WING ASSOCIATIO ELLISERVICE HONOR COURAGE -

# Monument Dedication

National Museum of the United States Air Force September 23, 2021



Loyalty ~ Service ~ Honor Courage ~ Sacrifice



Presentation of Colors & Playing of National Anthem U.S. Air Force Honor Guard

> Welcome and Introductions John C. Mollison

> > Invocation Chaplain

Opening Remarks John Newman, Vice President, 12th TFW Association

> **Unveiling of Monument** Memorial Committee Members

Presentation and Acceptance of Monument Brigadier General James T. "Tim" Boddie, Jr.

> Remembering Our Fallen Heroes John C. Mollison

#### Taps

Benediction Chaplain

Retirement of Colors U.S. Air Force Honor Guard

Group Photo of All 12th TFW Veterans Immediately Following

#### Honoring the Legacy of Vietnam Era Members of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing

This day is made possible by 12th TFW Association members who, after the decision was made by the board of directors at the 2018 Tucson Reunion, worked tirelessly to design the monument and work with the staff at the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB to make this dream become a reality. The following planning and design group helped to guide this effort to completion: Bill Cathey, John Newman, Allyn Maines, John Mollison, Thomas Daugherty and Arthur Hurtado. A special thanks to John Newman for his design and associate member John Filteau for the artwork. It is a fitting tribute to those who served and a poignant memorial for those who never returned.



The design displays the years that the Wing was assigned to MacDill, Cam Ranh, and Phu Cat. The Wing alert call signs, "BOXER" and "COBRA" are shown beneath respective side-view drawings of F-4C and F-4D aircraft. The aircraft are configured with distinctive air-to-ground weapons loads: the left-facing F-4C is armed with M117 750# GP bombs on the inboard pylons; and the right-facing F-4D is armed with MK 82 500# GP bombs equipped with fuse extenders on the inboard pylons. Both aircraft are armed with AIM-7 Sparrow missiles in the aft missile wells (typically carried on all combat missions).



# 12th Tactical Fighter Wing History

The 12th Tactical Fighter Wing was activated in April 1962 and assigned to Ninth Air Force. The 12th and 15th TFWs constituted the 836th Air Division at MacDill AFB on July 1st of that year. First equipped with obsolete F-84F aircraft reclaimed from the Air National Guard following the Berlin Crisis, the 12th stood an important alert commitment during the Cuban missile confrontation. The 12th was chosen to be the first Air Force combat wing to convert to the new Phantom // and the wing was soon involved in F-4C firepower demonstrations, exercises and, ultimately, the Paris Air Show. The conflict in Southeast Asia was escalating and throughout 1965 the wing supported PACAF Contingency operations by rotating combat squadrons quarterly to Naha AB in the Ryuku Islands. The 12th began its permanent deployment to the first Air Force expeditionary airfield at Cam Ranh Bay in November, 1965. From this location the wing carried out close air support, interdiction, and combat air patrol activities over both Vietnams and Laos, in addition to augmenting U.S. Forces in Korea after the capture of the USS Pueblo. In March, 1970, as part of the Vietnamization process and phase out of the F-4C, the aircraft and personnel of the 12th were dispersed and fighter operations at Cam Ranh Bay AB were halted. At the same time, the 37th TFW at Phu Cat AB was re-designated the 12th TFW. Equipped now with two squadrons of F-4Ds, the wing continued combat operations until it was inactivated in November, 1971.

# Honors

#### CAMPAIGN STREAMERS:

- Vietnam Defense, 1969
- Vietnam Air, 1970
- Vietnam Air Offensive Sanctuary Counteroffensive
- Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase || Southwest Monsoon
- Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III Commando Hunt V
- Vietnam Air/Ground Commando Hunt VI
- Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV Commando Hunt VII
- TET 69/Counteroffensive
- Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969
- Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970

#### DECORATIONS:

- Presidential Unit Citation: 8 Feb 71 8 Apr 71
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device (6 awards): 15 Oct 65 - 30 May 66, 1 Jun 66 -31 May 67, 1 Jun 67 - 31 May 68, 1 Jun 68 - 31 May 69, 1 Jun 69 - 31 Mar 70, 1 Apr 70 - 21 Oct 71)
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm (2 awards)





The words, Loyalty, Service, Honor, Courage, and Sacrifice aptly describe the commitment and talent that embodied the men who performed the mission of the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing during the Vietnam Era. For each and every member of the 12th TFW the experience brought a lifetime of memories and friends that continue to this very day. Memories shared with family and friends and, most importantly with each other, sustain the brotherhood that was formed during tours of duty in Vietnam. To honor the service of countless members of the 12th TFW and to remember the fallen is a duty that each of us is bound to through our common experience. The dedication of the 12th TFW monument at this sacred site will ensure that future generations of Americans will know of the valiant sacrifice and patriotism of all the members of the 12th TFW.

On the following pages of this program you will find the names of all members of the 12th TFW, in alphabetical order, who made the ultimate sacrifice. Their service and memories must never be forgotten...for it is through those of us who are living that their stories must be told.







Medical Heart Failure November 2, 1970



















Master Sergeant







Recovered - 2011

Sergeant

John W. Brooks

1943 ~ 1967

Passed away due to

medical issues or injury

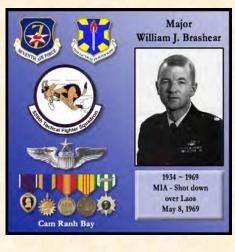
Khanh Hoa Province

November 8, 1967









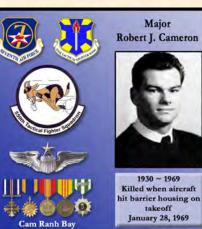


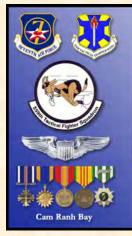
Cam Ranh Bay













Died when aircraft crash on landing approach November 5, 1969













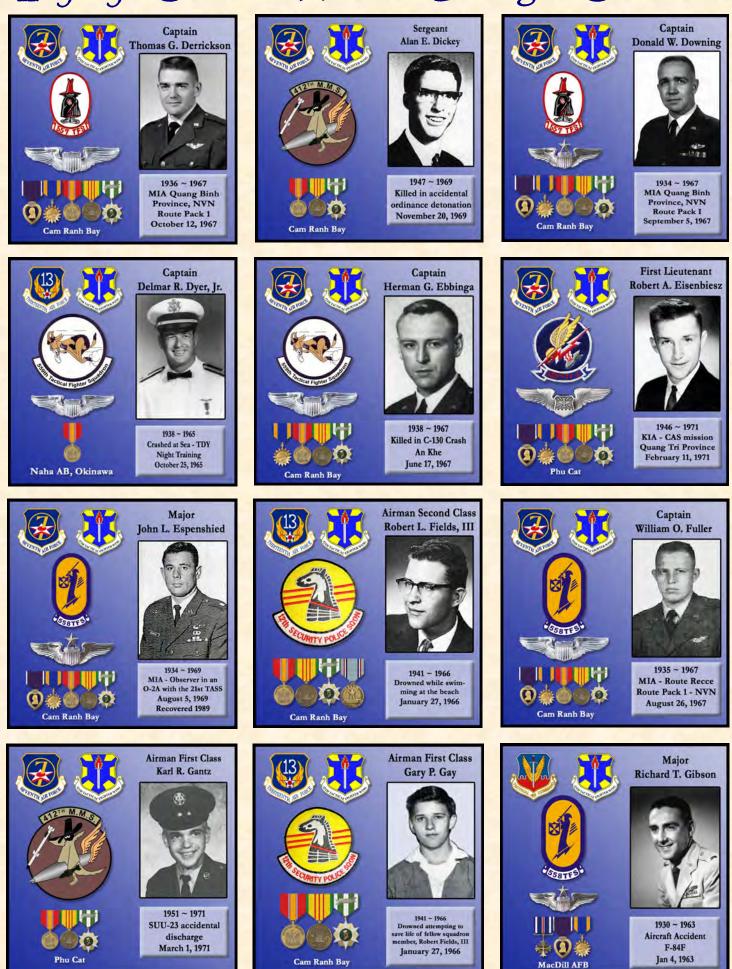














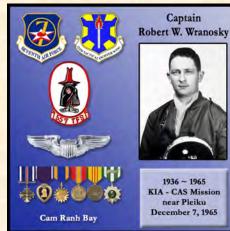












We Will Remember Them

# Their Sacrifice Forever Honored

#### HIGHFLIGHT

Oh! | have slipped the surly bonds of earth And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings; Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung My eager craft through footless halls of air. Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace Where never lark, or even eagle flew -And, while with silent lifting mind |'ve trod The high untrespassed sanctity of space, Put out my hand and touched the face of God. Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee, Jr. 1941

#### Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

#### National Museum of the United States Air Force

Ms. Jane Leach, Mr. Andrew Gilbert

#### 12th TFW Monument Committee

Bill Cathey, John Newman, John Mollison, John Filteau, Allyn Maines, Art Hurtado, Tom Daugherty

#### For the Monument

Dodds Monuments, Xenia, Ohio

#### Organizers of the 12th TFW 2021 Reunion

Bill Cathey, Kay Cathey, Jim Mindak, John Newman, Diane Blanchard, Mike Murphy, George Solli, Mary Ann O'Neill

#### 12th TFW Association Board of Directors

Ron Doughty, President, John Newman, Vice President, Bill Cathey, Treasurer, Jim Mindak, Secretary, Everett Sherwood, George Solli

Attendees of the 12th TFW 2021 Reunion