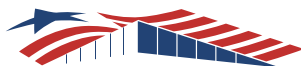


MEMORIAL DAY AT THE WALL

May 30, 2011



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

Annual Memorial Day Observance at The Wall

Monday, May 30, 2011 ~ 1:00 p.m.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Constitution Gardens, Washington, D.C.

Memorial Day began as "Decoration Day" in the years following the Civil War, when Americans, in planned or spontaneous gatherings, decorated the graves of those they lost during the Civil War. In 1868, Gen. John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed May 30 to be "Memorial Day." It was first officially observed that year, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. After World War I, Memorial Day expanded to honor those who died fighting in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress passed the National Holiday Act, declaring the last Monday in May to be Memorial Day.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES	<i>Jan C. Scruggs</i> Founder and President Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	<i>Armed Forces Color Guard</i> Military District of Washington
NATIONAL ANTHEM	<i>Tenley Westbrook</i> Singer-Songwriter
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	<i>Judy Woodall</i> Widow of Henry L. Aderholt
RETIRING THE COLORS	<i>Armed Forces Color Guard</i>
INVOCATION	<i>Chaplain (Captain) Mark Worrell, USA</i>
WELCOME	<i>Carolyn Richards</i> Chief of Interpretation and Education National Mall and Memorial Parks National Park Service
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	<i>Ram Chavez</i> Retired educator and Vietnam veteran
KEYNOTE REMARKS	<i>The Honorable Juan M. Garcia III</i> Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	<i>Diane Carlson Evans</i> Founder and President Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation
REMARKS	<i>Barbara Lilly</i> American Red Cross, Vietnam Denver VA Medical Center
NAME READING	<i>Families of Name Additions</i>
WREATH LAYING	<i>Patriotic Organizations</i>
"AMAZING GRACE"	<i>Chris Jackson</i> Bagpiper
TAPS	<i>U.S. Air Force Band Bugler</i>

2011 Name Additions to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

During the first week of May, five names were added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Their family members and friends are here today to read their names for the first time. As we gather today to pay tribute to those we lost during the Vietnam War, we remember these five.



Henry L. Aderholt
Birmingham, Alabama
Panel 12W, Row 83

Henry Lester Aderholt is my darling older brother. He taught me to shoot a .22 rifle and an M-16. He taught me how to ride horses without benefit of saddle or bridle. He was all things a brother should be. I grieve over him every day, and he is never far from my thoughts.

– Karen Hopkins, sister

Henry always wanted to help everyone...and when the call came to go to Vietnam, he was ready. We met in the 10th grade and wrote love notes to each other in my history book. He was strong and handsome, warm, loving and kind. He is still the love of my life.

–Judy Woodall, wife



Richard Lewis Daniels
Washougal, Washington
Panel 4W, Row 108

Richard was on his third tour of duty when he died of non-combat injuries in South Vietnam. He was an electronics advisor training Vietnamese sailors to repair and trouble-shoot communications and radar equipment on swift boats and other vessels. He also taught English to the Vietnamese in the shipyard apprentice program. In his last performance review, his commanding officer wrote: "Petty Officer Daniels has shown an exceptional and effective leadership and supervisory ability. He is highly trustworthy, dependable and dedicated individual. He has shown good moral character, which is an example to those who serve with him."

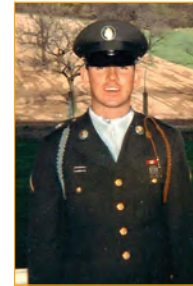
– Roger Daniels, brother



Peter Otto Holcomb
Grandy, Minnesota
Panel 15E, Row 60

Pete was our hero long before he joined the Navy. Born while his family was fleeing East Prussia at the close of World War II, he was proudest of becoming a United States citizen as a young boy and considered it his honor and duty to serve the country which had offered his family refuge and promise of new life.

– Kathy Todd, cousin



Charles J. Sabatier
Galveston, Texas
Panel 40E, Row 72

Before Charlie died, he told me he was worried that he would be forgotten. Adding his name to the Memorial will keep that from happening. Now his name will be among his peers. I hope when you come back here, you look him up, and I hope you think about all the others whose names fill the walls. They need you to remember. We all do.

– Peggy Griffin, wife



Charles Robert Vest
Lynchburg, Ohio
Panel 24E, Row 30

In March 1967, Charles "Bob" Vest was sent to Vietnam, where he received a debilitating head wound in July just outside of Pleiku. Bob spent the next seven years in hospitals and ultimately succumbed to his wounds in October 1974. Whether you knew him personally or not, what our family would ask of you is simply to remember Bob and his sacrifice for his country. There are young men and women today serving our country; they face the same possibility of giving their last full measure of devotion. Please, let us always remember them. Let us never forget what they have done or yet perhaps will do.

– Paul Vest, brother

We Also Remember...



Terry T. Kawamura
Wahiawa, Hawaii
Panel 29 W, Row 90

Terry Kawamura was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on March 20, 1969, when he witnessed an explosive charge thrown in an area where he and two fellow soldiers were located. Although he was in a position to escape, Kawamura shouted a warning to the others and threw himself on the charge.

You were not old enough to vote. You were not old enough to drink. And yet you were a man among soldiers. Our paths crossed for only a few moments one night and you gave the supreme heroic sacrifice that saved my life as well as others. How do I thank someone for giving me my life when you gave "all"?
– Terry Gallagher, fellow soldier



William Abshear
Hillcrest Heights, Maryland
Panel 30W, Row 61

I was 15 at a Valentine's dance on the Cape...He asked me to dance, he was shy and sweet, it was love at first sight. He asked me to marry him the next year when he came for my graduation...Then he went into the service. We had plans for when he came out...we would marry and start our life together. It never happened; he was killed on March 7 in Long An...He was the sweetest, kindest man I ever met...I think of him often, with love, and think of what might have been.
– Pamela Plante, fiancée



Fred E. Barnette
Clifton Forge, Virginia
Panel 18E, Row 90

My brother Larry and I were very young when we learned that our father had died in Vietnam. However, the short time that we spent with him helped to make us the men that we are today, and left us with fond and often humorous memories.

My father loved beer, Camel cigarettes, Jackie Robinson and driving fast. He loved us very much and was loyal to his friends. Many of those who served with him admired him and found him to be a man of great integrity and a dedicated soldier...My brother and I are proud of our father for knowing that he was faithful to his country and to those who depended upon him.
– Michael Barnette, son



James Conway
Franklin, Tennessee
Panel 6E, Row 105

Jim and I were best friends in childhood. He is a descendant of Thad Carter, a Civil War hero of our hometown. Jim was influenced by that all of his life. I feel strongly that Jim died a hero's death.
– Ken Powers, friend



Angel Figueroa
Chicago, Illinois
Panel 27W, Row 24

Angel Figueroa was my uncle. He was the oldest of six siblings and my mother's big brother. To her, he was more than a brother; he was a best friend... I wish I had the fortune to meet him, especially after the way my mother and my father... speak of him in truly flattering terms.

Angel Figueroa answered his nation's call to duty and served as he lived: NOBLY.
– Jeffrey Durovec, nephew

The Education Center's National Call for Photos

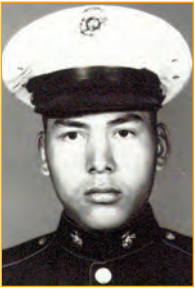
Help Us Put a Face to Every Name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Terry L. Greenhalgh
Sunnyside, Washington
Panel 36W, Row 63

I miss you so much. I fell in love with you the first time we met, and I will love you for the rest of my life. Your smile and sparkling eyes would melt my heart. You were the most wonderful husband a woman could ask for. I thank God for the years we did have together and for the beautiful daughter that we brought into this world. She has many of your loving and endearing ways. You would be very proud of her.

– *Jacquelyn Greenhalgh Carlson, wife*



Kermit Harold La Belle Jr.
Fairbanks, Alaska
Panel 24 E, Row 12

Kermit was so fresh and full of life at the age of 17. He had to get written permission from his mother to join the United States Marine Corp. The last morning that I saw Kermit, I had tried to talk him out of joining the service that would probably take him to Vietnam.

Never have I seen a person possess such a positive attitude and willingness... He truly wanted to serve our country... I often wondered what Kermit would have done over the years if he had lived. He would have completed a great many accomplishments and left his mark in our world as we know it.

– *Chris Kiana Sr., cousin*



John C. Stringer II
Hazard, Kentucky
Panel 6W, Row 99

I remember Lt. Stringer as a happy man who always had a smile for everyone, and a joke. When he got a picture of his child in the mail, all he did was go around and show everybody. He was so proud of that child... He is always in my thoughts and prayers.

– *Tony E., fellow soldier*

When VVMF builds the Education Center at The Wall, the core of this unique learning facility will be a larger-than-life Wall of Photos, showcasing the picture of every person whose name is on The Wall.

The Center will help us tell their stories as well—and not just “war stories,” but glimpse of the lives they had outside of the service. What was important to them? What were their passions? Who were their friends? What were their future plans?

When the Education Center is complete, visitors to the National Mall will see more than a wall of names at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. They will be able to connect those names to the vibrant, living people they represent. They will learn about the values that these people lived by. The Wall shows us how many we lost during the Vietnam War, but the Education Center will help us understand the potential that will never be fulfilled.

VVMF has called on communities, schools, veterans groups, families and individuals to help us gather photos and stories of those whose names are on The Wall. Lately, VVMF has received more than 1,000 photos each month: at communities where our traveling Wall replica, “The Wall That Heals,” stops; from postings on our Virtual Wall online (www.vvmf.org/thewall); from the Education Center website (www.buildthecenter.org); and through submissions mailed to the VVMF offices.

The photos and stories on these pages are examples of the information that will be available to visitors in the Education Center, and it shows the types of stories and remembrances VVMF is collecting. If you have a photo or story of someone whose name is on The Wall that you can share, please visit www.buildthecenter.org or call 1-866-990-WALL to learn how you can help.

The Education Center at The Wall

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund built The Wall in 1982 and, since then, the Memorial has become a global icon, drawing millions of visitors from around the world.

The Education Center at The Wall, which will prove to be an equally powerful addition to the National Mall, was authorized unanimously by Congress in 2003 and will be a living, interactive learning facility with the unique ability to move both forward and backward through time.

Benefiting from the talents of an award-winning exhibit designer, the Education Center will:

- *Teach the values and tell the stories* of those who served. These stories are being collected through our partnerships with the Library of Congress, the National Association of Counties, state government cabinet secretaries and education commissioners, numerous media partners and hundreds of teachers around the country.
- *Display photographs* of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam War. Photos are being collected nationwide: by high school and middle school students across the country as part of VVMF's Hometown Heroes Service Learning Project; from visitors to VVMF's half-scale traveling Wall, *The Wall That Heals*; and through veteran's groups, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs and other community organizations.
- *Showcase the remembrances* and moving tributes left at The Wall. A program is underway, funded by VVMF, to work with the National Park Service to index, digitize and highlight some of the more than 150,000 powerful remembrances that have been left at The Wall, using them to tell the story of the Vietnam War era and those who served.
- *Showcase the rich legacy of service* embodied by Americans, from Lexington and Concord through today's conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. This content is being collected through our partnerships with the History Channel, Time Warner and Getty Images.
- *Highlight the sacrifices and commitment of America's allies* and the growth of those bonds through time.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was created so we would not forget those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War. The Education Center at The Wall will help us remember the people behind those names.

RECENTLY ADDED NAMES

Sgt. Henry L. Aderholt, U.S. Army, Panel 12W, Row 83

ETR2 Richard Lewis Daniels, U.S. Navy, Panel 4W, Row 108

BT3 Peter Otto Holcomb, U.S. Navy, Panel 15E, Row 60

SPC Charles J. Sabatier, U.S. Army, Panel 40E, Row 72

SPC Charles Robert Vest, U.S. Army, Panel 24E, Row 30

There are now 58, 272 names on The Wall.

The annual Memorial Day Observance at The Wall is being filmed by TV Worldwide and can be seen in its entirety on USVets.tv and on the VVMF website, www.vvmf.org.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the National Park Service have co-sponsored observances on Memorial Day and Veterans Day at The Wall every year since its dedication in 1982.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the National Park Service wish to thank:

All our dedicated volunteers; Bob Bertrand for his Unit Flags Display; and Paul Masi and the Veterans Advisory Board for the Verizon Corporation for providing the American and POW/MIA flags and for its support.

