

FAC Tribute Project

Veterans who visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. for the first time have several heart wrenching hurdles to overcome. From the onset, the most difficult hurdle is gathering up the strength to confront the emotional trauma they have been burdened with since their “Tour of Duty” concluded. Many still have an empty place in their heart that was previously occupied by a close friend or a fellow warrior. The second hurdle is overcoming the survivor’s guilt. The fortunate ones figure it out early and realize that it was not their turn, yet. However, for many, numerous years pass before they too can accept their own fate. Once these hurdles have been breached, the opportunity to pay tribute to our lost brothers stands before us.

“As concrete was being poured for the foundation of the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a U.S. Navy officer walked up to the edge of the trench. He paused, threw something in, and saluted; it was his dead brother's Purple Heart. It was also the first offering left at the Wall.”

Prior to Memorial Day 2002, Colonel Dale Hill (Nail 49) wrote a tribute honoring the Forward Air Controllers and their support personnel. Dale’s tribute explains the FAC mission, but only briefly mentions the daily perils and hardships associated with this mission. I was honored when Colonel Hill asked me, along with Colonel Jonathan Myer, to join him at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. while he placed “The FAC Tribute” at the base of the “Wall”. For some this tribute is just another “Offering at the Wall”, but for those in the FAC community it is a display of great honor and love for our fellow Airmen.

Colonel Hill graciously allowed me to copy his work. I hope you will cherish this tribute to our fallen warriors who were a part of the FAC mission. The original FAC Tribute is now a part of the countless similar “Offerings” stored at the National Park Service’s Archives.

**Robert B. Green
Sergeant/Crew Chief
19th TASS, Bien Hoa Air Base, 1966-67**



L to R Crew Chief Bob Green Col. Dale Hill Col Jonathan Myer

