



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

June 29, 2012

Governor Deval Patrick
Office of the Governor
State House, Executive Office
Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

JUL 16 2012

Dear Governor Patrick:

Thirty years ago this November, thousands of Vietnam veterans marched through the streets of our nation's capital in a demonstration of remembrance, solidarity, and reverence to the dedication ceremony of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. They marched not for themselves, but for more than 58,000 U.S. service members who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War. The Wall, as the Memorial is more widely known, ensures that these men and women who died do not become just a statistic in the collective American psyche. Their names are etched eternally in the polished granite of the Wall, personalizing the numbers into what they were and still are—cherished family and beloved friends.

In the three decades since that day, The Wall has helped heal a nation deeply divided by the Vietnam War and has paid eternal tribute to those who lost their lives in Vietnam. It has provided solace and comfort to more than 3 million Vietnam veterans and their families. As the most visited memorial in Washington, D.C. with more than 4 million visitors annually, The Wall, with its undeniable, silent power, pleads for present and future generations to understand the terrible cost of war.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) and its Board of Directors respectfully request your help honoring veterans of the Vietnam War and raising awareness of The Wall's 30th anniversary among Americans, specifically the citizens of your great state, by issuing a proclamation to mark this historic occasion. Veterans of the Vietnam War fought bravely for their families, their friends, and their country. We, the American people, must not forget their incredible sacrifice.

Enclosed please find informational material about the history of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and its significance.

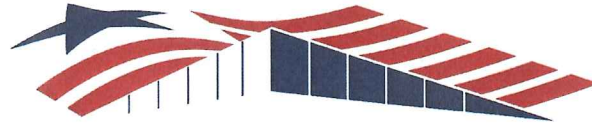
If you have any questions please do not hesitate to have your office contact VVMF's Program Director Adam Arbogast at 202.330.0954 or by email at aarbogast@vvmf.org.

Sincerely,


Jan Craig Scruggs, Esq.
Founder and President

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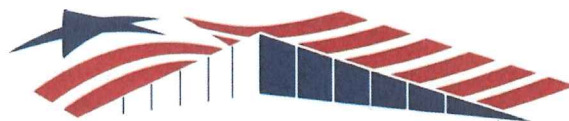
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NAMES ON THE WALL - BY STATE

State	# of Names	State	# of Names
ALABAMA	1207	MISSOURI	1411
ALASKA	58	MONTANA	266
ARIZONA	617	NEBRASKA	396
ARKANSAS	593	NEVADA	147
CALIFORNIA	5577	NEW HAMPSHIRE	225
COLORADO	623	NEW JERSEY	1484
CONNECTICUT	612	NEW MEXICO	397
DELAWARE	122	NEW YORK	4126
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	242	NORTH CAROLINA	1610
FLORIDA	1954	NORTH DAKOTA	198
GEORGIA	1582	OHIO	3096
HAWAII	276	OKLAHOMA	989
IDAHO	217	OREGON	709
ILLINOIS	2938	PENNSYLVANIA	3146
INDIANA	1530	RHODE ISLAND	209
IOWA	853	SOUTH CAROLINA	896
KANSAS	626	SOUTH DAKOTA	193
KENTUCKY	1058	TENNESSEE	1294
LOUISIANA	884	TEXAS	3417
MAINE	342	UTAH	364
MARYLAND	1014	VERMONT	100
MASSACHUSETTS	1336	VIRGINIA	1306
MICHIGAN	2663	WASHINGTON	1049
MINNESOTA	1075	WEST VIRGINIA	733
MISSISSIPPI	637	WISCONSIN	1160
		WYOMING	120



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FACT SHEET

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

Based in Washington, D.C., the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the nonprofit organization authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1980 to build a national memorial dedicated to all who served with the U.S. armed forces in the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, today known as The Wall, was dedicated in 1982. Two years later, the bronze Three Servicemen statue and a flagpole were added to the site on the National Mall. The dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial, to remember and honor the women who served in Vietnam, took place on Veterans Day 1993. The most recent addition to the Memorial site is the *In Memory* plaque, added in 2004 to honor those individuals who died as a result of the Vietnam War, but whose names are not eligible for placement on the Memorial because of Department of Defense policies.

In November 2003, President George W. Bush signed legislation authorizing VVMF to build an underground educational facility near The Wall. The Education Center at The Wall will show the pictures and tell the stories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. It will show some of the more than 150,000 items left at The Wall and celebrate the values exhibited by America's service members in all wars.

Since the dedication of The Wall, VVMF has pursued a mission of preserving the legacy of The Wall, promoting healing and educating about the impact of the Vietnam War. Its activities include:

- Organizing individuals on the grassroots level to gather photos of those from their communities whose names are on The Wall and pursue remembrance activities in their towns. All photos and stories collected will be featured in the Education Center when it is built and also shared on VVMF's Virtual Wall.
- Hosting ceremonies on Father's Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and during the Christmas holidays, which allow the public throughout the year to remember and pay tribute to friends and loved ones whose names are inscribed on the Memorial.
- Maintaining the *In Memory* program that sets aside a day each year to honor those who served in Vietnam and died prematurely as a result of that service, but whose deaths do not fit the Department of Defense criteria for inclusion on The Wall. This includes deaths that may have resulted from exposure to Agent Orange or PTSD-induced suicides.

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- Developing and distributing comprehensive and balanced educational materials that incorporate the lessons of the Vietnam War era to provide students with a greater sense of responsibility, leadership and global understanding. Materials include: *Echoes From The Wall*, a multimedia curriculum guide; the *Hometown Heroes Service Learning Project*, which helps teachers connect with veterans in the community to bring their stories to the classroom; and books of essays, including the latest, *Dreams Unfulfilled*, which tell the stories of the Vietnam generation. These resources have either been sent to the schools free of charge or are available electronically at no cost.
- Providing teacher training focused on the Vietnam War and The Wall through a partnership with the Close Up Foundation while making teachers aware of the free resources available through VVMF.
- Coordinating and managing *The Wall That Heals* touring exhibition, featuring a half-scale replica of The Wall and a museum that takes the Memorial's healing legacy to communities nationwide. Millions of people have visited *The Wall That Heals* since its inception in 1996.
- Providing the public with an opportunity to learn more about the war, the Memorial, and VVMF through our website: www.vvmf.org. The website contains the Virtual Wall, which features a page for every person whose name is on the Memorial. These pages allow family and friends to share memories, post pictures, and connect with one another through the legacies of military heroes.
- Providing nearly 100 Memorial volunteers with the necessary supplies to continue their tireless work of honoring, healing, and educating about the Wall and the sacrifices of our military heroes.
- Commissioning Memorial engineering studies, name additions and status changes.
- Storing extra granite at Quantico Marine Base and purchasing commercial insurance for the Memorial.
- Providing free name rubbings to the public.

VVMF is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to honoring our nation's veterans and educating this and future generations about the impact of the Vietnam War. Gifts from the public and grants from corporations and foundations providing funding for VVMF's outreach efforts.

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The names in the granite of the Vietnam Memorial Wall resonate with us all: those of us who served, those who lost loved ones, those who lived through the divisive era. Behind every name is a face and a story.



The 35,000 square foot Education Center at The Wall will bring these stories to life. Using state-of-the-art digital technology, the Education Center will connect future generations to the lasting impact, the profound insights, and the individual heroes of the Vietnam War.



Those Who Served: A history of America's conflicts, from Bunker Hill to Baghdad. This is a place of civic reflection, where patriotism is shown to be timeless.



The Wall of Faces: Displays the images of the 58,282 whose names are memorialized on The Wall, giving a face to the faceless. The visitor sees that these are real people who shared the same hopes and aspirations that we all do. This exhibit will include a fitting tribute to those who have sacrificed all in Iraq and Afghanistan.



The Collection: Selection of the more than 200,000 personal items left at The Wall. Objects of respect from brothers-in-arms, keepsakes from parents, a token left by a child for a grandparent they will never meet.



The Timeline: The Timeline is a unique telling of one of the most divisive moments in US history. The visitor is immersed in a rich multimedia experience, as their curiosity transports them from the battlefield to the homefront and back again.



Coming Home: This powerful exhibit shows the homecoming experience in vivid detail and reminds us of the treatment Vietnam veterans received can never happen again.