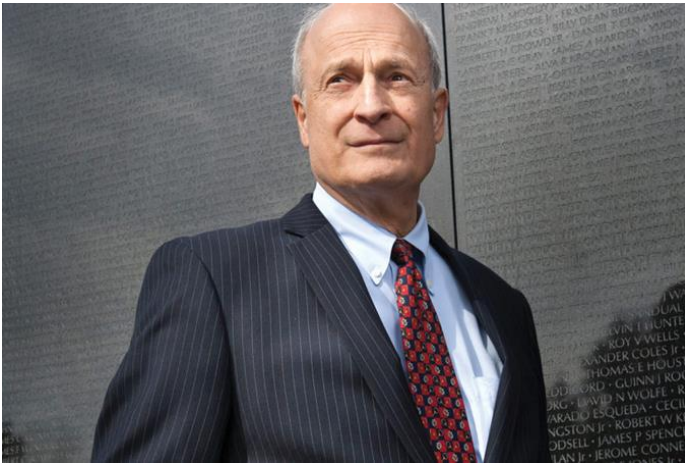




**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**  
Invites you to its meeting, March 22 at 11 AM at the  
**First Presbyterian Church, 37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT.**  
The program will also be shown on Webinar: <https://bit.ly/30IBj21>

## **Robert Doubek**

### **“Creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial: The Inside Story”**



Since its dedication in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has become an American cultural icon symbolizing the war in Vietnam. The black granite wall of names is one of the most familiar images associated with the war; today the memorial remains one of the nation's most visited monuments. While the memorial has enjoyed broad acceptance by the American public, its origins were both

humble and contentious.

Robert Doubek will discuss the creation of the memorial as told in his memoir, *Creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial - The Inside Story*. It was a grassroots effort launched by veterans with no funds and sparked an emotional debate about aesthetics and the interpretation of heroism, patriotism and history that nearly doomed the project. Doubek's account tells the complete story of the memorial's creation amid Washington politics, a nationwide design competition and the heated controversy over the winning design and its creator.

Doubek grew up in an American family with Czech roots. They were bakers and confectioners for three generations, including his. In 1962, he enrolled at the University of Illinois, studying Political Science, German, and Russian. Soon after graduating from the University, Robert was commissioned in the Air Force. He served as an intelligence officer in Vietnam, focusing on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, among other projects. After his service, he earned a law degree at Georgetown University.

In 1979 Doubek co-founded the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and served as its Executive Director and Project Director until completing the memorial in mid-1983.

Presently, as an employee of the U.S. State Department, Robert travels worldwide to purchase land for construction of new U.S. embassy and consulate compounds. He lives in Washington, D.C.

**Next week: March 29 , C. Griffith Mann, Ph.D., Curator in Charge of the Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters, “Unicorns and Heroes: John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Tapestries at The Met Cloisters.”**

*The Greenwich Retired Men’s Association offers a free program every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. For additional information see [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org) or contact us by email at [info@greenwichrma.org](mailto:info@greenwichrma.org).*