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DEAR GUARDSMAN: All of a sudden, it dawned on us: the dislocations, problems—and sweat—involved in the business of moving into a not-quite-finished National Guard Memorial and climaxing it with the memorable dedication ceremonies, took place a whole year ago.

The recollection prompted some thumbing-through of the Visitors' Register on its marble counter in Memorial Hall. "Retired Farmer" Harry Truman's is the first name on the first line of the first page. A year's time has enrolled 900-some other names representing a true cross-section of the Active Forces, the Army Guard, the Air Guard, and other reserve components. There's every rank from Pvt to four-star General. Every one of the 50 States, plus Puerto Rico and, of course, the District of Columbia, is represented—not to mention one visitor from Ireland and another from Finland.

Considering that Pop signs for the whole family—and that a fair number of other visitors neglect to sign-in (like the small group of Russians who strolled in the other day—part of a group staying in a hotel across the street), we'd say conservatively that well over a thousand have looked over our fine Memorial. And, judging from volunteered comments, they've gone back to Pierre, SD, or Santurce, PR, or wherever, impressed, well-pleased, and proud that their building lends prestige and dignity to the Nation's Number One reserve component. We hope more and more of you will come and visit your Memorial. —AGC

OUR COVER: More and more, Houston's Ellington AFB is becoming the Mecca on which Air Guard Comdrs converge each Spring to get the latest word from top AF and ANG brass. More than 1,000 attended this year and the scope of the powwow can be seen in the array of more than 240 planes in which the conferees journeyed to the Texas Base.

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