

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

311 E. Austin Street
Fredericksburg, Texas

Contact: Tom Vortmann, 830-997-8600 x205

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2010

PHOTO EXHIBIT TO DEBUT AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

Chungking and Shanghai in 1945: to open Friday, June 25

The National Museum of the Pacific War and the George H.W. Bush Gallery are extremely excited to announce the Grand Opening of the CHUNGKING AND SHANGHAI, 1945 Exhibit June 25, 2010. Official opening will begin at 1:30 PM with the privileged introduction of Mr. Roger Moore, Photographers Mate Second Class, U.S. Navy, who captured the images so vividly displayed in this exhibit taken in 1945, at the end of World War II.

Mr. Moore, after graduating from Kenmore High School in Kenmore, New York, entered the United States Navy in 1943, completing coursework in the U.S. Navy Photography School, Pensacola, Florida. He then volunteered for prolonged and hazardous duty in a theater of war that was unknown to him at the time. The special duty turned out to be in the interior of China the Japanese had invaded in 1937, and had gained control of the Chinese coastline and its major cities.

The Navy unit to which he was assigned was referred to as SACO (Sino American Cooperative Organization), in Kunming, Chungking, and Shanghai, China, where he served from 1944-1946. The unit set up weather stations throughout the interior of China so that the weather could be monitored for the U.S. Pacific Fleet along with the Allies. It turned out to be a very important, successful operation, and when V-J Day came on August 15, 1945, all available U.S. troops in China, including his unit, were re-deployed to the coastal cities of China to take control away from the Japanese.

Photographers Mate Moore was assigned to Shanghai, where he found the people unmercifully mistreated by the Japanese during their occupation. Under these circumstances, he expected to find the Chinese people to be discouraged and oppressed. However, to his amazement, it was quite the opposite. Their demeanor and resolve remained unbelievably positive, which will be evident upon visiting the exhibit and viewing the photographs that reveal very different visual emotions.

It is important as the photographs are viewed for the first time not to rush, but take pause and study the detail of each piece, which is not just a photograph, but rather a work of art, Fine Art and history! Also remember, these people are human beings that have just been through ten years of terrible treatment but can still manage to smile! For example, the smiling Chinese girl

titled “Knitting Needles”, Shanghai, 1945, with the caption by C.W.Metcalf “Take your work seriously, but yourself lightly.” Or, “Elder with pipe”, Shanghai, 1945, caption by Chuang-tzu 369-286 B.C. “I do not know whether I was then a man dreaming I was a butterfly, or whether I am now a butterfly dreaming I am a man.”

Roger Moore received his B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York. In 1950 he began a career in major highway construction in up-state New York using his engineering skills. By 1985 he was ready to venture out on his own founding a construction company in the Buffalo, New York area. It continues in business today.

Roger and his wife, Edith, have three children, Greg, Robin, and Judy, and seven grandchildren. He and his wife, Edith, retired to Amelia Island, Florida in 1990. He has been a member of the Island Art Association in Fernandina Beach since 1995. The IAA is a Co-Op Art Gallery which he served as President for two terms. He states “*photography is my choice for expression.*”

He has also conducted numerous art shows since retiring, including Florida Community College Jacksonville-North Campus; First Coast Community Bank, Fernandina Bank; and Amelia Island Museum of History.

He has had several books Published: **Amelia Island and Fernandina Beach** History & Photographs; **Arfie at Amelia, Arfie Finds A Job, Arfie Plays Pirates**/children’s books; Teaching: Florida Community College at Jacksonville-Nassau Campus-“The Camera, Your Friend: Learning More Photography” Spring and Fall 2001-2005.

The best way to illustrate where Rogers heart remains is to use his own words from his Navy days:

“As I patrolled the streets and docks of Shanghai on my Navy photo assignments, I took care of my Navy duties first, but I always had my personal camera, a Rolleiflex, available to capture portraits of these courageous workers. In 1945, I focused on the eyes of these folks and got an image. Sixty-five years later, I can see into their heart.....I hope you can too!”

Kind Regards, Roger Moore, 2009

The National Museum of the Pacific War, a Texas Historical Commission Property operated by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, tells the complete story of the War in the Pacific and is dedicated to the men and women who served in the command of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, a native of Fredericksburg.

www.PacificWarMuseum.org