

HONORS & AWARDS:

February 17, 1969: Texas Lieutenant Governor, Ben Barnes addressed a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives to introduce a Senate Resolution recognizing Mr. Baines for his distinguished service in Vietnam. Mr. Baines and his mother, who also attended the ceremony, received a standing ovation.

1981: At 30-years of age, Mr. Baines was recognized as an "Outstanding Young Texan" by Who's Who in Texas Business.

November 10, 1981: President Ronald Reagan greeted Mr. Baines and a small contingent of Vietnam Veterans at the White House to announce the President's newly created Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. Mr. Baines served as a co-chairman of the "VVLP" from 1981 to 1984.

November 9, 1986: Mr. Baines was responsible for the creation of Veterans Memorial Plaza and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in downtown San Antonio.

December 4, 1986: The Mayor and City Council of San Antonio commended Mr. Baines for his "unselfish service and sacrifices for all veterans of our nation's conflicts, particularly those of the Vietnam War who shall always be remembered through your untiring efforts..." "The Mayor and City Council call to the attention of all citizens of San Antonio your very important contributions and hereby proclaim you as Benefactor of the Community."

July 28, 1987: As a result of Mr. Baines personal invitation, General Alfred M. Gray (29th Commandant of the Marine Corps) was the keynote speaker at a ceremony to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the battle of Hill-881 South and the Khe Sanh hill fights. Accompanying General Gray on his visit to San Antonio were future Assistant Commandant General Walter E. Boomer and the 11th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, David W. Sommers. The Commandant's full staff were also present.

February 21, 1988: The National Association of Vietnam Veterans recognized Mr. Baines for his efforts to make San Antonio's Vietnam Veterans Memorial a reality. "The Association deeply appreciates your outstanding contribution to our veterans. It exemplifies in the finest tradition our motto: A vet helping a vet."

August 18, 1988: Mr. Baines was honored by the United States Marine Corps at a Meritorious Mast for his efforts to create "Hill-881 South", San Antonio's Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

September 2, 1988: Mr. Baines was an honored guest at The Commandant's House, Marine Barracks, Marine Corps Headquarters, Washington, DC. The following is an excerpt of a subsequent letter from the Commandant..." John, the dedication of San Antonio's Vietnam Veterans Memorial was a great day for Vietnam veterans and for America. Your dedicated professionalism and superior leadership made all of this happen. Your inspiring effort has earned the deepest respect of your Marine Corps, your Navy, of all the armed forces and from a grateful nation. Semper Fi – Al Gray, 29th Commandant, United States Marine Corps."

1989: During President George H.W. Bush's administration, the House Minority Whip nominated Mr. Baines for an appointment to Under Secretary of the Navy. Even though, he was passed over in the final selection process, Mr. Baines was honored to have been nominated.

1989 & 1991: Mr. Baines received the J.C. Penny Golden Rule Award twice, as San Antonio's outstanding volunteer for his work on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

October 27, 1992: Mr. Baines received a Citation from the City of San Antonio for his "Outstanding Service to the Community" as a member of the Riverwalk Commission.

2009: Mr. Baines was a member of the steering committee to create a Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial on Veterans Memorial Plaza, San Antonio, Texas.

May 15, 2014: Mr. Baines was the keynote speaker at Marcus Luttrell's "Lone Survivor Foundation" gala in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

February 28, 2019: Mr. Baines was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony for The Wall That Heals, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Texas.

2020: The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce selected Mr. Baines to serve as chairman of their 50th Anniversary of Celebrate America's Military. The two-week, fifty-event celebration was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

March 19, 2022: The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution selected Mr. Baines for their highest, most prestigious award, The Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor presentation ceremony was held at the DAR convention in Houston, Texas.

November 3, 2022: Mr. Baines was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony for The Wall That Heals, Toyota manufacturing plant, San Antonio, Texas.

March 28, 2024: Mr. Baines was the inaugural inductee on the War Veterans Honor Wall – Guadalupe County Veterans Outreach Center, Seguin, Texas.

October 5, 2024: Mr. Baines was invited to address the Congressional Medal of Honor Society at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial during their convention in San Antonio. Much to his regret, he had to decline the invitation due to health issues.

November 9, 2024: Mr. Baines was asked to serve as Grand Marshall of the Military City USA Veterans Day Parade. Much to his regret, he had to decline the invitation due to health issues.

Mr. Baines professional career, military service and his involvement in veteran related programs have been featured in magazine articles and hard cover books: New York Times, U.S. News & World Report ("Eight Viet Vets Who Came Out Winners"), Newsweek magazine, Texas Monthly magazine, Texas Highways magazine, Stars and Stripes, Navy Times, Marines magazine, Leatherneck magazine, Military Times, The Retired Officer magazine, Soldier of Fortune, Warriors Remembered, The Khe Sanh Hill Fights, The Art of War, and Vietnam – Even God is Against Us.

Mr. Baines has been a highly sought after public speaker for over 40-years. His topics include The Wall That Heals, San Antonio's Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam War and veteran related topics. He has addressed Vietnam era reunion groups from West Point, the Naval Academy, active duty military units, military veterans organizations, high school ROTC programs, government agencies and civic clubs.