

# Vietnam exhibit has special face for mom

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Dorothy Schafernocker, called "Momma" by the Vietnam War veterans she has helped over the years, will long remember Veterans Day 1994.

She was among the guests of honor at the opening of a new exhibit at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin, *Faces From The Vietnam War*.

One of the 44 faces of men and women who served in Vietnam was that of her son, Michael Edward Schafernocker of Arlington, a helicopter door gunner who was killed in action.

"It was a wonderful experience to sit there and see my son's face up on that wall with all the others," Schafernocker said recently.

Hosting the Nov. 11 unveiling ceremony and luncheon were Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of the late president, and Gen. Marc Cisneros, commanding general, 5th U.S. Army in San Antonio.

Her son's picture is in good company, Schafernocker said, noting that it is on the library's wall along with that of a Medal of Honor recipient, a POW camp survivor, a Green Beret and an MIA whose fate is still unknown.

The pictorial wall pays tribute to America's service personnel who served in Vietnam.

Schafernocker said the pictures are informal snapshots as well as studio portraits and look like they were taken off a family's wall and rehung in the LBJ Library. An accompanying panel tells the story of each individual on the wall.

The exhibit is a portion of the museum's permanent collection, *America 1963-1969*.

## Military Notes



Michael Schafernocker: Vietnam vet featured in photo exhibit

Vietnam is never far from Schafernocker's thoughts or life. She is a tireless worker for area Vietnam veterans and the back yard of her lake home near Newark holds a shrine to those vets and her son.

"Some of the vets built it for me," she said. "They gave me an flag pole and then built a small, square memorial area around it.

Two sides of the square are covered with blue-painted bricks. In the center is a stone tablet bearing an outline of Texas and a bronze plaque honoring Michael. On the inside of the brick wall are the

names of other area veterans.

"I will never forget them or what they did for our country," Schafernocker said. "They are all heroes in my mind and I will do everything I can for them for as long as I can."