

THE PASADENA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial concept was initiated by former Pasadena Mayor and Marine, William Paparian in 1988. In 1989 the City approved the design. Jack Lidyard, a former Marine Corps. Cobra pilot in Vietnam, organized a committee which led the construction and placement of the 4,000 pound black granite monument under the rotunda at Pasadena City Hall. The Pasadena Vietnam Memorial Committee, Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee and the Vietnam Veterans of America, San Gabriel Valley Chapter #446, Steve Malmberg, President, co-sponsored the event.

Unveiling took place November 11, 1993 with JROTC units from the local high schools participating and Lt. General Royal Moore featured speaker. Jack Lidyard unveiled the memorial etched with all 31 names of men from Pasadena killed in Vietnam, then the names were read aloud. Veterans escorted families of those named on the memorial, as they placed flowers at the base of the memorial. A fly-by took place and echoing taps were sounded. A video of the event was made and broadcast on local cable TV.

The actual Dedication took place when the Memorial was permanently placed in Memorial Park, October 24, 2004. It is placed on a knoll near the band shell over looking Raymond Ave. Three flags are posted: The American, California, and POW/MIA. The POW/MIA flag is significant because, Pasadena native James L. Carter is listed as missing in action.

The Memorial itself has three sides-- the Hart Memorial Relief facing an entrance to a sitting area, Westward side has the 31 names from Pasadena killed in Vietnam and the third side has the service medals highlighting the Vietnam Service Medal. The triangle shaped Monument is then topped off by a bronzed triangle folded American flag.