OUR MISSION
To preserve the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to promote healing, and to educate about the impact of the Vietnam War

VVMF ACHIEVES HIGH CHARITY RATINGS
VVMF has been recently distinguished with honors from:

1. Great NonProfits, a nonprofit consumer review organization, gave VVMF a 5/5 rating judged on unanimous assessments by its volunteers and contributors.

2. VVMF’s financials, transparency, and program impacts earned 4/4 stars from Charity Navigator and the GuideStar Exchange Seal of Approval.

3. The Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance awarded VVMF its coveted Accredited Charity Seal of Approval based on a 20-point review of its effectiveness in doing business in a fair manner.
THE GENESIS OF A LARGER LEGACY OF SERVICE

It’s incredibly hard to grasp that 30 years have passed since The Wall was completed and dedicated to our Vietnam veterans and their families in 1982. And while not a day goes by that I am not grateful for the many supporters, political leaders, and donors who made The Wall a reality — and we have much to be proud of — the mission is not yet complete.

We are losing Vietnam veterans at an alarming rate. Each day we lose about 417 to illness and age. Their stories are in danger of being lost forever if we don’t take action now to complete the mission that began with The Wall and will end with the Education Center. It is only by seeing the Education Center to fruition that we can ensure that the lives and faces of our nation’s most selfless men and women become a permanent part of our collective national memory. Millions visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial each year. Tens of thousands gave their lives during the many years of conflict. But they are more than names, and we must do our part to remember them.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built to honor all who served with the U.S. armed forces during the Vietnam War. It has become known as an international symbol of healing and is the most popular memorial on the National Mall. With the completion of the Education Center, this memorial will expand its native mission of healing to a perpetual mission of teaching, enlightening, and preserving. For all of us — staff, board, volunteers, and supporters—it is, no doubt, one of the most honorable initiatives we will ever have the privilege to be involved with.

There was a three-year struggle (from 2000 to 2003) to get legislation passed allowing the Education Center to be built on the Mall. Although Senator Chuck Hagel worked with vigor, there were many delays, requiring the legislation to be re-introduced three times. Finally, the U.S. Senate and House passed the legislation unanimously in 2003. We got to work as quickly as we could in 2004. An Educational Advisory Committee was formed, a group of remarkably dedicated thought leaders who had the wisdom to envision an Education Center that would not only recognize Vietnam service, but also honor those from the Revolutionary War to Afghanistan who have risked their lives for this nation and the world.

Therefore, while the focus of the exhibits will be items left at The Wall and a celebration of the high ideals of the Americans who served in Vietnam, the Education Center will reveal Vietnam as the genesis of a larger legacy of a culture of service to America. Values like Loyalty, Duty, Honor, Courage, and Integrity will be elevated and celebrated in a way that motivates visitors to return to their hometowns and volunteer in their own communities as a way to honor those who gave their lives for us.

We’ve done the hard part: conceptualizing and designing a place that will fulfill our own high expectations and be worthy of our veterans. Most of us feel the palpable excitement of entering the final laps of the race. On November 28 2012, we conducted a groundbreaking for the Education Center. Speakers included the Secretaries of Defense and Interior, Senator Reed, Congressman Guthrie, and Jill Biden. The entire leadership of the U.S. Congress gave support.

We had hoped to complete the fundraising in time for a 2014 dedication. The veterans of Afghanistan would be welcomed home with a parade to the Education Center, led by the Vietnam Veterans who had fought the good fight for them. Although we really wanted to be under construction by November 2015, we’re beginning to acknowledge that 2016 is more likely. There will be no parade welcoming home our soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan in 2014 celebrating America’s Legacy of Service at the Education Center at The Wall. Unfortunately, this will take more time. For every gift of support we secure, construction prices rise in tandem. Raising money is hard work.

A profound part of the Education Center will honor the veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan by showing the photos of the fallen on an hourly basis. This will be a sacred place to these veterans who have served since 9/11. One day, these patriots will have their own memorial. Until then, the Education Center will give them recognition.

So that’s why we called so much attention to the 30th birthday of The Wall and the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam in 2012. We are working hard to open the Education Center before too many of our Vietnam veterans leave this earth. And we are committed to welcoming home the post-9/11 heroes in a place that glorifies and celebrates their exemplary service. Please know that we are eternally grateful for your continued support of these noble endeavors.

Washington, D.C. is a dynamic city that draws tourists from across the land. Some come to meet with their representatives in Congress. Some come to enjoy the city loved for its history, memorials, and fine museums. The Education Center at The Wall will be one place they will never forget. Help us get the job done. It’s time to complete the mission.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Scruggs, Esq.
Founder and President

Warren Kahle
JAN C. SCRUGGS
Founder and President
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

1977

JAN C. SCRUGGS, A VIETNAM WAR VETERAN FROM BOWIE, MD. AND A STUDENT AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WRITES AN EDITORIAL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST IN WHICH HE CALLS FOR A NATIONAL MONUMENT TO MAKE AMENDS FOR THE INDIFFERENCE VIETNAM VETERANS FACED UPON RETURNING HOME.
APRIL 27, 1979
TOGETHER WITH OTHER VETERANS, SCRUGGS INCORPORATES THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND (VVMF).

MAY 28, 1979
SCRUGGS BEGINS RAISING FUNDS TO BUILD THE MEMORIAL FOR VIETNAM VETERANS, STARTING WITH $2,800 OF HIS OWN MONEY. AS THE DRIVE BECOMES PUBLIC, THE PACE OF CONTRIBUTIONS PICKS UP. CELEBRITY SPOKESPERSON BOB HOPE AND OTHERS SIGN ON TO HELP.

NOVEMBER 8, 1979
SENS. CHARLES MATHIAS (R-MD.) AND JOHN WARNER (R-VA.) INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FEDERAL LAND FOR THE MEMORIAL ON THE NATIONAL MALL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
**JULY 1, 1980**

President Jimmy Carter signs legislation calling for the memorial to be built between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

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**OCTOBER 1980**

VVMF announces a public competition for the memorial design, ultimately drawing 1,421 entries.

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**MAY 6, 1981**

After an initial round of judging, 21-year-old Yale University architecture student Maya Lin’s design is chosen unanimously.

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**MARCH 26, 1982**

Although the winning design met with resistance from some veterans groups and other detractors, Gen. Michael Davison (ret.) recommends adding a statue to the site as a compromise, and the groundbreaking for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial moves forward.

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**JULY 22, 1982**

The first panel of the wall, as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is called today, is unveiled.

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1981

More than $8 million is raised to build the memorial, all of which comes from private sources. Corporations, foundations, unions, veterans groups and civic organizations contribute. Most importantly, more than 275,000 individual Americans donate the majority of the money needed to build the memorial.
**November 13, 1982**
The completed Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated.

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**November 11, 1984**
President Ronald Reagan accepts the memorial as a gift to the United States from VVMF. The memorial is turned over to the National Park Service.

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**November 11, 1984**
VVMF commissions sculptor Frederick E. Hart to create a heroic statue representing three foot soldiers. Called “The Three Servicemen,” the statue is installed and dedicated near the Wall’s western ramp. Also added nearby is a flagpole with the insignias of the five service branches at its base.

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**November 11, 1993**
The Vietnam Women’s Memorial is dedicated to honor women who served in Vietnam. Designed by sculptor Glenna Goodacre, the statue depicts three military nurses and a wounded serviceman.

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**November 11, 1996**
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund unveils “The Wall That Heals,” a half-scale replica of the memorial that tours communities nationwide. The Wall That Heals continues its tours to this day.

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**November 1999**
VVMF has a national kickoff for its teachers’ curriculum guide, “Echoes from the Wall.”
**2000**

**November 17, 2003**

President George W. Bush signs the bill authorizing a visitors center to be built near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

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**November 10, 2004**

The “In Memory Plaque”—honoring Vietnam’s post-war casualties not eligible for inclusion on the Wall—is dedicated.

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**August 3, 2006**

The National Capital Planning Commission joins the Commission on Fine Arts in approving a site for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center—a parcel of land on the National Mall beside the Lincoln Memorial and across the street from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. More than 40 percent of the 4 million visitors to the Wall each year are too young to remember the longest war in America. The 35,000-square-foot Education Center at the Wall will bring the stories of Vietnam’s lost heroes to life.

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**March 26, 2009**

A new museum trailer for The Wall That Heals is unveiled on the National Mall by Education Center spokesman and celebrity Tom Selleck. New exhibits are created for the Education Center, making The Wall That Heals Museum a traveling ambassador for the Education Center.

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**July 8, 2010**

“The Three Servicemen” statue is rededicated after a six-week project restores the original patina to the statue. The restoration caps a nearly yearlong VVMF effort to restore and maintain various aspects of the memorial site, including the lawn, the flagpole and five directory stands.

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**With Your Help...**

The remainder of the necessary funding for the Education Center is raised, and the new museum breaks ground. 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.
A “MONUMENTAL” YEAR

THE WALL TURNS 30

Throughout 2012, VVMF celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. A year-long line-up of events started with a commemoration of The Wall’s original groundbreaking and culminated with a groundbreaking ceremony to begin construction of the Education Center at The Wall.

On March 26, 2012, the 30th Anniversary Groundbreaking Commemoration event featured a brief ceremony on the east knoll of the monument that acknowledged the vital role of the Education Center in demonstrating for future generations the values embodied by those who bravely serve in America’s military.

As a very special experience, attendees, the media, and the general public had the opportunity to place a photograph of a fallen hero directly onto a large reproduction of panels from The Wall. Guests and visitors symbolically put faces with the names engraved on the monument. The end result was a Wall of Faces similar to the main exhibit planned for the future Education Center at The Wall.

“While all eyes are firmly focused on the future and building The Education Center, the 30th Anniversary is a time for us to also look back at how this monument came about, and celebrate what it has become,” said Jan C. Scruggs, founder and president of VVMF. “The Wall is one of America’s most recognizable and beloved landmarks, and something we can all be proud of. It was built so that the nation would always remember America’s legacy of service.”

Several speakers from the original Groundbreaking Ceremony gathered again at The Wall to remember this landmark event that took place 30 years ago. They led guests in remembering the great impact The Wall had on a nation in turmoil and inspired them to continue the mission to build the Education Center at The Wall — the place on the National Mall where our military heroes’ stories and sacrifices will never be forgotten.

“58,000 dead. 300,000 wounded. 70,000 in Veterans Administration hospitals. And then we saw the continuation of this debate in Congress and in Washington over whether we should have the memorial. It was magnificent that we came together and found common ground to recognize sacrifice and valor and loyalty to the country that asked us to fight.”

— General Barry R. McCaffrey, USA (Ret.)

In addition to Jan Scruggs, speakers included General Barry McCaffrey, USA (Ret.), a Vietnam veteran, a commander in Operation Desert Storm, a former Drug Czar under President Bill Clinton, and chair of VVMF’s Advisory Board; Brigadier General George B. Price, USA (Ret.), who took part in the original groundbreaking ceremony and is credited with mediating a solution between parties disagreeing over the design and adding the Three Servicemen statue to the Memorial grounds; Congressman Brett Guthrie, currently representing the people of Kentucky’s 2nd District, previously served as a Field Artillery Officer with the 101st Airborne Division; and Joe E. Davis, a former career military officer and Director of Public Affairs for the Washington Office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“30 years ago today, there were 100 veterans with shovels, and we were turning dirt in unison to build this monument. None of us really knew at the time how important this would be.”

— Jan C. Scruggs
philosophy has reverberated from The Wall across the years, and has had impact as well on those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. While the wars remain unpopular and divisive, those returning are received back into society with appreciation for putting their lives at risk for the nation. This is as it should be.”

30TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK COMMEMORATES THE WALL

As a preview of the Education Center at The Wall, VVMF and M.T. Publishing Company, Inc. released a new book featuring 61 individual profiles. All They Left Behind: Legacies of the Men and Women on The Wall, published in commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, reveals the personalities, histories, and courage of more than 50 individuals who gave their lives in service to our country during the Vietnam War. A portion of the proceeds from the book benefits the Education Center at The Wall.

All They Left Behind began with a question from a student to teacher and soon grew into a project to identify all of the Vietnam War dead from Dearborn, Michigan. After partnering with the VVMF in its Call for Photos project, Dearborn, Michigan teacher Lisa Lark was soon gathering photos and stories from all over the United States. All They Left Behind is the result of more than two years of research and more than 500 interviews with Vietnam veterans and the friends and families of the men and women on The Wall. These 61 profiles, along with thousands of others, will be featured at the forthcoming Education Center at The Wall.

To order the 112-page hardback book, visit www.mtpublishing.com for more information.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the U.S. Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, and VVMF was honored to be named a partner in this Commemorative Program. The Commemorative Partner Program allows communities and organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families.

As a Commemorative Program Partner, VVMF participated in the commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that recognized the Vietnam Veterans and their families’ service, valor, and sacrifice. The Congressional act encouraged Commemorative Program Partners to hold special events and ceremonies designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. **To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War.** This includes recognizing those held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States, as well as thanking and honoring the families of these veterans.

2. **To highlight the service of the Armed Forces.** The commemorative program honors those who served during the Vietnam War as well as the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.

“Throughout their lives, these soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen were proud of their service to the United States. Their fellow countrymen cherish them in their hearts. Vietnam service is once more universally recognized as a true badge of pride and courage.”

– Captain Dennis Faherty, USN (Ret.)
3. **To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front.** This part of the Act recognizes the support of the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

4. **To highlight advances in military research.** The program acknowledges achievements in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

5. **To recognize the contributions made by allies.** The program pays tribute to the sacrifices made by allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

VVMF was honored to welcome President Barack Obama to the Commemoration Ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, which took place at The Wall on Memorial Day 2012 and served as a highlight of the commemorative year of activities occurring across our country in 2012. (For more on VVMF’s Memorial Day ceremony at The Wall, see “President Obama Visits The Wall on Memorial Day 2012,” below.)

“We come to this wall — to this sacred place — to remember,” President Obama told the group of veterans, dignitaries, patriots, and their families. “It’s here we feel the depth of your sacrifice. And here we see a piece of our larger American story... A central part of this 50th anniversary will be to tell your story as it should have been told all along. It’s another chance to set the record straight... And it starts today. Because history will honor your service, and your names will join a story of service that stretches back two centuries.”

**PRESIDENT OBAMA VISITS THE WALL ON MEMORIAL DAY 2012**

Scan this code with your smartphone to view video highlights from Memorial Day 2012 at The Wall.

“Today we recall all those who gave everything in the darkness of war, so we can stand here in the glory of Spring. And we say those simple words, which always greet our troops when they return from here on out...’Welcome home. Welcome home. Welcome home. We appreciate you. Welcome home.’”

— President Barack Obama

President Barack Obama keynoted the May 28, 2012 Memorial Day ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. As the official launch to the Department of Defense’s commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, the Obama Administration joined with VVMF and the National Park Service to pay special homage to Vietnam veterans. (For more information about the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration, visit: www.vietnamwar50th.com.)

“We are honored to have President Obama take part in a ceremony at The Wall,” said VVMF Founder and President Jan C. Scruggs. “His administration has been very helpful when we have asked for support with issues including the Education Center.”

President Obama joined other government officials and veterans who laid wreaths at The Wall during the ceremony. “Even though some Americans turned their back on you, you never turned your back on America,” President Obama told the veterans in his keynote remarks. “You took off the uniform, but you never stopped serving. You became teachers and police officers and nurses, the folks we count on every single day. You became entrepreneurs, running companies and pioneering industries that changed the world. You became leaders and public servants, from town halls to Capitol Hill — lifting up our communities, our states, our nation.

“You looked after one another. You cared for one another. Just as importantly, you cared for those who followed. You’ve made it your mission to make sure today’s troops get the respect and support that all too often you did not receive...
This is the story of our Vietnam service members, the story that needs to be told. This is what this 50th anniversary is all about,” President Obama said.

**30TH ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY AT THE WALL**


“Millions of visitors come here every year, and they are getting younger and younger,” said Vogel. “Believe it or not, many of them have not heard of Vietnam. So it’s the purpose of the Education Center to make sure these names have a face with them, to make sure that the newer generations of Americans understand and appreciate the role and sacrifice many of you made in the Vietnam conflict.”

**READING OF THE NAMES**

On November 7, 2012, thousands gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to take part in the reading of all 58,282 names etched in the granite. This is only the fifth time this has been done. The reading, which lasted the four days leading up to Veterans Day observance on November 12, 2012, helped mark the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

More than 2,000 friends, family, celebrities, politicians, and patriots came to The Wall from all around the country to honor those they knew, those they loved, and in many cases, those they never met. Most of the readers were wives, sons, daughters, and parents; others were classmates and fellow veterans. Each volunteer read 25 to 30 names, beginning with the first service member to lose his life in Southeast Asia — Special Forces Advisor Capt. Harry Griffith Cramer, who was killed on October 21, 1957 — to the last combat casualty, Lt. Col. William B. Nold, who died January 27, 1973, just 11 hours before the Paris Peace Accords were signed to officially end the war.

“I could feel the power of The Wall. Each touch, a name I knew. Each touch brought a face and a flood of memories from times past. Release one name, touch the next – another connection and another flood of memories. It’s not The Wall, but the names on it that evoke this power of connection. The Wall is merely the medium. No other monument I know of attains this level of intimacy.”

— **Secretary Erick K. Shinseki**, Veterans Day 2012 keynote speaker

“A child’s drawing, an American flag, combat boots, flowers… Thousands of mementos are left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall every year… Silent messages that say, ‘You are not forgotten.’”

— **General Colin Powell**, USA (Ret.)
THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL

BUILD THE CENTER BENEFIT GALA

Scan this code with your smartphone to view video highlights from the Build The Center Benefit Gala.

VVMF’s 30th anniversary year culminated with four days of special events, including the Build the Center Gala on November 8, 2012, at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. Proceeds from the Gala benefitted the construction of the Education Center at The Wall. Former sportscaster Frank Herzog served as the evening’s emcee, accompanied by special guest, actress Ann-Margret.

“At the Education Center, our military heroes’ stories and sacrifices will never be forgotten,” said Herzog. “At the Education Center, we’re going to celebrate all the values these service men and woman embody, such as loyalty, duty, respect, honor, and courage.”

Speaking about the men and women she had known who served in Vietnam, an emotional Ann-Margret was presented with a piece of granite from the original construction of The Wall. “What I remember really, of all the men and women that I met, is that they loved America,” she told the guests. “They were courageous, each one of them. I want them to know how much I love them.”

During the gala, VVMF recognizes those who have been active in supporting the military and their families. The Legacy of Service Award honors individuals who promote American values of freedom, justice, and duty through steadfast service and tireless dedication to the men and women in the U.S. armed forces, veterans, and their families. This year’s recipient is Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in August 2011. O’Brien served as a civilian chaplain at the United States Military Academy at West Point until 1970 and as chaplain at Fort Bragg, N.C. with the 82nd Division (1970-71) and in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and 1st Cavalry Brigade (1971-72). Following his tour in Vietnam, O’Brien ministered to the troops as Archbishop for the Military Services from 1997 to 2007.
A second recognition, The Charles “Mac” Mathias Award, honors those individuals whose service to our country has been courageous and exemplary, whose devotion to duty is deep-seated, and whose actions represent true American values of responsibility, righteousness, and integrity. VVMF presented the 2012 Charles “Mac” Mathias Award to The Honorable Tom Ridge for his exemplary service and his lifelong dedication to the country.

Governor Ridge was raised in a working-class family in veterans’ public housing. He earned a scholarship to Harvard, graduating with honors in 1967. After his first year at Penn State University’s Dickinson School of Law, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served as an infantry staff sergeant in Vietnam, earning the Bronze Star for Valor, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Governor Ridge was one of the first Vietnam combat veterans elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and has also served as the two-term Governor of Pennsylvania. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, he became the first Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and on January 24, 2003, was named the first Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

“The Vietnam generation, my generation, is greying and getting older. Preserving our stories requires more than a place of remembrance. It requires a place of education and of understanding the sacrifices that were made. The lessons of war that we’ve learned must never, never be forgotten.”

– Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta

CEREMONIAL GROUNDBREAKING OF THE EDUCATION CENTER

Scan this code with your smartphone to watch highlights of the Ceremonial Groundbreaking.

With November 2012 marking the 30th anniversary of The Wall and the 50th commemoration of the Vietnam War, it was only fitting that the ceremonial groundbreaking of the new Education Center took place on November 28, 2012. Congressional leaders, senior military officers, and veterans joined Gold Star families for the groundbreaking of an Education Center where the stories of Vietnam War and the post-9/11 fallen heroes will be told.

Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta and Vietnam Veteran Dr. Michael McClung, USMC (Gold Star Father of Major Megan McClung, USMC, KIA Iraq) both delivered special remarks during the ceremony.

The Education Center at The Wall will be a national landmark dedicated to bringing to life the stories of the more than 58,000 American service members lost in the Vietnam War.
Using the latest in media and digital technology, it will also tell the stories of the fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan, serving as a temporary place of remembrance until today’s veterans receive their own national honor. Their photos will be displayed in the Education Center.

The Education Center’s Wall of Faces exhibit will give visitors an intimate look at the lives of those lost in the Vietnam conflict, as told by the 400,000 items that loved ones, friends, and visitors have left at the Vietnam War Memorial since 1982. Another exhibit will tell the story of America’s legacy of service in our nation’s military through the multigenerational voices of veterans who served from 1775 through today.

The section remembering those lost in Iraq and Afghanistan will be enhanced to serve as an interim national memorial to today’s heroes. Digital photos of the fallen from these wars will provide visitors an appreciation for each of the Americans who gave their life in those conflicts. The Education Center celebrates values and encourages visitors to return to their communities to complete acts of civic virtue to honor America’s fallen.

“The veterans of Vietnam know what it is like to wait for a memorial — a healing place — to be authorized and constructed. Today’s heroes shouldn’t have to wait,” said VVMF Founder and President Jan C. Scruggs.

Honorary Groundbreaking Committee members include President George H.W. Bush, President Bill Clinton, Speaker of the House John Boehner, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, Governor Rick Perry, General Colin Powell, Admiral Michael Mullen, General Peter Pace, General Richard Myers, General Wesley Clark, General James Jones, Marvin Kalb, James P. Hoffa, Jimmy Buffett, Senator Chuck Hagel, American Gold Star Mothers, Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America, and more.

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 in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Collection: Selection of the more than 400,000 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.
ONGOING VVMF PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

THE WALL THAT HEALS
On Veterans Day 1996, VVMF unveiled a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., designed to travel to communities throughout the United States. Since its dedication, The Wall That Heals has visited more than 350 cities and towns throughout the nation, spreading the memorial’s healing legacy to millions.

The traveling exhibit allows the many thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of facing The Wall to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, helping the healing process to begin.

Approximately 250 feet long, the traveling exhibit is erected in a chevron shape, like the original memorial in Washington, D.C. The replica is constructed of powder-coated aluminum, supported by an aluminum frame, and is made up of 24 individual panels, each containing six columns of names. The panels join together to form a nearly 250-foot wide structure.

As on The Wall, the names on The Wall That Heals are listed by day of casualty. Beginning at the center/apex, the names start on the East Wall (right-hand side) working their way out to the end of that wing, picking up again at the far end of the West Wall (left-hand side) and working their way back in to the center/apex, joining the beginning and ending of the conflict at the center. The exterior sides of the trailer that carries The Wall That Heals open to become a mobile museum. Information cases display photos of service members whose names are found on The Wall, along with letters and memorabilia left at The Wall in D.C. The traveling museum also includes a map of Vietnam and a chronological overview of the conflict.

The exhibits tell the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall, and the era surrounding the conflict, and are designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

EDUCATION CENTER CONTENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VVMF asked 10 historians, authors, educators, journalists, and veterans to join an Advisory Committee for the Education Center at The Wall. The Committee, the National Park Service, and museum-design firm Ralph Appelbaum Associates are collaborating with VVMF on creation of the Education Center.

VVMF has assembled an all-star team of experts, each with separate strengths. A historian on the committee is serving as content specialist and is developing exhibition subject matter; the other nine committee members are reviewing exhibition documents. Collectively, the team is helping to craft a concise, compelling narrative of the Vietnam War.

“The Education Center will help ensure that our veterans will always be remembered, not just in name, but by their actions. Those actions, in turn, become part of the lessons that educate and inspire us for years to come.”

– Dr. Jill Biden
“For me, this service provided an opportunity of a lifetime to contribute to the process of honoring, educating, and healing for our nation,” said Dr. Larry Berman, a committee member.

The Education Center will give context to the 58,282 names that appear on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. It will be a place where veterans can find old friends; where grandchildren can feel closer to their grandparents; and where every American can learn about the war and its profound impact on those who served as well as those who remained at home.

The Education Center’s exhibition program honors the war’s living veterans and its fallen soldiers while exploring the meanings of loss and remembrance, the process of healing, and the ways we express gratitude for service. “Most of the visitors to the Education Center will be young people,” said committee member Lindy Poling. “One of the most effective teaching methods is to expose them to the human side of history.”

The Advisory Committee team members include: Dr. Larry Berman, Professor Emeritus at UC Davis and now Founding Dean of the Honors College at Georgia State University; Dr. Paulette G. Curtis, Faculty Director of Undergraduate and Pre-College Programs & the AnBryce Scholars Initiative and Concurrent Instructor in the Department of Anthropology at University of Notre Dame; Dr. George Herring, chairman of the Committee, and retired Professor Emeritus at the University of Kentucky; Dr. Ron Milam, Vietnam veteran and Associate Professor of Military History at Texas Tech; Lindy Poling, retired high school teacher and department chair at Millbrook High School (Raleigh, NC); Dr. Edwin Moïse, professor at Clemson University; Dr. John Prados, head of the National Security Archive’s Vietnam and Intelligence Documentation Projects; Dr. Ronald Spector, Vietnam veteran and Professor of History and International Relations at George Washington University; and Dr. Robert Sutton, Chief Historian of the National Park Service. The content specialist is Dr. Mark Atwood Lawrence, Associate Professor of History and Distinguished Scholar at the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law at The University of Texas at Austin.

“I can’t come to The Wall without remembering the first day that I came here. I was walking across the grass with my wife, and I was looking for a memorial, and I couldn’t see it. And then I turned that corner, and it was like someone grabbed me by my throat. I couldn’t breathe as I contemplated the loss to our family and to our country.”

— General George W. Casey, USA (Ret.)

10 NAMES ADDED TO THE WALL ON MOTHER’S DAY

The names of 10 American servicemen were engraved on the black granite walls of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in early May and later unveiled on Mother’s Day, May 13, 2012. Photos of the 10 men, as well as stories about their lives, are being collected from their loved ones to be used in the interactive learning center, the Education Center at The Wall.
At the May 13th unveiling, the daughter of one of the ten servicemen added, Frank A. Neary, spoke about her father’s life and service. Jessica DiNapoli said her father, Marine Corporal Neary, was wounded in action on February 24, 1967, in the Quang Ngai Province in Vietnam. His death in 2006 was deemed to be a result of the wounds received in combat.

When names are added, the highly technical procedure requires meticulous work to match the stroke and depth of the surrounding names to within 1/1,000 of an inch. VVMF adds the names as close as possible to their dates of casualty, so the servicemen can remain in the company of those with whom they served. The 10 names of the men added to The Wall in 2012 all died in connection with combat related incidents during the Vietnam War, a Department of Defense criteria for any individuals included on The Wall.


In addition to 10 names added to The Wall this year, 12 designation changes were made as well. These changes bring the total number of names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to 58,282 men and women who were killed or remain missing in action.

The Department of Defense sets the criteria for and makes decisions about whose names are eligible for inscription on The Wall. VVMF pays for the name additions and status changes, and works with the National Park Service to ensure long-term preservation and maintenance of The Wall.

**NEW PLAQUE INSTALLED ON IN MEMORY DAY**

On June 14, 2012, a new In Memory Plaque was unveiled near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. The plaque is dedicated to those who died as a result of the Vietnam War, but whose deaths do not fit the Department of Defense criteria for inclusion upon The Wall. The new granite plaque has bronze lettering, making it easier for visitors to read the inscription. The original plaque was dedicated on November 10, 2004.

Each year, VVMF’s In Memory program pays tribute to those men and women who sacrificed for their country, and a ceremony is held on Flag Day in June. During the In Memory Day ceremony, the names of the honorees are read aloud. At the conclusion of the ceremony, certificates bearing the honorees’ names are placed at the Wall. The tributes are collected by the National Park Service and stored in a permanent archive. In addition, the honorees are included in the Virtual In Memory Honor Roll to serve as a lasting reminder of their service and sacrifices.

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“Early on Father’s Day morning, I got my children up and we went to wash The Wall, along with other grandchildren and children of men whose names are on The Wall. We washed The Wall, and it was just a really special experience to see my son scrubbing the granite that held his grandfather’s name.”

– Colleen Shine
ROSES LAID IN HONOR OF FALLEN DADS

Red roses symbolizing those killed in action, yellow for those missing in action, and white for those recently fallen in combat were attached to written remembrances made out to names etched on The Wall. The remembrances were then read aloud, as their corresponding rose was touched against the inscribed name and placed at the base of The Wall. The ceremony concluded with a bed of roses surrounding the memorial, a breathtaking sight that demonstrated the immense gratitude and the heartbreaking sacrifices of families impacted by foreign conflict.

MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE EXCEEDS VISITOR EXPECTATIONS

VVMF works hard to make certain that the clean, polished granite Wall and the noticeably green and healthy lawn of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial exceed the expectations of the millions who visit every year. VVMF is proud to make the experience of visiting The Wall the best it can be through its many site preservation and maintenance efforts.

VVMF takes an active role concerning the physical needs of The Wall, The Three Servicemen Statue and flagpole, and the rest of the three-acre site on which the Vietnam Veterans Memorial rests. Services provided by VVMF include insuring The Wall against damages, providing copies of the Directory of Names to assist visitors on-site, as well as regular Wall cleaning and maintenance. These efforts could not be possible without the help of generous donors and the tireless work of VVMF volunteers.

VVMF has continued its annual tradition of paying special tribute to those fathers who did not return from the Vietnam War. The Father’s Day Rose Remembrance ceremony on June 17, 2012 featured emotional tributes and elegant reverence in recognition of fathers, sons, brothers, and friends who perished in Vietnam.

Jan Scruggs, VVMF’s founder and president, gave remarks along with Aseneth Mays Blackwell, regional president of the Middle Atlantic Region of Gold Star Wives of America. Retired General George Casey, the 36th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, was the keynote speaker.

Scan this code with your smartphone to view video highlights of the Father’s Day Rose Remembrance ceremony.
McMAHON RECEIVES LIBBY HATCH VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD

VVMF’s Wall Volunteers dedicate their time to assisting the more than 4-million annual visitors to The Wall, and VVMF could not function without them. Wall Volunteers are committed to sharing the legacy of all Vietnam veterans, spreading the healing power of the Memorial, and educating future generations.

While VVMF deeply appreciates all of its supporters, each year the organization selects a standout volunteer to honor with the Libby Hatch Volunteer Recognition Award. Recipients are nominated by their peers.

The 2012 honoree is Michael McMahon. Though he lives in New Jersey, McMahon regularly makes the trip to the National Mall to volunteer at The Wall and has done so for more than 10 years. Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., McMahon received his draft notice on Christmas Eve 1968. McMahon was assigned to Bravo Company, 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry of the 9th Division in the Mekong Delta from June 1969 to June 1970.

McMahon is the recipient of the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Bronze Star with “V” Device, two Army Commendation Medals, and two awards of the Air Medal. McMahon is involved with the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial and often talks with students about the Vietnam War and his personal experiences.

“In my few years volunteering at The Wall, I have come to know Michael as a dedicated volunteer and genuine good guy. I have never known him to say a sharp word, as he is always patient with the visitors and careful to explain the memorial in the level of detail appropriate to the visitor,” said Dan Kirby, who introduced McMahon at the award luncheon. Kirby is a past recipient of the Libby Hatch award.

“He is terrific with the children who visit,” Kirby added. “Michael gives freely of his time and has advised me on many occasions on how to handle a dicey situation. I am proud to call him a fellow veteran, volunteer, and friend.”

Previous recipients of the Libby Hatch Volunteer Award include Lee Adriani, Charlie Harootunian, Frank Bosch, Red Flegal, Sid George, Annmarie Emmet, Allen McCabe, Ron Worstell, Dan Arant, and Dan Kirby.
FINANCIALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND TOTAL ASSETS
Q1 2013: $29.3 Million • 2012: $28.2 Million • 2011: $30.0 Million

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Thomas Hayward  Thomas Harris
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Thomas Moore  Thomas McLaughlin
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Thomas Scott  Thomas R. Yarborough
Thomas Stevens  Thomas Scott
Thomas Vonderahe  Thomas Stevens
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VVA Chapter 975  VVA Chapter 77
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William C. Misnehmen  William Burket
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VVMF is guided by a nine-person board of directors that meets at least three times a year to oversee all of the financial and program-related decisions of the organization. Seven of the nine board members are voting members. VVMF Founder and President Jan C. Scruggs and Board Secretary Dan Reese, both of whom are on the VVMF staff, are non-voting members. VVMF strives for diversity among its board members.

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

VVMF takes the stewardship of donations entrusted to the organization very seriously. The programs funded by these donations are designed to help VVMF achieve its mission of preserving the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, promoting healing, and educating about the impact of the Vietnam War.

VVMF meets the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity and Accountability. These standards were developed to assist donors in making sound giving decisions and to foster public confidence in charitable organizations. The standards encourage fair and honest solicitation practices, promote ethical conduct by charitable organizations, and advance support of philanthropy. VVMF meets all 20 Wise Giving Alliance Standards. Visit www.bbb.org/charity-reviews/national to look up the details of VVMF’s Wise Giving report.

VVMF’s Finance and Audit Committee meets regularly, and its members lend their financial expertise to the goal of using VVMF’s funds wisely and ensuring that the organization’s financial information is transparent and accessible to any interested parties. To that end, VVMF has posted financial information on its website for FY2012 and past fiscal years, going back to 2008. This information includes the Annual Report, IRS Form 990, the Audited Financial Statement, and a Breakdown of Administrative Expenses.
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WAYS TO GIVE

While VVMF honors veterans and their families, the organization uses the generous contributions of its donors to educate future generations and support the legacy of The Wall and those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War. We rely on your support to continue its programs, which advance the education and healing that began with the creation of The Wall.

There are many ways to support VVMF and its important missions.

HELP BUILD
THE EDUCATION CENTER

Gifts for the Education Center at The Wall must be designated as such. These gifts will help VVMF create a permanent learning facility on the National Mall that will show the pictures and tell the stories of the more than 58,000 individuals lost during the Vietnam War.

To support this important initiative with a gift of any size, visit www.buildthecenter.org.

MAKE A GIFT IN MEMORY

Donating to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund in memory of a family member or friend who has passed away is a meaningful way to honor them. You can make a significant in-memory contribution to the Memorial Fund in the following ways:

- Next of kin, family, and friends can request donations in memory at a funeral service.
- Create an online memorial or tribute page to share memories about their loved one.
- Make a regular or one-off memorial gift to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund themselves.

We will send a tax-deductible receipt to every person who makes a donation in memory at the funeral service, and we will send the nominated next of kin a summary of everyone who has made a donation in memory.

Find out more. Go to: www.vvmf.org/ways-to-give

ONLINE DONATIONS

Visit www.vvmf.org to make a secure, one-time donation with your credit card.

SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST

Signing up for our mailing list allows you to keep up with VVMF’s many activities throughout the year. Visit our website, www.vvmf.org to sign up online.

In addition to the web addresses listed here, supporters may call VVMF at (202) 393-0090 with any questions or to support our programs through any of these giving options.
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

MONTHLY GIVING

We invite supporters to join a special group of donors who support VVMF all year long with a monthly gift. As an Honor Guard member, you make a special commitment to honoring those who served in the Vietnam War, preserving the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and educating generations about the impact of the Vietnam War. Visit www.vvmf.org/MonthlyGiving for more information.

GIVE AT WORK

COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN/UNITED WAY Federal, military, and U.S. Postal Service employees can designate a payroll deduction gift to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund by writing our national code number 11070 on your Combined Federal Campaign pledge form.

If you are participating in the United Way Campaign and wish to donate to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the identification code is 1184.

AMERICA’S CHARITIES

Many workplaces also collect donations through an organization called America’s Charities or through the United Way. Look for VVMF by name (or by ID #52-1149668) through these organizations. Or, simply designate Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund in the space on the form provided by your company. Many companies allow you to pledge online, too.

MATCHING GIFTS

Numerous companies encourage employees to make charitable contributions by matching their philanthropic support. Check with your human resource department to find out if you work for a company that matches charitable contributions. If so, fill out a matching gift form with our tax ID# 52-1149668, and mail along with your donation to:

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
Attn: Lois O’Connor
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW Suite 104
Washington, DC 20037
loconnor@vvmf.org

WALL SOCIETY

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial has become a national symbol of recognition for the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans, a place of healing for veterans, and a place of remembrance for those we lost.

Members of The Wall Society have made a pledged to ensure that The Wall will continue to be hallowed ground — not only today but for future generations — by making a part of their legacy a donation to VVMF. Gifts of all sizes help to share the stories and legacies of Vietnam veterans with younger generations. We welcome your current and deferred gifts as follows:

• Beneficiary in your will
• Beneficiary of a trust
• Charitable Trust naming Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund as a beneficiary
• Designee of a life insurance policy
• Gifts of highly appreciated securities

For information on joining VVMF’s Wall Society, go to: www.vvmf.org/ways-to-give

OTHER GIFTS

VVMF accepts vehicle donations, as well as gifts of real property, stocks, and bonds. Visit www.vvmf.org/VehicleDonations to learn about all of these options.

Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VietnamVeteransMemorialFund
Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/VVMF

866-990-WALL
Call toll-free to make a donation or learn more.
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Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
IN MEMORY
OF THE MEN AND WOMEN
WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR
AND LATER DIED AS A RESULT
OF THEIR SERVICE
WE HONOR AND REMEMBER
THEIR SACRIFICE

Complete the Mission
ABOUT VVMF AND THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL

Established in 1979, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. (The Wall), promoting healing, and educating about the impact of the Vietnam War.

The Education Center at The Wall is the place on the National Mall where our military heroes’ stories and sacrifices will never be forgotten. It is a multimillion-dollar, state-of-the-art visitor’s center and learning facility to help people better understand the profound impact the Vietnam War had on their friends and family members, their home towns, and the nation.

The Education Center will feature the faces and stories of the 58,282 men and women on The Wall and will forever honor those who fell in Vietnam, those who fought and returned, as well as the friends and families of all who served.

It’s time to complete the mission.

Support the Education Center at The Wall by visiting www.buildthecenter.org or by calling 866-990-WALL.