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ROB SWAIN PHOTOGRAPHY



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For the Veterans

BY: LOUISA GAYLORD, DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

THE NEW VIETNAM VETERANS Memorial Park, which had been under construction since the beginning of the year, officially opened to the public over Memorial Day weekend in May. The dedication ceremony featured General Jim Mattis, USMC (Ret) and 26th US Secretary of Defense as the keynote speaker, as well as representatives from the City of Tukwila, Boeing Defense, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, the Museum’s Board of Trustees and members of the *Project Welcome Home* veteran committee. The momentous day also

included flyovers from the Cascade Warbirds, and a Vietnam-era Huey.

Over 3,000 people turned out to see the new Memorial Park, and 400 people watched the ceremony livestream online. Flags representing the five branches of US military, the POW/MIA and American flags were solemnly raised by the University of Washington ROTC Joint Honor Guard as the national anthem and a selection from Dvorak’s 9th symphony played.

“Veterans initiated and led this project from the start. With Museum leadership, they

met to determine what should happen to the B-52, and it became clear that a bigger purpose was called for. What began simply as the restoration of an aircraft, quickly transformed into something much more,” says Museum President Matt Hayes. “*Project Welcome Home* became a larger effort to help honor Vietnam veterans and create a place for remembrance and learning.”

The Memorial Park, located behind the Aviation Pavilion on the Museum’s west campus, is free to the public and does not require Museum admission. For construction photos, behind-the-scenes restoration videos, or to honor the legacy of a veteran in your life, visit the *Project Welcome Home* website at museumofflight.org/WelcomeHome.

We Have 4 Stars On Charity Navigator!

CHARITY NAVIGATOR, THE NATION’S LARGEST and most-utilized evaluator of charities, has **awarded The Museum of Flight a 4-star rating**. This rating indicates organizations that exceed industry standards and outperform other charities that fundraise for similar causes. Donors can be confident that organizations with 4-star ratings are financially healthy, accountable and transparent. Our rating is the result of decades of hard work by staff and volunteers who are passionate about preserving the history of aviation and space flight, and about inspiring young people to explore the wonders of aerospace.

