VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the nonprofit organization that founded the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington, D.C., in 1982. VVMF is the organization that partners with the National Park Service to maintain and care for The Wall, The Three Servicemen statue, flagpole, and In Memory plaque.

VVMF's mission is to honor and preserve the legacy of service in America and educate all generations about the impact of the Vietnam War and era. We honor the service of all, preserve the memory of those who died during the war and since returning home, and educate all generations about the lasting impact of the war.

CHAPLAINS IN WARTIME

Since 1775, more than 25,000 chaplains have provided guidance and spirituality for men and women serving in our armed forces. They have been active in more than 270 major combat engagements and more than 400 have died serving their country. Chaplains in Vietnam offered spiritual guidance, and provided comfort and care to those serving in country, often putting their own lives at risk to do so. Peaking at 300 serving in Vietnam in 1967, the number alone is not representative of the amount of steadfast care and compassion that these men were able to provide. Sixteen of their names are engraved upon the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and thousands more served their country and fellow man.

CHAPLAINS ON THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

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WILLIAM J BARRAGY

While meeting with troops of the 101st Airborne Division on May 4, 1966, Army Chaplain Barragy was killed when the CH-47 he was riding in crashed due to mechanical failure. From Waterloo, Iowa, he was serving the Roman Catholic Church. Panel 7E, Line 22.

DON L BARTLEY

With less than one month left in Vietnam, Army Chaplain Bartley was assisting in the filming of a television program on Vietnam chaplains when he was killed after the explosion of a hostile mine. From Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, he was serving the United Presbyterian Church at MACV headquarters. Panel W23, Line 109.

ROBERT R BRETT

During the siege of Khe Sanh, Navy Chaplain Brett was killed during an artillery attack while caring for the wounded on February 22, 1968. Assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, Chaplain Brett served the Roman Catholic Church and was known to have provided up to ten masses per day. Panel 40E, Line 58.

MERLE D BROWN

On Easter Sunday 1971, Army Chaplain Brown was calling upon soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, AMERICAL Division when his helicopter was shot down by enemy fire. From Columbus, Ohio, Chaplain Brown was serving the Lutheran Church. Panel W4, Line 118.

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VINCENT ROBERT CAPODANNO

While administering comfort and last rites to Marines, Navy Chaplain Capodanno was wounded by small arms and mortar fire while serving with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Advancing to aid a wounded corpsman, he was killed by enemy fire in an act of heroism that would earn him the Medal of Honor. From Staten Island, N.Y., he is being beatified by the Roman Catholic Church. Panel 25E, Line 95.

MEIR ENGEL

A veteran of World War II and Korea, Army Chaplain Engel died of a heart attack shortly after admitting himself to a hospital in Saigon on December 16, 1964. Chaplain Engel was born in Israel and immigrated to the United States. Based at MACV Headquarters, he served service members of the Jewish faith. He left behind two sons. Panel 1E, Line 77.

WILLIAM N FEASTER

Army Chaplain Feaster was injured by artillery fire on September 18, 1966. Only after helping other wounded was it learned he had also been wounded. He died several weeks later of an infection. From Portsmouth, N.H., he served Congregational Christian Church while serving with the 196th LIB. Panel 11E, Line 109.

WILLIAM J GARRITY JR

On October 26, 1966 in the Gulf of Tonkin, a fire engulfed the USS Oriskany killing 44 crewmen and injuring another 156. While attempting to provide last rites and comfort to those injured and dying, Chaplain Garrity was overwhelmed by the heat and smoke. He was from Havre, Mont. and was serving the Roman Catholic Church. Panel 11E, Line 110.

PHILIP A NICHOLS

Known for his clean green uniforms and guitar playing, Army Chaplain Nichols was killed by an enemy booby trap while travelling between units in the field on October 13, 1970. Serving the Assemblies of God Church, from Kalispell, Mont., he was attached to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, AMERICAL Division. Panel W7, Line 133.

MICHAEL J QUEALY

Against the advice of leadership, Army Chaplain Quealy flew to a battle site near Saigon on November 8, 1966. While administering last rites and comforting the wounded, he was killed by enemy machine gun fire. From New York, N.Y., he was serving the Roman Catholic Church with the 1st Infantry Division. Panel 12E, Line 43.

MORTON H SINGER

Army Chaplain Singer had been in Vietnam for one month when killed while flying aboard a C-123 plane which crashed after takeoff en route to perform Chanukah services on December 17, 1968. From Flushing, N.Y., he served service members of the Jewish faith and was attached to the XXIV Corps. Panel W36, Line 37.

CHARLES J WATTERS

While assisting medics and providing spiritual assistance on November 19, 1967, Army Chaplain Watters was killed by fragmentation wounds. For his actions, he posthumously received the Medal of Honor. From Berkeley Heights, N.J., he was serving the Roman Catholic Church with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Panel 30E, Line 36.