

## **THE GLENDALE, MONTROSE, LA CRESCENTA VETERANS MEMORIAL**

After the unveiling of the Vietnam Memorial at City Hall in Pasadena, a thought occurred to me: that there was no Vietnam Memorial in Glendale.

In 1993, I approached the City of Glendale Manager, Mr. David Ramsay, with the idea of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial for the City of Glendale.

My friend, Andrew “Jimmy” Payne, was not recognized locally, for paying the Ultimate Price in 1969, while on duty in Vietnam. I knew Jim, as a Glendale City Parks & Recreation coach, in the early 60’s, and preceded Jim to Vietnam in 1965.

We were fortunate, the Mayor of Glendale, Mr. Larry Zarian, saw the value in this project. We started a Memorial Committee, meeting first with Montrose, because Montrose has the first Vietnam Memorial in California. After six months of meetings, at the Montrose Library, it was decided that adding names to the existing memorial, would not fit the setting.

With Mr. Zarian’s efforts, and that of countless volunteers on the Memorial Committee, the project expanded to include all wars for those Killed in Action from the Greater Glendale area. The Glendale Fire Department took a leading role, and many Glendale employees donated their time and skills to the project. From the community came numerous volunteers: The American Legion Post #127, Vietnam Veterans of America #446, California Army National Guard, Chamber of Commerce, Glendale Foundation, Glendale Schools, League of Women Voters, to name a few. Each has their own story as to how this was truly a community effort.

It was decided that the location, design and names to be included on the monument, needed to be at Glendale City Hall. This became a challenge to the Memorial Committee. With the help of Gold Star Mother, Nora Golsh, whose son Stephen Golsh, was killed in action in Vietnam, we renovated the “Peace Globe and Shield” at City Hall. We then created separate panels for each war, since the incorporation of Glendale: WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. It took nearly 3 years to complete. Sponsors for the project are listed in the foyer of City Hall. The dedication was a grand affair on Memorial Day, May 30, 1997.

We also decided to leave space for an additional matching black granite panel, in the event a future generation was called to service. We thought that it would never be used.

Unfortunately, the space is now occupied by the War on Terrorism panel.

Stephen I. Malmberg  
Vietnam Veteran ‘64-‘65