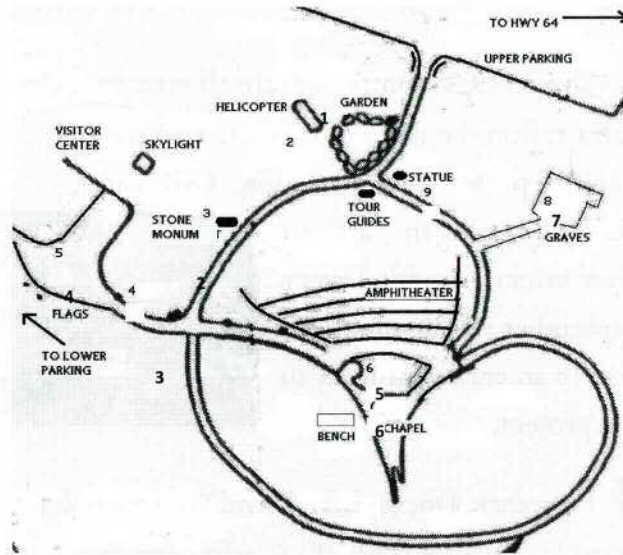


did most of the work himself.

Over the years all but 5 acres of the ranch was sold to

finance the project. The Peace and Brotherhood Chapel was completed in 1971. Doc's research into the ambush at Con Thien revealed that including David, 13 men had been killed. He chose to display 13 photos of men killed in action in Vietnam. The photos come from a collection of over 2,000 photos donated to the Memorial. David's picture always stays in the center. Doc was known to have made some dramatic statements regarding the photos in the chapel. He said, "If I found out that the person who had killed my son had in turn been killed, I would put his photo in the chapel."

**7** Both Doc and Jeanne Westphall are buried here. Riders from Run for the Wall built the fence, planted the grass and trees and laid the flagstone for the walk in 2006. David is buried at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe.



Visitor Center & Gift Shop

Open 9-5 daily May - October

Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays November - April

Chapel & grounds always open



Thank you for visiting Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park.  
We hope your visit is interesting, educational,  
memorable and healing.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park  
PO Box 242 Angel Fire, NM 87710  
Phone: (575) 377-2293 Fax: (575) 377-5943  
www.nmparks.com

## SELF-GUIDED TOUR



## VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL STATE PARK



The first and only state park in the  
U. S. dedicated exclusively to  
Vietnam veterans

Angel Fire, New Mexico



**1** Our Huey served with the 121<sup>st</sup> AHC as a smokeship and earned the name “Viking Surprise”. In March 1967 the 175<sup>th</sup> AHC was inserting troops in the Mekong Delta. The first Huey was shot down. The medevac helicopter that picked them up was also shot down followed by a third. Viking Surprise was requested to assist and by the time it arrived, 13 helicopters had gone down. After its arrival; no other aircraft were shot down. Viking Surprise returned to base badly damaged and was rebuilt on the USNS Corpus Christi where 135 bullet holes were discovered. After it was repaired this aircraft returned for duty with the 118<sup>th</sup> AHC. In 1999 the New Mexico National Guard donated it to the Memorial.

**2** In 1994 Doc visited the site where his son was killed. Before departing, he took a handful of soil to scatter at the site of the ambush. Doc brought Vietnamese soil back with him and scattered it in this spot. The name Con Thien translates to “hill of angels”.



**3** These bricks commemorate all veterans. The dates reflect the dates of service. Two stars signify a person killed in action. One star denotes missing in action. New bricks are added every September when volunteers devote an entire Saturday to the project.



**4** For years, Doc and the David Westphall Veterans Foundation (DWVF) sought permanent sources of funding. In 1982, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV)



assumed ownership. In 1985 they broke ground on the visitor center. Its design was considered very carefully due to the distinctive chapel. The result was a primarily underground structure. In 2009-10 the facility was completely renovated. New spaces were added and displays were updated. Inside the visitor center is a gift shop, movie room showing the HBO documentary *Dear America: Letters Home From Vietnam*, educational exhibits and research library with computers. In 1998, the DAV withdrew support and returned ownership to the DWVF.

**5** In 2004 the DWVF approached the state of New Mexico seeking a new source of funding. On Veterans Day 2005 the site became Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park. It is the only state park in New Mexico that does not charge a fee. A condition of the transfer requires the chapel to remain open 24 hours a day. One morning, when Doc was building it, he returned to discover a note scrawled on a piece of scrap plywood. It said, “Why did you lock the doors when I needed to come in?” Since then the doors have never been locked. In 2007 the amphitheater was built. It now hosts all our special ceremonies.



**6** In the 1960's Victor Westphall, PhD (Doc) and his wife, Jeanne, purchased the 800 acre Val Verde Ranch with the intention of building a resort. On May 22, 1968, their son, David, was killed in Vietnam. Jeanne suggested building a chapel to honor him and in September 1968 construction began. Doc