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History Center to Host Groundbreaking Exhibit on the Vietnam War
- The exhibition features a "Huey" helicopter and a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which includes names of Western Pennsylvanians killed during the war -

PITTSBURGH, April 11, 2019 – Beginning this Saturday, April 13, the Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center will host a groundbreaking exhibition on a controversial conflict that profoundly shaped American society – the Vietnam War.

Developed in partnership with the New-York Historical Society, ***The Vietnam War: 1945-1975*** exhibition takes visitors on a multimedia journey spanning the duration of U.S. involvement in Indochina, from the post-World War II advent of the Cold War to our prolonged exit in the mid-1970s.

The exhibition showcases the key players and turning points of the complex war and explores how the conflict heavily impacted our nation's trust in government, economics, popular culture, and the identity of Americans at home and abroad.

The Vietnam War exhibit uses powerful photography, fascinating artifacts, and more than 20 audio/visual displays to tell the deeply personal stories of the men and women who were impacted by the war, from the home front to the front lines.

Visitors can get up-close-and-personal with the exhibition's largest and most iconic artifact – a UH-1H "Huey" helicopter with a 48-foot wingspan used by the U.S. Army from 1967-1970.

The exhibit includes a recreated 1960s living room that demonstrates why the conflict is often referred to as the first "television war," along with vibrant anti-war posters, artwork by Vietnam War vets, and music by legendary artists like Creedence Clearwater Revival, Marvin Gaye, and Jimi Hendrix – whose songs defined the soundtrack of a generation.

New Vietnam Exhibit Explores Western Pennsylvania's Impact

The History Center's ***The Vietnam War*** exhibit also examines Western Pennsylvania's role and impact on the Vietnam War, featuring the stories of Pittsburghers who fought in combat, served in support services, and participated in the anti-war movement and humanitarian causes.

To honor our region's fallen veterans, the exhibit will display a 22-foot-wide, 8-foot-tall replica of the Vietnam War Memorial that will include the names of 752 Americans killed during the war

from eight counties in Western Pa. (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland).

Other Western Pa. connections on display include:

- The Bronze Star awarded to beloved Pittsburgh Steelers legend and Vietnam War veteran Rocky Bleier, who was drafted twice in 1968 – first by the Steelers and then by the U.S. Army. Seriously wounded by rifle and grenade fire while serving in Vietnam, Bleier returned to the Steelers after two years of rehabilitation in 1974, helping the franchise win four Super Bowl championships;
- Striking photos by award-winning photojournalist Eddie Adams, a New Kensington, Pa. native who photographed the haunting image of South Vietnamese General Nguyễn Ngọc Loan executing Nguyễn Văn Lém, a Vietcong fighter, on a Saigon street during the Tet Offensive in 1968. The image gave Americans a stark glimpse of the brutality of the Vietnam War and helped fuel a decisive shift in public opinion;
- A Viet Cong rocket launcher on loan from Soldiers & Sailors Museum; and
- Cots graffitied by Pennsylvanian soldiers aboard troopships obtained through the Vietnam Graffiti Project.

Part of the History Center's **America 101** initiative, the exhibit looks closely at the important civics lessons brought to light during the Vietnam War, including the draft, the growth of the anti-war movement, the role of the president, and the loss of political consensus.

Special Admission Rates for Veterans and Active Military

The History Center will offer special free admission days and discounts for veterans and active duty military throughout ***The Vietnam War: 1945-1975*** exhibition run.

From Saturday, April 13 through Sunday, Sept. 22, all veterans and active duty military will receive **half-off museum admission** (\$9 compared to the regular \$18 admission fee).

Additionally, on the following special dates, all veterans and active duty military will receive FREE admission:

- April 13: Opening Day
- May 25-27: Memorial Day Weekend
- July 4: Independence Day

For all other visitors, the exhibit is included with regular museum admission: \$18 for adults, \$15 for senior citizens (62+), \$9 for students with a valid school ID, \$9 for children ages 6-17, and free for History Center members and children ages 5 and under.

The Vietnam War exhibition is supported by the **Bozzone Family Foundation; The Fine Foundation; The Heinz Endowments;** and the **Richard King Mellon Foundation.**

This exhibit is also supported by the **National Endowment for the Humanities; Bernard L. Schwartz; The Achelis and Bodman Foundation;** and the **Institute of Museum and Library Services.**

The Vietnam War exhibition will be on display through Sept. 22, 2019.

For more information, visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/vietnam.

The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212

Smallman Street in the city's Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center's museum system includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at www.heinzhistorycenter.org.



Beginning April 13, the Senator John Heinz History Center's *The Vietnam War: 1945-1975* exhibition will explore the controversial conflict that profoundly shaped American society. (Pictured: Men of the 173rd Airborne Brigade on a search and destroy patrol after receiving supplies, 1966. National Archives at College Park, MD)

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