

Fort Benning, Georgia
May 11, 2002

War Dog Pedestal Dedication



Welcome
Jonathan Wahl

Posting of Colors

National Anthem

Invocation
Col. Richard M. Hartsell

Presentation of Pedestals
Jesse Mendez

Keynote
Stanley C. Stockdale

Unveiling and Dedication
World War II: *Bernie Zika*
Korea: *Leo Suiter*
Vietnam: *Norm Ream*
Tracker: *John Dupla*
Medal of Honor: *Col. Robert Nett*
Kenneth. Hartsock
Fred. Hartsock

Acceptance: *Col. Lonnie D. Vona*

Remembrance: *Kenneth Goss*

Taps

General Viewing

*Pedestals
created under
the vision and
direction of
SFC Jesse
Mendez (Ret.)
and funded by
private
donations*

*Dedication
ceremony
conducted with
the support of
Fort Benning
and sponsored
by veterans of
the 47th Infantry
Platoon (Scout
Dog)*

About The War Dog Memorial Pedestals

The War Dog Memorial Pedestal Project was conceived by SFC Jesse Mendez (Ret). Jesse trained dogs at Lackland AFB in the early 60's, served several war dog tours in Vietnam (including early advisor assignments), and later designed and ran the US Army Scout Dog Training program at Fort Benning.

Following the dedication of the War Dog Memorial in October of 2000, Mendez spearheaded the effort to erect memorial pedestals designed to encircle the statue in lasting memory of the men and dogs that served our nation in combat. He continues to tirelessly raise private funds and commission pedestals in pursuit of his vision.

Today, dream meets reality as we dedicate the first five pedestals: US Army World War II Scout Dogs, US Army Korea Scout Dogs, US Army Vietnam Scout Dogs, US Army Tracker Dogs, and Medal of Honor Recipient Robert W. Hartsock.

Future pedestals will honor US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard, US Air Force and US Navy Sentry and Security Dogs, US Army Vietnam Veterinary Corps, and KIA Handlers and Dogs from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Also planned are pedestals for war dog teams that served in Panama, Libya, Bolivia/Peru/Columbia, and the Philippines.

Individuals or organizations interested in contributing to the War Dog Pedestal Fund should send a check to "Columbus Monument Company" for the "War Dog Memorial" to:

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