Dedication of the Spire will be on Veteran's Day, November 2013. The "American Spire of Honor" will stand for all of time, as a symbol of the honor, respect and gratitude of the American people for

the sacrifice of approximately 1.3 million American military men and women who have been killed in all the wars and conflicts of this Nation. This beautiful Spire, rising above America's Memorial of its honored dead, will serve as a remembrance for future generations, to better understand, that the freedom they enjoy is not a right.....that freedom must be earned and at a horrific price of lives.....then freedom and liberty must be secured, if our children's children are to know the joys of living in a Nation of free people. Failure to protect this wonderful gift of freedom would result in its loss and the demise of America. The "American Spire of honor" will stand for all of time as a symbol of remembrance of the greatness of the American people and their unwavering dedication to the principles of freedom and liberty for all people. All (veterans & non-veterans) may become a Guardian of the "American Spire of Honor". Your presence will insure that future generations, remember the sacrifices of the American military men and women, as our Nation struggled in its growth in becoming a Country of the free. By placing your name on the Guardian walls, alongside the "American Spire of Honor", you are pledging your allegiance to these heroes of the past and to the principals of freedom and liberty that have made the U.S.A. a beacon of hope and resolve for the world.

Located next to the new McAllen Convention Center, the Veteran's War Memorial of Texas, the memorial honors Texas veterans that lost their lives serving and protecting this country's freedom. The beautifully landscaped 5-acre site features the soldiers' names etched on black granite walls. Statues of soldiers adorn the park. The memorial regularly hosts ceremonies honoring veterans and those missing in action.

The **Veteran's War Memorial of Texas** was established to honor the 1.4 million [Americans](#) were killed or missing in action in all wars and conflicts of this nation.^[1] The Memorial site is located on a 3.5-acre (14,000 m²) complex in [McAllen, Texas](#) at the intersection of 29th and Galveston Streets and is encircled by 5 war sites: [World War I](#), [World War II](#), [Korean War](#), [Vietnam War](#), [The Gulf War](#) & All Wars.

The site has 160 granite panels with stories containing historical information on each war, its citizenships and events of that time as well as a statue known as "The Warrior" which commemorates the 3,440 [Medal of Honor](#) recipients in the [U.S. Armed Forces](#)^[1]

The mission of the Veterans War Memorial Foundation of Texas is to provide an educational, cultural, and historical facility to assist future generations, especially children, to learn about the sacrifices of those who died in the service of their country

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

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

Born at Coalgate, Oklahoma, Col. Plummer and his wife make their home now in Allen, Texas, where he has devoted two decades to the building of one of the Nation's most significant military memorials. The Allen War Memorial is on a 3 1/2-acre complex, with a 105 foot spire as it's 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 through 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. 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.

The original idea for the design came to Col. Plummer when he saw a unique fountain on a trip to Vegas. "It had water shooting out from a pipe from all directions from a mountain in the center." Plummer said he thought to himself, "That is it! A center piece could represent the United States and elements surrounding it could represent different branches of the military and histories. Paths could go back to the center."



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Colonel Frank Slater Plummer, Jr. was commissioned an Infantry Officer upon graduation from Officer Candidate School 19 January 1975, class number 364. His first duty assignment was as Platoon Leader, Company A, Heavy Weapon Company, 24th Infantry Regiment, Camp Maxey, Texas. His subsequent 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, Ill 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, Ill 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. 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/l Oak Leaf Cluster; Legion of Merit w/3 Oak Leaf Clusters; Purple Heart; Bronze Star w/V Device; Silver Star.