

March 8, 2016

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The service, and the sacrifices that Vietnam veterans made, will be recognized on Saturday, March 26, at the fifth annual Vietnam Veterans Celebration. The event is slated for 1 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Plaza, 298 E. Renfro St. (Renfro at I-35W), in Burleson. The Burleson Heritage Foundation and the City of Burleson are hosting the event.

Jan. 12, 1962, marked the United States' first combat mission against the Viet Cong. In 2012, on the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, President Obama issued a proclamation declaring March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day. March 29, 1973, was the date that the last of the troops left Vietnam.

The March 26 speakers include Ron Fry, Green Beret Retired, and Bill Hall, United States Army E-9, Sergeant Major. Fry served for 20 years in the United States Army, E-8 Master Sergeant, and he earned a Purple Heart in Vietnam. Hall served 23 years and also earned a Purple Heart in Vietnam.

Dale Dexheimer, a Navy veteran who served during the Vietnam years, is the master of ceremonies. Mayor Ken Shetter will welcome veterans of all wars and conflicts.

The Burleson High School ROTC will do the honors of posting the colors. The Pipe and Drum Brigade is slated to play "Amazing Grace," followed by the posting of the MIA flag by the Burleson ROTC, then recognition of the prisoners of war and a moment of silence. Aim your eyes to the sky to see the Burleson Police Department's honor guard do the honor salute and the playing of "Taps" from the balcony of the B&G Building.

Operation Remember representatives from the Burleson Public Library will be at the event to sell veteran bricks (\$15 each), set up interviews for the Veterans History Project, accept biographies for the veteran kiosk, and scan pictures for the veteran kiosk.

You can listen to Fry's recollections (<http://bit.ly/FryVietnam>) and Hall's experiences (<http://bit.ly/BillHallVietnam>) via the Burleson Veterans History Project, which is linked to the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. A field kit explaining the project, a registration form, and a copy of the questions that will be asked during an interview is available through the Burleson Public Library. Call Kerry Montgomery at [817-426-9206](tel:817-426-9206) to schedule an interview or to obtain additional information about the Veterans History Project.