

“The NAM ERA: Never Forgotten”, A Vietnam veterans photographic tribute by J. Michael Johnson opens with a reception on November 11, 2017

The Pickens County Museum of Art & History will be presenting The NAM ERA: Never Forgotten exhibit in the multi-purpose room and focus gallery beginning November 9th, 2017 through January 6th 2018. Please join us on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11 from 6:00pm until 8:00 p.m. as we host a reception to see the “Nam Era: Never Forgotten” – a controversial photographic tribute by J. Michael Johnson.

[An early Veterans' Day preview of this exhibit will be held on Thursday, November 9 from 10:00am - 7:30 pm. for those unable to attend the Saturday afternoon reception.](#)

J. Michael Johnson was born and raised in East Tennessee and has lived in the southeast United States all his life. He began taking images and working in his darkroom over thirty years ago. He has traveled extensively across the United States and the world to capture images. J. Michael's love of photography, his self-taught methods, and in-field seminars with nationally known photographers have truly defined the subjects he has photographed and written about over the years..



J. Michael Johnson, “1959”

J. Michael's love of photographing the Vietnam veterans at The Wall (Vietnam Veterans Memorial), in Washington DC has provided him a serious collection of photographs and written documentation of veterans remembering a fallen comrade, a brother, a sister or a father whose name is now engraved forever in the black granite of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. J. Michael's color and black and white “Nam Era” photographs have captured Americans expressing our precious Freedom of Speech at the Wall. Now some of these images are hanging in friends private collections.

When asked about his work, Johnson said, “The Nam Era: Never Forgotten”, is a Vietnam veterans photography tribute that I started in 1997 at The Wall in Washington, DC. It shows us that “Freedom Is Not Free” as another part of J. Michael's photojournalist journey into the motorcycle lifestyle that is so often shield away from by so many civilians and journalists.”

Michael continues, “The early Sunday morning walks into the depth and quietness of The Wall which allow me to digitally capture veterans visiting names on ‘The Wall’ that represent the real human cost of freedom. The names of young boys and girls growing up too fast, fighting a war on foreign soil and in so many cases giving their lives fighting for American freedom in lands that some say God forgot - Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. These 45 plus digital images show friends and family members touching loved ones' names and making a rubbing of the name so they can remember, honor and keep their loved ones memory alive. It also serves to remind us that we still have POW-MIA's in Vietnam.” Johnson concluded, “There are still parts of this exhibit that live only in my head as I sometimes must make the decision as when to let an award-winning image go because a Vietnam vet's personal privacy was much more important than a photograph.”



J. Michael Johnson, "Freedom is Not Free"

Since 1997, J. Michael's photographic and written work about THE Nam Era and Daytona's Bike Week, as well as many other motorcycle rallies and events, has been featured many times in "Easyriders", "Biker" and "In The Wind" magazines. Lehman Trikes of Canada has published J. Michael's work in their Pride Matters magazine. He has provided commercial photography services to various companies in the motorcycle industry. His renown in motorcycle lifestyle photography has resulted in his giving slide shows to numerous motorcycle clubs, churches and civic groups. His most requested images are of the Vietnam veterans visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC during "Rolling Thunder" events.

J. Michael travels to many motorcycle rallies and events and other special places each year.

J. Michael is a member of the Professional Photographers of America, the co-founder of the Spartanburg Photo Guild, a member of the Daytona Beach Florida Chamber of Commerce and a member of the American Image Press. He served two terms on the Board of Trustees of The Spartanburg Art Museum in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Pickens County Museum is located at the corner of Hwy. 178 at 307 Johnson Street in Pickens, SC, and is open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission is free but donations are welcomed.

For more information about The Pickens County Museum of Art & History, please contact Daniel James the Museum Curator at (864) 898-5963