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Vietnam veteran Danny Barnes, of Webster, sings to honor and remember

By Dan Glickman, staff writer

Messenger Post

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On the Web

[Danny Barnes' website](#)

Webster, N.Y. — Webster resident Danny Barnes, 61, has been a musician for most of his life, but his current musical projects deal with another career he once held: soldier.

Barnes, a Vietnam veteran who served in the 11th Infantry Brigade in 1969 and 1970, is writing and singing ballads that honor and remember veterans. One of the projects is for the tenth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, and the other project, an album entitled "Written In Stone," is about Vietnam veterans, those who came home and those who didn't.

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One name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. in particular means a lot to Barnes.

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"[During the war,] I had gotten to be good friends with a guy named Dennis Timmons," said Barnes, "He was a Berkeley music graduate before he got drafted, and he was killed in the war."

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Barnes honors his lost friend in a unique way: his custom-built "dream guitar." Emblazoned on the guitar's body is a partial replica of a panel of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the panel that Timmons' name is on. It is this guitar that Barnes has been using to record "Written In Stone," as well as his 9/11 project.

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Of his album, Barnes said it had "always been my goal to play, and sing, and write an album that could be soldier-oriented, and that's what we're working on."

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Barnes isn't it for the money; he's motivated to help charitable causes and to honor his fellow veterans. One of his first performances after he got his "dream guitar" was to sing one of his newest songs, "We Built The Wall," in tribute to assembled veterans in Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, who were visiting "The Moving Wall," a touring half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He also has performed the song for the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 30th anniversary dinner, and has previously performed a song entitled "That Black Wall" at Washington, D.C.'s Sylvan Theater for the 25th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 2007.

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Barnes hopes that "Written in Stone," when finished, will benefit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, or VVMF, which is currently building a education center near the memorial that will showcase some of the mementos left at the wall over the years and celebrate American veterans.

So how's the music? Well, Barnes said that after his performance at the VVA chapter 20 anniversary dinner, he received "a lot of compliments." With luck, those compliments will continue when "Written in Stone" is released later this year.

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