

Denver Veterans Celebration 9 NOV 19
by Bill Bates

Another interesting day in the HWM. Visitors were absent during the parade but after the parade, whoa Nellie. I helped meter the visitors so overcrowding was minimized. Terry did the introduction to the Museum. Carl, Doug, Phil, Rick and Dale took turns manning the interior exhibits. Carl and Dale took turns manning the tent sales. As activity slowed, a fifty-ish man, who was blind, entered the HWM. He had an escort who was trying to tell him what he was "seeing". I stepped in and handed him our "Jesus nut" that we have on display. I described the application of the "Jesus nut" while he sized it up. From there we went to the Huey cockpit mock up and maneuvered him into the seat. When children are in the seat they tend to test the mechanical strength of each device. Not him. I put his hand up to the dash, then to the radio panel and finally the collective with a delicate touch of discovery he examined each device. At the collective I ran through a startup. I didn't have to ask if he enjoyed the tour, I could see the look on his face.

Another visitor, female and seventy-ish rode our lift into the HWM on her wheelchair. Half way into the Museum I ask if I could answer any questions. She asked what a Cobra looked like. After I pointed out the pictures, she told me her husband was KIA in Vietnam while flying a Cobra. I pulled out the VHPA directory and found his name. She looked momentarily and said it was time for her to go. She was quiet on the way out but I can't help but admire the courage it took for her to come in.

Docents don't get the same experience every event. You have to be light on your feet so new challenges are met to complete our mission of public awareness. My dancing partners that day were Rick Beaver, Carl Cavluzzi, Doug Neil, Terry Olson, Phil Lanphier, and Dale House.