

Regarding your 21 November 13 message, while your proposed solution would improve the current situation at the park, the 12TFW Association believes that the county needs to reverse course and honor the agreement made in 2001. While the July 2001 letter may not specifically mention panel J, it's evident that the intent was to reserve panel J for the 12TFW, considering that panel J is capped with a plaque titled "USAF 12th Tactical Fighter Wing" and only 12TFW names have appeared on panel J for 12 years.

Our website has stated since 2001: "With the help of H. Ray Jones of the Cañon City War Memorial Park Commission and Bill Lande, Fremont County Veterans Service Officer, the 12th veterans struck a deal with Fremont County Commissioners Jim Shauer, Joe Rall, and Keith McNew which would set aside panel J of the memorial wall (the section nearest to the F-4C) for inscription of the names of all known 12th casualties." (<http://12tfw.org/memorial/>)

The agreement with the 12th has been repeatedly documented in the *Cañon City Daily Record*. For example, a 21 Sep 2005 article states that we had "contacted former county commissioners Jim Schauer and Keith McNew and other community members, who agreed having the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing panel would be a good idea." Also: "The county agreed to dedicate a portion of the wall that's closest to the airplane to the 12th Fighter Wing." (<http://www.12tfw.org/reded05.htm>) That portion of the wall is obviously panel J.

A 29 Aug 06 article states that we had contacted former county commissioners Jim Schauer, Joe Rall and Keith McNew, H. Ray Jones and other community members, who agreed to set aside "this particular panel next to the jet." (<http://www.12tfw.org/can.htm>)

A 19 Sep 07 article documents that "A formal dedication was conducted six years ago today, Sept. 16, 2001, to dedicate the last panel of the wall on this side of the monument next to the aircraft." (<http://www.12tfw.org/reded07.htm>)

Similar language in articles in following years document that panel J had been dedicated to the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing: <http://12tfw.org/reded08.htm>

<http://www.12tfw.org/reded09a.htm>

<http://www.12tfw.org/reded10a.htm>

<http://www.12tfw.org/reded11a.htm>

<http://www.12tfw.org/reded12.htm>

<http://www.12tfw.org/reded13.htm>

If Betty Hanawalt had wanted to contact the Association, it seems that she would have insured that she would have contacted someone who had authority regarding this issue. A Google search quickly reveals our website, where our contacts are listed at: <http://12tfw.org/assoc.htm>. We have no idea who she may have spoken to, as there is no "black sergeant" who would have the authority to speak for the Association.

The Fremont Co war memorial park website has a donation form and year 2005 SOP that specifies that sponsor, veteran, and active duty names would be added to Panel A. The park committee and VSO did not follow their own SOP when they engraved the 81 veterans names on Panel J.

We'd like to remind you of the investment and support we have provided for the community and the war memorial park. We invested \$7000 to establish the devotion of panel J to the 12TFW in 2001, and contributed \$1500 in 2002 for park maintenance. We volunteered to repaint the F-4 aircraft in 2010, and through our investment of \$2000 and volunteer labor, we saved the county an estimated \$10,000 to have it done commercially. Our members have visited the area annually since 2001 for a reunion and a panel J re-dedication ceremony, and have thereby contributed to the local county economy. We believe that our dedication to the park and our significant contributions warrant the obligation of the county to live up to its agreement regarding panel J.

While your proposed solution provides an improvement, we urge the county commissioners to accept the fact that a mistake has been made, and are obligated to live up to the agreement that was made with the Association, and restore panel J to the configuration that was agreed on in 2001. We appeal to you to avoid taking an easy way out, and instead do what is right. Our brothers in arms memorialized on panel J of the wall deserve that.

~Major Ron Doughty, U.S. Air Force (Retired), 12th Tactical Fighter Wing Pilot, Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, Vietnam, 1969