First Phase of Renovated Pacific Combat Zone Opens

We are pleased to announce that Phase I of the renovation of the Pacific Combat Zone is complete and now open to the public.

State of the art exhibits in this phase include PT boat 309, the only wooden patrol torpedo boat on display which saw action in WWII, and a TBM torpedo bomber similar to the one flown by former President George H.W. Bush as a young Navy pilot.

A large, to scale, map in the courtyard will help visitors get a sense of the huge expanse of the war in the Pacific. Other changes are updated restrooms and a new retail center.

Full completion of the renovation to the Pacific Combat Zone is expected by March 2017, at which time the Living History re-enactments will begin again.
During the commemoration of the 74th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, people gathered to honor the ca. 2,500 servicemen who died and those who managed to survive to go on to future battles. Captain George Fodok, USN (Ret) and senior Naval Science instructor at the Fredericksburg High School, was the keynote speaker who asked everyone present to remember the great loss of life and the fact that our nation continues to face threats so we must remain vigilant. He also said that 15 of those at Pearl Harbor that horrible day were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, nine posthumously. In his comments on heroes of the day, Fodok emphasized the courage of a Fredericksburg native, the late Martin Bruns, who risked his life to save others.

In the photo, one of the Pearl Harbor survivors present, Richard Cunningham, can be seen telling Kayla York of the Navy JROTC what it was like during that fateful day in 1941. The 94 year old veteran said that Pearl Harbor is an example of how “all heck” can break loose.

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation is participating in the 2016 Big Give S.A., a 24-hour day of philanthropy that starts at midnight on 3 May 2016 and ends at midnight the following day. The goal of this online based event is to bring public awareness to not-for-profits making an impact in 13 counties surrounding the San Antonio area, including Gillespie. Although you may not live in Texas, you have the ability to make an impact by donating on 3 May.

All donations must be made on the Admiral Nimitz Foundation’s profile page. The URL is athttps://thebiggivesa.org/. Once on the site’s main page, you can either use “find an organization” on the top right and type “Admiral Nimitz Foundation” or search “browse county” and click “Gillespie.” You can keep an eye out for updates on our Facebook page and website and share these links with your friends. It is our hope to use this day-of-giving to raise funds for new uniforms for the reenactments put on at the Pacific Combat Zone.

As our most loyal and generous donors and supporters, we are asking for your help to make a difference on May 3rd. If you have any trouble finding the website, navigating the pages, or just have general questions about the Admiral Nimitz Foundation’s participation in The Big Give S.A. 2016, please contact Erick Roy at (830) 997-8600 ext. 211 or email him at eroys@nimitzfoundation.org.
Thanking Our Membership

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation wishes to recognize those who belong to the three highest levels of Membership:

**FIVE STAR - BENEFICTOR - CHAIRMAN’S CIRCLE**

The individuals listed below are current members of the Foundation as of Valentine’s Day 2016 -- an appropriate day to show our appreciation to members, thus supporters, of the National Museum of the Pacific War. These names are from the Individual Membership program and may not reflect those of our corporate and business Membership program (Premier Business Partners).

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On July 26, 1963, families watched their television sets as President John F. Kennedy argued for a treaty banning the testing of nuclear bombs. He told them, “Eighteen years ago, the advent of nuclear weapons changed the course of the world, as well as the war. Since that time, all mankind has been struggling to escape from the darkening prospect of mass destruction on Earth.” Americans clearly understood the president’s reference: August 6, 1945, the day when a B-29 superfortress dropped the first atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan, killing some 100,000 men, women and children, many completely vaporized. Newspapers published the news with all-cap headlines describing the bomb’s destructive power. Then, on August 9, another B-29 dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, killing 40,000 people. Over the next 20 years, Americans came to understand the meaning of “Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow” all too well.

**The Blast, 1945-1950**

The first five years following Hiroshima and Nagasaki saw a return to peace and the emergence of a consumer society that would flourish in the 1950s. The United States held a monopoly over the atomic bomb, which meant no immediate threat to the country. Yet despite this, Americans knew it was just a matter of time before the Soviet Union and possibly other countries developed their own atomic bombs.

The realities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had created deep-seated anxieties that touched all Americans, even as their post-war lives improved over the Depression and war years. Adults read magazine and newspaper articles about atomic power. They listened to radio programs and read books emphasizing the two dire themes of the era: “Peace or Else,” in reference to the potential world destruction from a World War III; and “One World or None,” reflecting the movement to create a world government to oversee and control the atom. And they even played dexterity games to test their ability to drop an atomic bomb. At the same time, children learned about the dangers of the atomic bomb, yet also played with their Buck Rogers Atomic Pistols and flew their atomic bombers.

Then, on August 29, 1949, the Soviet Union successfully exploded its first atomic bomb. The following year, President Truman, recognizing a mushroom cloud over an American city was now a stark possibility, created the Federal Civil Defense Administration (FCDA) with one mission: to help men, women, and children learn how to survive an atomic war. A new phase of the Atomic Age had begun.

**The Mushroom Cloud, 1951-1956**

Beginning in January 1951, the FCDA inundated adults and children with a plethora of information in booklets, fact sheets, posters, signage, radio programs, advertisements, and films — all designed to inform, instruct, and, literally, scare the U.S. into preparing for a surprise atomic attack. By the end of the year, local civil defense agencies, community groups, radio and television stations, church groups, and schools had joined the cause. School children across the country watched the FCDA’s classic civil defense film, *Duck and Cover*; and began taking part in duck ‘n’ cover drills, which became a regular school exercise for two decades.

As the FCDA flooded cities with posters and signs about the looming atomic threat, many Americans joined civil defense organizations. By 1953, the Ground Observer Corps, a national program to watch the skies for enemy bombers, had expanded to more than 750,000 volunteers, with high school students signing up along with their parents. Worried citizens also built bomb shelters in their basements and backyards, while children played with their Atomic Chief outfits, Hubley Atomic Disintegrators, and toy radar centers, which gave them an opportunity to “watch the skies” for enemy planes.

By the mid-1950s, both the U.S. and Soviet Union had successfully tested hydrogen bombs, thousands of times more potent than the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. New emphasis was placed on city-wide evacuation drills, designed to see how fast and how far away people could get from a potential ground zero.

America entered 1957 at the height of the “Fabulous Fifties,” enjoying the rewards of the world’s strongest economy and strongest military power. By the end of the year, however, the Soviet Union had launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM); more shocking, it had launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite in orbit around Earth. A new phase in the Cold War had opened.

**Nuclear Fallout, 1957-1965**

The Soviet Union could now hit any city with a hydrogen bomb in a matter of minutes, not the hours needed for a bomber to reach the U.S. Americans no longer had time to evacuate; even people living in rural areas were susceptible to nuclear fallout, which could reach hundreds of miles.

Americans never escaped “The Bomb” — whether reading ads for civil defense while riding buses, encountering civil defense posters in public buildings, watching the evening news, or reading the daily newspaper. For children, duck ‘n’ cover drills continued into the 1960s, and classrooms continued to educate them about the realities of living in a nuclear age. Children are children, though, and nothing could stop them from playing with their atomic trains, flying kites illustrated with atomic bombs, and reading comics with assorted atomic exploits.
On 29 April 2016, a new exhibit entitled “Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow, Living with the Atomic Bomb 1945-1965” will open in the George H.W. Bush Gallery. It will spark memories for many of our readers. Many will remember the horror of the aftereffects of the initial atomic blasts in 1945, and others will recall the anxieties generated as other nations, including America’s adversaries, became nuclear powers.

On the preceding page is an essay written by Dr. Michael Scheibach, the exhibit’s curator, which explains how concerns over possible nuclear warfare evolved over the years and also the significance of the various items displayed. The exhibit features more than 75 artifacts, including posters, booklets, photographs, games, civil defense materials and toys. These are organized into the three distinct periods of the early Atomic Age: The Blast (1945-50), The Mushroom Cloud (1951-56), and Nuclear Fallout (1957-65).

On 20 May, Dr. Scheibach will give a special presentation on the exhibit’s significance in the Gallery at 4pm. Light refreshments will be served. Guests are asked to come early because food and drink are not allowed in the Gallery or during the presentation. This event is free to the public. RSVPs are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. To register, please contact Stefanie Manee-Lebens at 830 997-8600, x223, or email maneek@NimitzFoundation.org.

Join the Fleet Admiral Nimitz Legacy Society

Our Fleet Admiral Nimitz Legacy Society seeks people like you who want to commemorate the service and sacrifices of those who fought in WWII.

Become a member by making a provision in your estate for the Admiral Nimitz Foundation and National Museum of the Pacific War and notifying the Foundation of your intent.

For more information or to receive a Letter of Intent for Estate Gift, please contact Marty Kaderli on 830-997-8600, x204 or kaderli@NimitzFoundation.org. You may also visit our website, www.PacificWarMuseum.org, under “Get Involved.”

Next Symposium Addresses the Role of Women in Military Service Beginning with World War II

The topic of the annual Symposium, which will be held on 17 September 2016, is “We Served Too: The Evolution of Women’s Role in National Security.” Speakers will examine women’s roles in military service from pre-War II to current times.

The night before the event opens, the Fredericksburg Theater Company will show a film entitled: “We Served Too,” a PBS documentary about the first female pilots to fly in WWII.

More information on the upcoming Symposium, including a registration form, will be in the next newsletter and also on our website.
Dear Members,

The year, 2016, has started with a “bang.” After a major renovation to the Japanese Garden of Peace, we reopened this beautiful attraction to visitors in February. Then, after completion of the Pacific Combat Zone Phase 1 Renovation, we reopened the PT-Boat and TBM avenger exhibits, and the newly constructed Orientation Plaza the first week in March. I believe you will find the renovations, in a word, “stunning.” Hopefully, you will be able to visit and see them first hand sometime during 2016. (We plan to reopen the new battlefield at the Pacific Combat Zone early in 2017.)

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our 2015 Annual Fund Drive. Your generous contributions help ensure we can continue our important education mission. Thank you!!

The Pacific Combat Zone Phase 2 is well underway. We have taken down several buildings and are moving dirt to make way for the new 400-person amphitheater and battlefield. The new vehicle maintenance, storage and exhibit building will follow. The current plan calls for the first new living history performance to occur in March 2017.

This year starts our American Alliance of Museum Accreditation (AAM) journey. This process takes 18 months to two years to complete. We had our first visit from AAM in March. We will keep you informed on the status of this important project.

Thanks to our team here, Trip Advisor has awarded us Hall of Fame status for maintaining a five-star rating and being the #1 attraction out of 77 in Fredericksburg for the last five years. Charity Navigator has given us their highest 4-Star rating for financial management and accountability. I am proud of what our small team has accomplished over the past couple of years. Everyone here believes strongly in our mission of commemorating the service and sacrifices of our veterans, especially those who served in World War II, by educating the public on their selfless commitment through meaningful, creative and impactful programs and exhibits.

You are a critical part of this team and its success. With your help and dedicated support, you have provided the ability for us to educate our visitors and to continue to honor those who have served our country by telling their stories.

Best Wishes, Mike Hagee

Marvin Schroeder Recognized By Texas Living History Association

The Museum’s Living History program and its Director, Marvin Schroeder, were recently chosen as the recipients of the Texas Star Award by the Texas Living History Association (TLHA). The main goal of this organization is to promote living history throughout Texas, and it annually recognizes individuals, groups and events which bring history to life in excellent or unique ways. Award winners are viewed as some of the best historians in the state -- those who others can reach out to as resources or for inspiration and those who are moving living history forward in new and interesting ways.

According to Danielle Brissette, President of the TLHA, Marvin and the Nimitz Living History program were honored in recognition of “outstanding contributions by an organization or historical site towards Living History in the State of Texas.” The nomination for Marvin and the program included the observation that “their living history interpretation attempts to connect their guests with a better understanding of the life and death struggle that occurred in the Pacific Theater of World War II. For their attention to detail and great passion for this story, they deserve to be recognized.”

Brissette commented that she had been approached at the nominating conference by many members who mentioned what an exemplary job the Living Historians at the Nimitz are doing. She also said that their field trip through the Museum and battlefield was a highlight of the conference, and it will be a challenge to meet that bar next year.
Our Memorial Day commemoration on 30 May 2016 will feature Dennis Blocker as its keynote speaker. Dennis was born into an Air Force family and as such, he traveled the globe and had the privilege of attending DOD schools. Because of this background, a tremendous love of country and appreciation of the military was instilled in him. He has worked in San Antonio emergency rooms for the past 17 years as a medic. Twelve of these years were in a Level I Trauma Center.

While off duty, however, he pursued another quest involving his own family which brought him into a close involvement with this Museum. It is a fascinating story of love, determination and skill. It is one that all of us should know as we pursue gaps in family knowledge and run up against walls which appear to be made of stone.

It begins with Dennis growing up with a grandfather, Clifford F. Lemke, whom he dearly loved and admired -- but who revealed next to nothing about his WWII experiences. When he died, Dennis’s mother said she wished she knew more because she was sure her father had endured something terrible. Dennis, too, ached to know more about this facet of his grandfather’s life, but he did not know where to begin. What he finally found was an untold story of war in the Pacific.

The discovery on the fly leaf of a book of the name of the vessel his grandfather served on, LCI-449, began the process. Through research, Dennis found that Lemke had been on a harrowing and tragic mission at Iwo Jima, and he had seen the worst of the war. [More details can be found on the events surrounding Lemke’s gunboat group in the First Quarter, 2005, issue of the *Nimitz News.*] Later, by a real stroke of luck, on his way to the Alamo Archives, Dennis ran into a group of men with hats which read “National LCI Association.” Some knew of the events that LCI-449 had been through and sent Blocker information pertaining to them. During the past 15 years, Dennis interviewed over 300 WWII veterans who were associated with his grandfather’s gunboat group. His research also uncovered over 400 letters written by men who were killed in action at Iwo Jima.

Dennis’ research on his grandfather’s service led to him contacting Mitch Weiss, a Pulitzer Prize winning author, who braided expertly the individual stories found by Blocker into the newly published book, *The Heart of Hell.* Weiss said that as he wrote, “he could see the men on the gunboat, headed into battle, wondering if they would live or die. He could also see his father, an Army machine gunner who served in the Pacific, and his spirit guided him as well.”

Following the Memorial Day program, which begins at 10am, Dennis will sign *The Heart of Hell* until 1pm. The book is available through the Admiral Nimitz Bookstore for $28. To order, email: nimitz-bookstore.com or call 830-997-8600, ext. 252. Shipping and Texas taxes are extra.

Dennis has been the Pacific War Historian for the National Landing Craft Infantry Association for the past ten years. In that role, he began a campaign to attain stories, photographs and memorabilia from LCI veterans. The effort was a tremendous success, and Dennis oversaw the donation of the Association’s Archives to the National Museum of the Pacific War.

**Join Our Growing Genealogical Society**

**Sons & Daughters of WWII Veterans™**

**PLEASE VISIT:** www.sons&daughtersofww2veterans.org for information and to download an application.
The Japanese at Tarawa
by Richard Koone

Tarawa atoll in the Gilbert Islands was a British possession prior to the war. The main island of Tarawa atoll is Betio, which is shaped like a bird and covers approximately one square mile. The airfield built by the Japanese was the objective of the U.S. assault on 20 November 1943.

Although raided and declared occupied by the Japanese on 10 December 1941, the real occupation of the atoll did not occur until September 1942. As a result of the U.S. Marine raid on Makin, 16 August 1942, the Japanese rapidly reinforced positions in the Gilberts. On 15 September 1942, the Yokosuka 6th Special Navy Landing Force (SNLF) landed on Betio for garrison duty. In December, the 111th Pioneers arrived to begin the construction of the island’s defenses. In February 1943, the Yokosuka 6th SNLF was redesignated the 3d Special Base Force. In addition, Rear Admiral Tomanari Saichiro arrived to take command of Japanese forces in the Gilberts.

On 17 March 1943, the Sasebo 7th SNLF reached Betio and joined the 3d Special Base Force as garrison troops. In May, the 4th Construction Unit arrived. There was a change in command in August when Rear Admiral Shibazaki relieved Tomanari.

Shibazaki commanded all Japanese forces in the Gilberts until his death on 20 November 1943. He and his senior staff were killed by gunfire from a U.S. Navy destroyer as they were moving to a secondary command post. He is reputed to have said that “it would take a million men 100 years” to conquer the island.

Each SNLF was organized as an infantry battalion with three rifle companies and 4 75mm Mountain Guns, 2 70mm Infantry Howitzers, 2 37mm anti-tank guns, 12 medium machineguns, 36 light machineguns, and 36 grenade dischargers. The 3rd Special Base Force was reinforced by a Coast Artillery battalion with 4 8-inch guns, 4 140mm guns, and 3 76mm guns, an Anti-Aircraft battalion with 4 127mm twin mounted guns, and almost two dozen 13.2mm anti-aircraft machineguns. All the anti-aircraft weapons were mounted to be able to engage ground targets if necessary. The garrison also had a tank company with 14 Type 95 light tanks. Some accounts also mention 80mm anti-boat guns.

Besides the combat units, the two construction units had a total of 2,237 men, of whom 1,200 were Korean forced laborers. Total troops on the island differ in various accounts but is somewhere between 4,838 and 4,856. At the end of the battle, only 17 Japanese had been taken prisoner (one officer and sixteen enlisted men) and only 129 of the Korean laborers survived.

On Tarawa, the Japanese constructed their fortifications at the water line. A seawall built of coconut logs was constructed around most of the island. Rifle pits and machinegun positions were built into the wall in many places. They were, for the most part, made of coconut logs and sandbags and covered with more sand. Both log and concrete pillboxes were placed along the wall in some spots. Coastal defense guns were in concrete bunkers or log positions, many times with overhead cover; anti-aircraft guns were in pits. The command bunker was concrete and covered with sand. The Japanese also emplaced many land and sea mines along with barbed wire obstacles and dug anti-tank ditches in places.

The 2d Marine Division took the island in 76 hours of brutal fighting and at a tremendous cost. Final casualty figures for the 2nd Marine Division at Tarawa were 997 Marines and 30 sailors (organic medical personnel) dead; 88 Marines missing and presumed dead; and 2,233 Marines and 59 sailors wounded. Total casualties: 3,407. The Guadalcanal campaign had cost a comparable amount of Marine casualties over six months; Tarawa’s losses occurred in a period of 76 hours. Moreover, the ratio of killed to wounded at Tarawa was significantly high, reflecting the savagery of the battle.

Tarawa became a symbol of raw courage and sacrifice on the part of attackers and defenders alike. Ten years after the battle, General Julian Smith paid homage to both sides in an essay in Naval Institute Proceedings. He saluted the heroism of the Japanese who chose to die almost to the last man. Then he turned to his beloved 2d Marine Division and their shipmates in Task Force 53 at Betio: For the officers and men, Marines and sailors, who crossed that reef, either as assault troops, or carrying supplies, or evacuating wounded I can only say that I shall forever think of them with a feeling of reverence and the greatest respect.

**Future Exhibit of Norman Rockwell Work**

**Norman Rockwell in the 1940s: A View of the American Homefront**

*16 September 2016 - 13 January 2017*

Many of Norman Rockwell’s *Saturday Evening Post*’s covers created during the 1940s were inspired by life on the American Homefront during the war. This exhibition of Rockwell’s covers, which will chronicle the impact of social and political events during the WWII era, is being put on in conjunction with the Norman Rockwell Museum, located in Stockbridge, MA.

The Fredericksburg Art Walk will include this exhibit on 7 October, and the Curator of Education from the Rockwell Museum will be on hand to speak.

More information will be in the future newsletters and on the website.

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**Curators’ Cart Returns 18 April 2016!**

Come and stop by the Curator’s cart in the George H.W. Bush Gallery on 18 April 2016. The Museum’s Curatorial Department has chosen some special material from our archives for you to view and possibly handle. This is a great opportunity to learn about what we have behind the scenes and the stories that can be found there. One of our archivists will be at the Cart from 10am to 12pm to introduce you to some of our donated treasures.

There is no charge for this event so please come and have a look.

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**Nimitz Exhibits Join the Fredericksburg Art Walk**

Two of the Museum’s exhibits will be included in the Fredericksburg Art Walk this year. The Tom Lea exhibit, currently on display, will be open to Art Walk participants on 1 April from 5-8pm. Wine and light refreshments will be served.

As indicated above, on 7 October, the Norman Rockwell exhibit will be on the Art Walk with its Curator of Education present.
Please join General Michael Hagee in welcoming William W. Sherrill as the featured speaker for the 2016 Leadership Seminar. It will be held 22 April 2016 in the Nimitz Ballroom. Sherrill was the founder of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Houston’s Bauer College of Business Administration. He is now Chairman Emeritus of the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship at that college. He will speak on Leadership: Do You Care?

Sherrill, who enlisted at age 15, chose the U.S. Marine Corps and served four years in World War II. He was wounded in action on Iwo Jima. After the war, he received his BBA from the University of Houston and his MBA with Distinction in Finance and Manufacturing from Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

He went on to head both large and small corporations and served in both the private and government sectors of finance. At the national level, he was a Governor of the Federal Reserve System in Washington, D.C. and Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and at a local level, he served as Treasurer of the city of Houston.

Doors to the Ballroom will open at 2:30 pm. The Seminar will begin at 3 pm and will conclude at approximately 5 pm, followed by light refreshments until 6 pm. Individual tickets are $15.

Please contact Marty Kaderli at Kaderli@NimitzFoundation.org or (830) 997 8600, x204, to purchase tickets -- or you may register online at PacificWarMuseum.org under “News and Events.” Members of Premier Business Partners will be admitted with current membership, but must register to attend.

William W. Sherrill, who will speak on “Leadership: Do You Care?”

Honoring Those Who Saved 317 Survivors of the USS Indianapolis

In November 2015, a special wall was dedicated in the National Museum of the Pacific War Courtyard with over 15 plaques in memory of the sinking of the USS Indianapolis and all that ensued. After delivering components of the atomic bomb to Tinian on 26 July 1945, the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed and sank in 12 minutes while on its way to the Philippines. Due to lack of appropriate oversight, the Navy did not know the ship was missing. It is estimated 880 sailors and marines made it into the water. For four days, the survivors bobbed in the water, most of them without food or water. Hope for rescue turned into despair and delirium as they saw their shipmates fall victim to shark attacks or succumb to the elements. They were at the end of their rope. Through the courageous efforts of aviators and rescue ships, 317 of the survivors were finally saved. These plaques honor and give thanks to all involved in the rescue effort.

“We are very proud to have this wall dedicated to the USS Indianapolis... What impresses me the most about whatever occurred at that time, we were at war...very dangerous and yet when Americans saw other Americans in danger it did not matter...they did whatever was required to reach out and help those individuals. That’s something special. That’s something that we cannot lose as Americans. My sense is that as long as we have memorials such as this, we will not.” said General Michael Hagee, 33rd Commandant of the USMC and CEO of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation.

James Houghton, spearhead of the project, commented “What amazes me is the grit and determination of the remaining survivors to draw on their last ounce of strength to hold on as rescue drew near after four days in the water. They were going to make it and return to their loved ones. They have faced the horrible memories of that tragedy to later come together and share their stories of how they have dealt with adversity -- to come home, raise wonderful families, and not let that tragedy define how they were going to live the rest of their lives. Each of those on the plaques shows not only dedication and the memory of their shipmates, but also a commitment to God, family, and their country. The Nimitz Memorial Courtyard is a fitting spot for their memorial story,
Our Partnership with the Texas Historical Commission:
Working together by agreement as a state agency and a non-profit organization, the THC and Admiral Nimitz Foundation formed a new public/private partnership created to preserve the historic resources of the National Museum of the Pacific War and guide the expansion of the Museum. It is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater battles of World War II.
The Admiral Nimitz Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit foundation eligible for corporate matching grants. Foundation members may forward any forms for matching gift programs with their membership contributions.

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation
328 E. Main St. • Fredericksburg, TX 78624

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation was recently rated Four Star by Charity Navigator -- the leading independent evaluator of non-profit charities in the U.S. A Four Star rating shows exceptional managerial efficiency exceeding industry standard.

Renovated Peace Garden Opens to Public

A
fter a ribbon cutting ceremony, on 19 February, the restored Japanese Peace Garden is now open for visitors. The renovations, which cost over $400,000, returned the garden to the Japanese architect’s original design.

Support for the project came from the Still Water Foundation, the City of Fredericksburg, and members of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation.

The garden was originally a gift from the Japanese people, because of their respect for Admiral Nimitz and his conciliatory actions after the war. The Garden was dedicated in 1976. A second dedication is forthcoming. Watch our website for dates and details.