



Florida Veteran

Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida, Inc.

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April 2012

Volume 11 - Issue 1

Florida's 25th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion

Sunday, April 22nd The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall, The Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Tribute Panels Walls will be escorted from Brevard Community College Cocoa Campus, Clearlake Road at 10 am. Be there an hour earlier for line up. We are going to need help at the Wall Escort selling T - Shirts, flags, and help with the parking lot control. If you would like to help, please contact Greg at 321-501-6896 or e-mail at vets2gether@cfl.rr.com.

BCC has always been a big supporter of the Reunion and they said we could use their parking lot forever if we clean it up when we are done, so please help police it up before you pull out. There will be coffee & donuts available that morning for a donation courtesy of the USA River Rats. More than 1500 motorcycles and vehicles took part in the escort last year and several joined in along the way. **The escort route will be changed slightly this year: from the BCC parking lot, we will head North on Clearlake (left), East on Michgian to US 1 and South to Parkway Drive in Melbourne.** We should arrive about 11am at Wickham Park. At the back pavilions the VVB will host a covered dish picnic, grilling hamburgers & hot dogs to feed the many volunteers there to help set up the memorial displays. Please bring a covered dish or snack foods to share. Anyone with large drink containers are asked to please bring them filled with iced tea, lemonade, Kool-aid or even water to share with the many hot & thirsty workers. We will have plenty of cups, plates and napkins. There is so much to do, but with everyone pitching in it is easily accomplished. The sign-up book will be at the Wall Set-up, please remember to volunteer some of your time throughout the week.

Opening Ceremony is Monday evening April 23rd starting with the Wreath presentations at 6 PM with the guest speakers starting at 7:00pm and will feature the presentation of colors, several speakers who support the Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion, a rifle salute and taps. The memorials will be open to the public 24 hours a day through April 29th. It will be a busy week and we will need lots of help this year to set up the tents, generators and light trees.

The Tentative schedule of events is listed to the right.

"HONORING VETERANS FOR 25 YEARS"

2012 Tentative Schedule of Events

Sunday- Apr 22

10:00am Wall Escort from Brevard Community College Cocoa To Wickham Park
12:00pm Doc Holiday, Covered Dish Picnic and Wall Set-Up

Monday- Apr 23

6:00pm Presentation of Wreaths
6:45pm Florida Air Academy Marching Band
7:00pm Opening Ceremonies at The Wall

Thursday- Apr 26

6:00pm Doc Holiday
7:00pm **Elgin Hooper**
8:30pm Doc Holiday
9:00pm **Open Fire**

Friday- Apr 27

1:00pm Doc Holiday
2:00pm **Two of Diamonds**
3:30pm Doc Holiday
4:00pm **East Of Omaha Band**
5:30pm Doc Holiday
6:00pm **Atlantic Bluegrass Band**
7:00pm Doc Holiday
7:30pm **Viva Rock Band**
9:00pm Doc Holiday
9:30pm **Pocketchange**

Saturday- Apr 28

11:00am Opening Ceremonies/Massing of the Colors/LZ Helicopter Landing
1:00pm **Two of Diamonds**
2:30pm Doc Holiday
3:00pm **John Steer**
4:00pm Doc Holiday
4:30pm **All About Nothing Band**
6:00pm Suncoast Vietnam Vets "The Last Patrol"
6:30pm Doc Holiday
7:00pm **Pocketchange**
8:30pm Doc Holiday
9:00pm **Viva Rock Band**

Sunday- Apr 29

10:00am Church Services By **Rev. John Steer**
10:30am Patience Mason at the Wall Pavilion-Recovering From The War-PTSD
11:00am Doc Holiday
1:00pm **Red Tide Band**
3:00pm Doc Holiday
4:00pm **Sweetwater Junction Band**
6:00pm Melbourne Municipal Band at The Wall
7:00pm Closing Ceremony at The Wall

Monday- Apr 30

9:00am Cleanup Wickham Park and Wall Take Down

Brought to you by the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc.

PLEASE - NO COOLERS, GLASS OR PETS IN REUNION OR MEMORIAL AREA

The Vietnam and all Veterans of Florida State Coalition would like to recognize the following members/organizations for awards that were presented at our Annual Banquet held this past January. USA River Rats- Organization of the Year, Ken "Radioman" Wakefield - Veteran of the Year, Rose Fantaccione - Member of the Year, and Beyel Brothers - Business of the Year.

In addition, our 2012 executive board members are: Robert "Doc" Neitzel, President, "Big" Al Diaz 1st Vice President, Leo "Doc" Williams 2nd Vice President, Roberta Neitzel, Secretary and Jacque Earrusso, Treasurer.

If we cannot agree amongst ourselves as to the importance or priorities of these issues and direct these to our politicians, then our voices will never be heard by our State and Federal Legislators. If we as organizations cannot unite on issues pertaining to all of us, and cannot determine the best way to fund these issues, then we fail as organizations as our goals outlined in most of our charters and/or by-laws have fallen to the wayside and have been long forgotten.

I would like to invite all to discuss with their general membership joining the State Coalition, to participate in our quarterly meetings held throughout the State of Florida and to take advantage of all the information that is disseminated from our member organizations. I believe you will find as I have stated, that the goals of the State Coalition are not so different from yours and we need to unite - We all served together, fought together and we are now all fighting for the rights of veterans - shouldn't this be a united front ?

Respectfully yours,
Robert "Doc" Neitzel
President, Vietnam and All Veterans
of Florida State Coalition

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Vietnam and All Veterans State Coalition, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all to the 25th Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion. The membership of the VVB has been hard at work all year to bring this Reunion to fruition once again and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their dedication to helping and honoring ALL veterans.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the State Coalition for giving me the distinct honor of representing them as their new President. The Executive Board has already set several goals and will strive to attain them.

With so many important issues facing all veterans today and the uncertainty of our present economic and political times, now, more than ever, is the need for all veterans to band together as we basically all have the same goals: obtaining benefits for our veterans through the VA, getting medical services in an efficient and expedient manner, fairness in distribution of VA funding, the increase in homeless veterans (including families with young children), supporting our troops and their families who are currently serving our Country, fighting increases in Tricare deductibles, current legislation that is attempting to limit the amount of pension payments to those who are also receiving disability payments, changes to criteria for disability through the VA to name a few.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a privilege and an honor to be the president of the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard. The VVB is well known in the community for the services we have provided to our fellow veterans and their families for over twenty years. I am grateful for the opportunity to see that we continue these programs and intend to stimulate new interest in the future of the VVB.

At this time of the year we are all focused on our 25th annual veterans reunion and many of our members have been preparing for this event since the day the last reunion ended. This is our opportunity to share our community and organization with veterans from many other parts of the U.S. Some come to the reunion specifically to see the VVB's Traveling Memorial Wall displayed at its most important event of the year. When the reunion is finished our wall begins its annual tour to be viewed by thousands of other people who may have never seen the Vietnam

Memorial Wall in Washington or any other replica of it. As our wall travels so does the name and the reputation of the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard to people who may have no idea who or where we are. I trust they understand that we are proud to share this tribute to our fellow veterans that our organization created.

The VVB and the reunion represent veterans of all eras and our focus will continue to be to attract veterans to the VVB. Expanding our membership with the veterans of today and tomorrow will ensure the organization will continue to thrive into the future. I ask all members to encourage recruitment of new members and welcome them into our ranks.

Another extremely important goal of the organization will be the building of a new facility that we can call home. We have been talking about this possibility for more than two years since the fire, but there was not much progress made toward its completion. We now have a building committee that has been actively reviewing existing structures and working toward a new design for the construction. We have also initiated the first fund raiser that will be used toward the project. This program will require the effort of all members for it to succeed. I intend to stimulate the same effort we put forth to raise the funds required to construct the Traveling Memorial Wall and see the VVB's new home completed. We did it before and with your help we can do it again.

**Don Wassmer
President**

The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard---About Us

A small group of Vietnam veterans in Central Brevard started to meet in 1985 to help each other to deal with lingering issues from the Vietnam War. In 1986 it developed a philosophy and a purpose to attract other Vietnam vets and formally organized. The primary goal was to assist other veterans. The camaraderie was the glue that developed into a program to help those with PTSD symptoms and the concomitant problems associated with it such as substance abuse and homelessness.

An area of great concern was the POW/MIA unresolved problem and the actions of the government to deal with it honestly. It is still a frustrating matter that we continue to pursue.

Within two years, the VVB organized and hosted its first Vietnam Veterans Reunion. This event eventually became famous throughout the country and today is *the* premier event of its kind. After the Gulf War it became evident that the problems faced by Vietnam veterans were not much different than those faced by subsequent generations and we began a systematic effort to welcome all veterans into the VVB. We changed our name in 2000 to reflect that commitment at that year's reunion and by 2003 the Vietnam Veterans of Brevard officially became the Vietnam and All

Veterans of Brevard (we still abbreviate to VVB to, well, to abbreviate).

From the start efforts were made to find a place for distressed veterans to go to regroup and get back on their feet. The story cannot be told in this brief synopsis but suffice it to say, we stumbled our way to it. In fact, we did it ourselves and the hard work and perseverance of those who got it off the ground cannot be understated. We call it the Veterans Transitional Facility and since 1990 it has helped thousands of local vets, which include their families, get back on track. Today the program houses 20 vets and their family members at any given time and sets the pace for a smooth transition back into the mainstream of life. Those that have taken advantage of the opportunity never forget.

Our Reunion depended on various organizations to provide the sacred centerpiece, a mobile Memorial Wall. Getting those commitments coordinated were sometimes nail biting scary. In 2005 we came close to not having one; so we decided to build one. In less than a year, with the committed efforts of several local businesses, Brevard citizens, a laid off vet and other VVB volunteers we had our own Wall on display at our Reunion in 2006. In addition, we make The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall available for other events throughout the country.

Those are the stars of the VVB but in no way are the only services we offer to the veteran community here in Brevard and even beyond. We have a Color Guard and Rifle Team who manage to come together for local events and memorials in spite of the fact that they must coordinate their own work schedules to accomplish those duties. We provide veterans to speak to school students about the experience of war firsthand, beyond what they find in the history books. There is a mobile museum available for community events where citizens can touch the experience; even smell it. Our newsletter has been published since day one and is the source for other events, projects and activities in which we and other veterans groups are involved.

So what about membership? The most common theme heard at reunions for not joining is—I'm not a Vietnam vet. But that isn't a requirement to join. We are an organization dedicated to the support of our local *veteran community*. A veteran who served in peacetime, a veteran's family and any citizen that wishes to lend hands-on support of veterans is part of that community. The Vietnam veterans who started the VVB never intended it to be an exclusive club. They recognized that family members and friends were also affected by the times in which the War took place and as we grew, new generations and their families were welcomed as their own Eras unfolded.

The only requirement for membership in the VVB is a \$15 check and a desire to support your veteran community. Many members will assist at the reunion. Others find they're best suited for other activities. So if you like what you've read so far, give our Membership Chairman a call (back page) or fill out the application below and join; even if it's just to stay informed through the newsletter.

For more about us and our work check out the website at www.vietnamandallveteransofbrevard.com

VVB Mailing Address
Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc.
PO Box 237225
Cocoa, FL 32923-7225

The Wall Report

Well it's that time again for a Wall report, last year was busy and we had some great events. I guess the high point was in Canton, Michigan we had The Marine Corp Silent Drill Team performed in front of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall that is a tuff act to follow. Of course we tried in Ottawa Ohio when we got hit with a straight line wind gust of over 75 miles an hour and The Wall blew over. It was picked up and laid over and there was not one face panel damaged, the only thing damaged was a back brace. Let's all hope that doesn't happen again (article to follow.)

As for 2012 we have 18 events scheduled from May to December. Of those, six events will be in Florida, including Melbourne. A first this year, we will be were doing an event after Veterans Day - the first week of December we'll be in Englewood, Florida. Also it looks like we'll be going to Oklahoma for the first time that one might not happen it's still up in the air. Well, also be doing Mississippi for three events (two of these are repeats.) We will also hit West Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Louisiana, North Carolina and Georgia. So with that we will put some miles on the old Ford, but we will take the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall to a lot of people, so if you know people in those states tell them to come by and see us, or I'll see you on the road. You can check our schedule at www.travelingwall.us

Greg Welsh
Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Manager

Community rallies to patch up Veterans' wall Storm damages display in Ohio

7:26 AM, Jul. 26, 2011

Gusts in Ottawa, Ohio, blew down the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on Friday. / For FLORIDA TODAY
R. NORMAN MOODY

About the wall

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Length: 288 feet long; 5-foot-10 tall at the center (three-fifths the size of the original wall in Washington, D.C.) Made of: 3/16-inch anodized aluminum with a hardened coating Number of panels: 140 Cost: More than \$250,000 including truck and trailer to transport it.



Slammed to the ground by a powerful storm, the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will need some touch-up work after it returns home to Brevard County later this week.

The community rallied in the small Ohio town where the nearly 300-foot-long wall was knocked down by sudden and powerful winds. It was patched up for a festival within three hours of the fast-moving storm.

"The whole town came out," said Greg Welsh, who manages the wall for the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard. "When they heard it happened, they came with tools and wanted to know how they could help."

The Brevard veterans group used to pay between \$3,000 and \$8,000 to rent a replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall for its Wickham Park reunion, billed as the largest reunion of its kind in the nation. The Traveling Memorial Wall was built for use at the annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion in Melbourne and for rent elsewhere. The wall, plus truck and trailer to transport it, costs in excess of \$250,000.

Since 1996, Welsh and his wife, Maureen, have taken the wall across the eastern half of the nation for reunions and other events.

Welsh was in Ottawa, Ohio, for the Traveling Memorial Wall tribute in conjunction with the Tri-State Rhythm and Rib Fest at the Putnam County Fairgrounds when the storm suddenly blew in Friday afternoon with winds reported close to 70 mph.

"It hit it on the back side," Welsh said. "Had it come from the front, we would have been OK. It lifted the whole thing and laid it down. It was face down."

The 288-foot wall, a 3/5th replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., is made of aluminum panels 3/16-inch thick attached to angle-iron frames. The wall panels and frames fit into a channel on the ground. Telescoping metal braces extend at an angle behind the wall to brace it. The panels have a hardened black coating with the names of those who died in the Vietnam War painted in white letters.

The storm, which lasted less than an hour, blew over tents, knocked down tree limbs and caused some minor injuries at the festival. "The thing came out of nowhere," Welsh said.

Rich Ross, of the Ottawa Glandorf Jaycees was in a trailer near the wall when it was blown down. "We all watched it go," he said. "This was after a year of planning."

Welsh said volunteers took part of the twisted wall frame from one panel that had been damaged, welded it and returned with it within two hours. Volunteers then helped reassemble the wall.

Welsh said it was the 64th and 65th times that he had assembled the wall since he started managing it. He said the only remaining repair is to paint the frame that was rebuilt.

About 150 people volunteered to help get the wall set up again, some retrieving tools from home.

"This community is really unbelievable in a can-do spirit," Ross said. "Greg was extremely happy with it. It was something special."

FLORIDA DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION



Dedicated Unhesitating Service To Our Fighting Forces

"So Others May Live"

On behalf of Florida Dustoff Association I would like to take a moment to say "Welcome Home." The Florida Dustoff Association is comprised of Dustoff Medics, Pilots, Corpsmen, Donut Dollies, Med-Evacs and many whom themselves have been "dusted-off" from the Vietnam, Desert Storm, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. Please stop by our campsite in Camp Ground B at this year's coming reunion if you are one of the above to say hello, or are interested in joining our organization. **ALL ARE WELCOMED AT DUSTOFF!!**

This past years elected officers are: Brett Brookins President, Robert Neitzel Vice President, Elizabeth Brookins, Secretary, Roberta Neitzel, Treasurer and Doc Combs, Chaplin.

Members of Florida Dustoff participate in numerous veterans related events in conjunction with other local organizations...Stand downs, Welcome Home programs, packages to our troops, Wreaths Across America, to name a few. We all strive for the same end result...taking care of our fellow brothers and sisters.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate this past year's recipients of awards in our organization: Member of the Year, Ron "Doc" Custer; Certificate of Appreciation for Service to Dustoff – Al Snow, State Representative Dorothy Hukill and the USA River Rats; Doctor Dustoff Award to Carolyn Zsoldos, Linn Vercheski and Ron "Doc" Smith.

We are currently in the process of completing our website – www.DUSTOFFFL.ORG, so please feel free to take a peek, but please remember, it is currently under construction.

Robert Neitzel –Vice President Florida Dustoff

"WHEN I HAVE YOUR WOUNDED"



USA RIVER RATS

We have a lot of things on our agenda this year. Of course we will have our usual events that include Easter Dinner at Vista Manor at Nursing Home, an Easter Egg Hunt for the children in the community, March Stand Down at the Cocoa Armory and lots more. Please check out our website "usariverrats.com" for a detailed list. More will be added as the year progresses.

We will be hosting the VVOF meeting on March 31st at the VFW Post 4228 in Titusville. Our cooks will be making some delicious food.

This past year we had our **1st Annual "Ken Baker Wall Run"** in which was a great success and all proceeds were donated to the VVB for The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall. **This coming year we will be having it on the 1st Saturday of November** - more information and flyers will be coming out at a later date also check out our website for more details. We are looking forward to the reunion. We will be having a Rib Dinner at our campsite B74-77 on Wednesday April 25th . Tickets are available for \$10.00 if you are interested please contact one of our officers listed below to reserve your dinner. We will be having entertainment by Bones. Update on the Medal of Honor Park: We have been approved to place the Memorial Park at the same location as the Brevard Veterans Memorial Museum located on Merritt Island.

If you have questions or comments you can contact any of our officers.

USA RIVER RAT OFFICERS 2012

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------|
| President | Ken "Radioman" Wakefield | 321-693-4762 |
| 1st. Vice | Steven "Scarecrow" Worrell | 321-698-0009 |
| 2nd. Vice | Al "Big Al" Diaz | 321-863-0575 |

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Treasurer | Norm "HoundDog" Pamplin | 321-228-6576 |
| Secretary | Michelle "Screamer" Ollice | 321-323-4382 |
| Chaplain | Charles "Otter" Tripp | 321-225-4003 |
| Sr Sgt @ Arms | Mike "Cowboy" Angelo | 321-243-0369 |
| Asst Sgt @ Arms | Bobbie Jo "BAD" Dino | 321-302-4781 |
| Advisor | Robert "Dustoff" Neitzel | 386-424-1989 |
| Advisor | Wayne "Wayneo" Smith | 321-698-6989 |
| Quarter Master | Janis "Bubbe" Worrell | 321-698-0659 |
| Service Office | Eric "Crime Scene" Ackler | 321-863-7415 |

We are looking forward to another great year helping our veterans.

Getting ready for Escort and Reunion and looking forward to seeing lots of you there for your usual good time and camaraderie.

THE USA RIVER RATS WILL BE HOLDING TWO FUNDRAISERS DURING THE REUNION WITH ALL PROCEEDS BEING DONATED TO THE VVB'S VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL:

The First is a commemorative 25th Reunion Dog Tag (with chain). The tag is double sided – the front depicts The Wall with four long stemmed yellow roses leaning against it. The back of the tag has this year's Reunion slogan – "Honoring Veterans for 25 Years". This is a copyrighted, limited edition dog tag and it is made in the USA. We are asking a minimum donation of \$5.00 per tag. Please see any member of the USA River Rats for purchase of this. It will also be available at our vendor table. The USA River Rats would like to thank Maureen Welsh for the contribution of the photo used for the front design.

The other item is a Diamondback 9mm laser etched with 25th reunion. Tickets are \$10 per ticket and the winner will be drawn @ the reunion Sunday noon. As we are not able to sell these tickets in the reunion area, they will only be available for purchase at our campsite - B74-77. You must be able to pass a background check in order to take possession of the gun.

USA RIVER RATS
Michelle "Screamer" Ollice
Secretary

KWA Mid-Florida Chapter 173

This chapter has the objectives that ALL Korean War and Korean Service Veterans (service after January 31, 1955) will never be "Forgotten." We take pride in participating in programs for Memorial Day, Veterans Day and the Annual "Wreaths Across America" program and other civic and military holidays and events remembering those who served with us and before us.

We honor the active duty, reserves and national guard members by supporting the "Operation Christmas Soldier" annually with the Orlando VA Medical Center and monthly with support of KISS "Kids in Support of Soldiers" with articles and donations for mailing packages to troops in harm's way in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations around the world. Our Chapter is an ardent supporter of

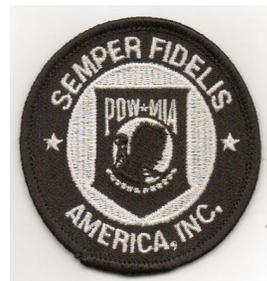
the Wounded Warrior Project, making quarterly contributions from the 50/50 drawing at each meeting.

Our future is in the hands of our youth, whom we support in the Junior ROTC units in seven high schools in the Central Florida area. We award Certificates, Coins and scholarship funds.

Robert "Bob" Johnson, Chapter treasurer was named as the recipient of the "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his long and valuable service to the Chapter. Ted Trousdale, Chapter Quartermaster was named the Chapter "Veteran of the Year" For his commitment to the Chapter for his service as the official representative at many meetings and for his service as Chapter Quartermaster.

Our meetings are twice monthly with business meetings on the first Thursday of each month at Casselberry Veterans, 200 Concord Drive, Casselberry FL and membership meetings on the third Thursday of each month at VFW Post 2093, located at 4444 Edgewater Drive in Orlando FL. Both meetings begin at eleven A.M.

**Yours in Comradeship
Chuck Travers**



**SEMPER FIDELIS
AMERICA, INC**

Semper Fidelis America Inc. was started by Founder and President James R. Martina (Papa Smurf) who did six tours in Vietnam and was one of the few U.S. Marines attached to help at Hamburger Hill. His vision was to help other veterans in need. Today Semper Fidelis America holds numerous yearly functions to help raise money for our military brothers and their families. Our group reaches out to many other organizations. Semper Fidelis America Inc. is a not for profit organization.

Our mission is to support the VA Convalescent home located in Baldwin Park at 5201 Raymond Street Orlando, Florida. We hold numerous yearly functions in order to raise money to help these veterans. Our organization is not for profit, so all the proceeds from our functions go to veterans in need and their families. We also work together with other organizations such as Vietnam Veterans of Central Florida caretakers of National Vietnam War Museum also located in Orlando. Youth organizations, such as Orlando Devil Dog Young Marines, which always help with our yearly dinners for disabled veterans.

Some of our upcoming events are: Our annual Steak Dinner at the Reunion – Friday April 27th at Campsite A30. Cost is \$10.00. The proceeds from this dinner benefit the VA Convalescent Home in Orlando. We are then participating in the 2nd Annual Orlando Nam Knights Fundraiser "Building Homes for Our Troops" on Saturday May 5th at 1 PM. This will be at their Clubhouse at 1451 N County Road 13 in Orlando – cost is \$100.00 per couple and will

consist of an open bar, 3 course meal, live music and more. For more info please go to www.nkorlando.org. Another event will be on Saturday May 18th at Betty's Laughing Lounge at 907 N Goldenrod Road in Orlando. This benefit is for the Wounded Warrior Project and the event will include raffles, 50/50, live music and BBQ for a donation. Finally, on June 15 7:00 pm at VFW Post 4287 we will have The First Annual Ladies Purple Boxer Contest with 100% of the proceeds benefiting prostate cancer. There will be raffles, 50/50, live music a go-go contest and prizes for the most original boxers. This will be held at 3500 Goldenrod Road in Orlando. We look forward to seeing you all there!

JOHN MURPHY
PRESIDENT

A little history most people will never know...Interesting Veterans statistics off The Vietnam Memorial Wall

"Carved on these walls is the story of America, of a continuing quest to preserve both Democracy and decency, and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream." - President George Bush

- Something to think about - Most of the surviving parents are now deceased.
- There are 58,267 names now listed on the polished black wall, including those added in 2010.
- The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is almost 37 years since the last casualties.
- Beginning at the apex on panel 1E and going our to the end of the East wall, appearing to recede into the earth (numbered 70E - May 25, 1968), then resuming at the end of the West wall, as the wall emerges from the earth (numbered 70W - continuing May 25, 1968) and ending with a date in 1975. Thus the war's beginning and end meet. The war is complete, coming full circle, yet broken by the earth that bounds the angle's open side and contained within the earth itself.
- The first known casualty was Air Force T-Sgt. Richard B. Fitzgibbon Jr. of North Weymouth, Massachusetts. He is listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having a casualty date of June 8, 1956. His name was added to the Wall on Memorial Day 1999. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on September 7, 1965.
- First battlefield fatality was Specialist 4 James T. Davis who was killed on December 22, 1961.
- The last American soldier killed in the Vietnam War was Kelton Rena Turner, an 18-year old Marine. He was killed in action on May 15, 1975, two weeks after the evacuation of Saigon, in what became known as the Mayaguez incident.
- Gary L. Hall, Joseph N. Hargrove and Danny G. Marshall are listed as the last to die in Southeast Asia. These three US Marines Corps veterans were mistakenly left behind on Koh Tang Island during the Mayaguez incident. They were last seen together but unfortunately to date, their fate is unknown. They are located on panel 1W, lines 130 - 131.
- The last pilot casualty in the country of Vietnam occurred during the Embassy evacuation in Saigon, William C. Nystal and Michael J. Shea both died on the helicopter on April 30, 1975 approaching the USS Hancock in the China Sea (both are located at 1W, 124).
- The last pilot killed in the Vietnam War was Air Force helicopter pilot Second Lieutenant Richard Vandegear who was killed on Koh Tang Island, Cambodia. This occurred during the Mayaguez incident when his helicopter crashed on May 15, 1975. It is considered the last combat action of the Vietnam War.
- There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.
- 39,996 on the wall were just 22 or younger.
- 8,283 were just 19 years old.
- The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.
- At least 12 men killed in Vietnam were 17 years old.
- At least 5 men killed in Vietnam were 16 years old.
- The youngest Vietnam KIA is believed to be PFC Dan Bullock at 15 years old.

- The oldest person on the Wall is Dwaine McGriff at 63 years old.
- Veterans killed on their first day in Vietnam 997
- Veterans killed on their last day in Vietnam 1,448
- More than 17,000 of those killed were married.
- Thirty-one sets of brothers are on the Wall.
- Thirty-one sets of parents lost two of their sons.
- Number of Chaplains on the Wall -- 16 (2 Medal Of Honor)
- Number of Women on the Wall -- 8 (7 Army, 1 USAF - 7,484 served)
- There are 226 Native Americans on the Memorial.
- Most common name on the Memorial "Smith" with 667 veterans.
- The most casualties for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 casualties.
- The most casualties for a single month was May 1968, 2,415 casualties were incurred.
- Corporal William T. Perkins Jr. of Sepulveda, California was a Marine combat photographer. He is the only military photographer to be awarded the Medal of Honor. He was killed in action on October 12, 1967.
- 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall
- Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons; West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.
- Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia sustained the largest number of Vietnam War casualties of any high school in the nation with 54.
- The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their

service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

- The Buddies from Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us which survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

Call To Action!

Help us Pass H.Res 111

CONTINUED SUPPORT NEEDED TO H. RES 111

In representing the POW/MIA issue by wearing the POW/MIA patch brings a responsibility to do something about it. We want them returned from captivity; we want the government authorized to seriously negotiate and get them back.

House Resolution 111 (H. Res. 111) is the way to do that. This investigative committee will open POW/MIA documents previously hidden and make the recommendations to congress for a law to do what is necessary for their return.

You and I have to get congressmen/women to cosponsor H. Res. 111 now so that we can meet the objective of getting this Congressional Resolution to the House Floor for a vote to get the committee formed, functioning to accomplish. We have to start by getting the cosponsors. Let's get started on this right away.

If you haven't called call this next week, if they haven't signed on as a cosponsor call next week. That is what it takes to get them to take you seriously. You are the leaders in the POW/MIA issue in having the unreturned represented when others passively wait or expect government to do its job; we have to authorize them to get it done. The Defense POW/MIA Office and others only have to do what they have been doing because there is no law requiring them to seek out and bring back our POW/MIAs.

If your congressman/woman hasn't signed on yet call their office and tell them to do so. Here is the current list of cosponsors:

A FULL LIST OF COSPONSORS (currently at 185), may be found at this link: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d112:111::/list/bss/d112HE.Ist:@@P>:

DOD Submits Plan to Further Integrate Military Health System *Approach Will Strengthen Delivery System, Streamline Headquarters and Reduce Costs*

Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter today submitted a report to Congress describing the department's plan to further integrate health operations. This report was required by Section 716 of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2012.

The report outlines three proposed reforms to the governance structure of the Military Health System (MHS), which will make DoD's health system more effective and produce savings. TRICARE benefits and access to care will not be affected by these changes.

The three principal reforms are:

- Establishing a Defense Health Agency (DHA), which will absorb the functions of the TRICARE Management Activity and assume responsibility for common clinical and business processes across the MHS such as: medical education for physicians, nurses, medics, pharmacists, medical logistics and health information technology;
- Appointing market managers for multi-service medical markets with enhanced authorities to create and sustain a cost-effective, coordinated, and high-quality health care system in multi-service medical markets, and;
- Transferring the responsibility for running military treatment facilities within the National Capital Region (NCR) -- including Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital -- to a subordinate organization within the Defense Health Agency that will succeed the Joint Task Force - National Capital Region Medical (JTF-CapMed).

Carter has directed the undersecretary of defense for personnel & readiness and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to stand up a planning team, with involvement of each of the military services, to ensure the department is prepared for timely implementation of these reforms following the required Congressional and Government Accountability Office review.

A full copy of the report can be viewed at http://www.health.mil/2012_MHS_Governance_Report.aspx

Toxic Exposure - Ft. McClellan

Many Veterans of the Vietnam War are now applying for benefits for presumption of service connected diseases related to their service being exposed to Agent Orange. This is due to the VA announcing on 3/9/2010 an aggressive initiative to solicit private sector input on a proposed fast track for Veterans claims for illnesses due to Agent Orange. At the time they expected 200,000 claims and an average of 90 days to process the claim. Presently there are complaints that it is taking longer. This is due to

more claims being submitted than they had envisioned and their staff limitations. Veterans applying who in the past were refused acceptance into the VA dollars per month disability which is non-taxable. You can apply online at <http://www.va.gov> where there is also information of the diseases that are presumed service related. This list is growing as we veterans are aging. Many people do not realize that PCB is a principal component of Agent Orange. Or that Monsanto was the company manufacturing PCB and helping the Military make agent orange. It is due to this relationship that Anniston, Alabama is the site of one of the worst cases of chemical poisoning. They had Monsanto dumping tons of PCBs into the town and Fort McClellan nearby where the Army had their only stateside factory producing live agents of Agent Orange. Fort McClellan was the army training fort for the WAC basic training. The population on the fort was 10,000 and many lived in Anniston where they were doubly exposed with PCBs. The Army Engineers stored their canisters of Agent Orange near the barracks of the WACs in basic training. There is a saying in applying for benefits that there is a one boot rule: if you stepped even one foot into Vietnam or Thailand you have Agent Orange poisoning. However, this rule does not seem to apply to the WAC's who lived there and their boots stepped all over the Fort in the footsteps of the engineers in the factory. As well as the smoke that was breathed from their factory.

Fort McClellan was officially closed in 1999 and is now operated by the Alabama National Guard. For much of its history, Fort McClellan was one of the principal chemical and biological training centers for the Defense Department. The Chemical Defense Training Facility at McClellan was the only facility in the country where live chemical agents were used in training. All military personnel who work with chemical weapons were required to train in the sealed chamber at this location, where they face live agents in full protective gear. Over 28,000 personnel have been through the facility. McClellan had other facilities and training programs for the disposal and detection of nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) weapons. The post was also a major military police training center. The Fort covers 45,680 acres, much of which is training range that is still in use, administered by the National Guard, and as a support facility for operations at Anniston Army Depot, a major chemical weapons storage site nearby. During the 2nd session of the 11th Congress H.R.6238, The Fort McClellan Health Registry Act was introduced which if passed would have directed the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry of certain veterans who were stationed at Fort McClellan. Unfortunately, this bill dies with the close of the 111th Congress and has not been reintroduced. [Source: Veterans Today]

Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: A Causal Link?

By [Maggie Brown](#)

Posted: March 5, 2012

Although injury and death define war, every war is unique in its predominant types of injury and causes of death. World War I had chemical warfare, Vietnam was notorious for Agent Orange, and

the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have been marked by high rates of traumatic brain injury (TBI).

In the Iraq and Afghanistan arena especially, roadside bombs (improvised explosive devices, IEDs) are a common method of attacking coalition troops. Improved protective gear results in a lower chance of death and a concomitantly greater potential for survivable blast injury. A common result of the sudden changes in pressure caused by powerful blasts is damage to the brain, sometimes with only subtle, or even nonexistent, outward signs of injury.

A correlation between TBI and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has been noted in a number of recent studies (e.g., 1, 2). Controversy has been raised over misdiagnoses of mild TBI as PTSD – a problem because although their symptoms overlap, their treatments differ. However, TBI is increasingly viewed as a risk factor for later development of PTSD even though disagreement exists over the strength and extent of association. Any possible causality or mechanism have to now been mostly speculative. The problem with associations is that it's not possible to determine whether one causes the other, whether both are caused by a common factor, or even whether the association is "real" or not. Studies investigating the "direction" of the association (cause and effect) and biological mechanisms are required.

On February 15, a mechanism that may help explain the association between TBI and PTSD was published by a group at UCLA (4). In a rat model of mild TBI, it was observed that the brain is predisposed toward greater "fear learning" following injury. In addition, "injured rats appeared to overgeneralize learned fear to both conditioned and novel stimuli." The authors analyzed the amygdala – the brain's critical hub for fear learning – and found that there were "significantly more receptors for excitatory neurotransmitters that promote learning"

What does this mean in the real world? So far, it's not clear. Humans are not rats, and a laboratory-controlled brain injury is not the same as an IED blowing up your Humvee. So certainly, more studies are needed, but this is a promising step toward understanding causes of PTSD and improving post-trauma care in combat personnel and others.

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VA to distribute personalized benefits handbooks

The Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system said it has begun to send enrollees in the VA healthcare system personalized booklets explaining their benefits.

The new Health Benefits Handbooks provide customized listings of health benefits based on each vet's own eligibility. The handbooks also contain contact information for vets' local VA medical facilities, as well as information for scheduling appointments and communicating with clinicians, VA said. The booklets contain co-pay information when applicable.

The department said that it began to distribute the handbooks this month. All 8.5 million vets enrolled the system will receive handbooks by 2013, VA said.

"VA is committed to providing our nation's veterans with consistent, clear information about the services available to them," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said in a statement.

STOLEN VALOR ACT HEADS TO THE US SUPREME COURT

A U.S. law making it a crime to lie about receiving a military medal goes before the Supreme Court 22 FEB, with the Obama administration defending it for protecting the reputation of war heroes and opponents arguing it violated free-speech rights. The justices will hear arguments on whether an appeals court was correct to strike down the "Stolen Valor Act" adopted by Congress in 2006 for infringing on constitutional free-speech rights, a case about how far the government may go to prosecute false claims about military honors. Opponents said the law swept too broadly, suppressed speech and covered innocent bragging, satire, parody and even statements that caused no harm, like those at issue in the case by a serial liar who held local political office in California. The Obama administration argued in a written brief filed with the Supreme Court that the law was necessary to protect the integrity of the nation's system of military honors. It said the lies take away from the honor bestowed on deserving war heroes. Administration attorneys said the First Amendment does not include the right to make "knowingly false factual statements" about military awards and urged the law be upheld as constitutional. The law "does not restrict expression of opinion about military policy, the meaning of military awards, the values they represent or any other topic of public concern," Solicitor General Donald Verrilli wrote. He will argue the case. The law targets individuals who falsely claim, verbally or in writing, that they won a military medal or decoration. Violators can face up to six months in prison, or up to one year for elite awards, including the Medal of Honor.

The case involved Xavier Alvarez, who was elected to a California water board in Pomona. He introduced himself at a board meeting in 2007 and said he was a retired Marine who won the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration. Alvarez never received the award and never served in the military. The FBI got a recording of the meeting and Alvarez became one of the first defendants prosecuted under the law. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to pay a \$5,000 fine and perform more than 400 hours of community service at a veteran's hospital. He then challenged the law for violating his free-speech rights and a U.S. appeals court ruled in his favor. His attorney Jonathan Libby told the Supreme Court in a written brief there was no evidence that anyone believed Alvarez or that he received any benefit from his lie. "He has told a bunch of whoppers, his claimed receipt of the of the Medal of Honor being just one of many," said Libby, a deputy federal public defender in Los Angeles who will argue the case before the high court. "But exaggerated anecdotes, barroom braggadocio and cocktail party puffery have always been thought to be beyond the realm of government reach and to pass without fear of criminal prosecution," Libby said. Only 45 cases have been brought in the first five years the medal law has been in effect, Libby said.

Iraq Star Foundation

The chief judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit which considered the case strongly agreed with Alvarez. Judge Alex Kozinski said it would be "terrifying" and would permit censorship by "the truth police" if people could be prosecuted for "the white lies, exaggerations and deceptions" that are part of normal social interactions. The Supreme Court in recent years has generally supported free-speech challenges to government restrictions. In 2010, it struck down a federal law that banned videos depicting animal cruelty for violating free-speech rights. If the justices strikes down the law, legislation already has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to make such lies a crime only if there was intent to profit. A number of veterans groups and 20 states supported the government while the American Civil Liberties Union, 23 news media organizations and a wide range of free-speech advocacy groups backed Alvarez. The Supreme Court case is United States v. Xavier Alvarez, No. 11-210. [Source: Reuters James Vicini article 17 Feb 2012 ++]

STOLEN VALOR ACT (Part II) - ARGUMENTS HEARD BEFORE THE US SUPREME COURT

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments 22 FEB in the case of Xavier Alvarez who was charged with a violation of the Stolen Valor Act for his fraudulent public claim of having received the Medal of Honor. Alvarez has never served a day in the military. However, after being elected to a local water board in California, he made the claim that he was a Medal of Honor recipient. While even his own defense attorney noted that Alvarez was an inveterate liar, Alvarez was nonetheless supported by various free-speech advocates who felt that the statute was too broad. Although it is dangerous to read much into the questions posed by the justices during this hearing, most questions fell into two camps:

- 1) What is the nature of the harm, if any, caused by fraudulent claims of military heroism?
- 2) Would upholding the statute have a chilling effect on other forms of speech, such as claims made in political campaigns.

Justice Stephen Breyer, in particular, seemed unwilling to accept the argument that no harm occurs from these lies. "My theory is that it does hurt the medal, the purpose, the objective, the honor, for people falsely to go around saying that they have this medal when they don't." Justice Antonin Scalia, another First Amendment stalwart, noted that perhaps deference should be made to the Congress. "When Congress passed this legislation, I assume it did so because it thought that the value of the awards that these courageous members of the armed forces were receiving was being demeaned and diminished." On the question of whether upholding the act would chill other protected speech, the public defender for Alvarez, Jonathan Libby, seemed to concede that no such chilling effect would take place. When asked by Justice Elena Kagan what truthful speech would be chilled by upholding the act, Libby said, "It's not that it may necessarily chill any truthful speech. I mean, it's — we certainly concede that one typically knows whether or not one has won a medal or not. We certainly — we concede that point." Justice Kagan responded with surprise, noting "That's a big concession, Mr. Libby." It may be months before the high court rules on the case. [Source: American Legion News 23 Feb 2012 ++]

Despite powerful life-saving measures on the battlefield and longer-term medical support stateside, many soldiers face long waiting lists for reconstructive surgery. Iraq Star picks up where the military and VA leave off by providing the reconstructive, aesthetic, surgical procedures that can hasten a happier more normal return to his/her existing military or pre-war life. These procedures are performed by Board Certified plastic and reconstructive surgeons who donate their skills. Iraq Star pays for the soldiers transportation, hotel accommodations, food, anesthesia, hospital operating room, medical supplies and sends a loved one with them. Iraq Star is a growing national foundation with 265 surgeons in 44 states providing their skills to remove shrapnel, treat burn scars, revise artillery scars, implant eyebrows, tooth restoration, etc. for soldiers wounded in the Iraq and/or Afghanistan wars. Their mission is to prevent these wars from permanently disfiguring young lives. If you or someone you know can use their services contact the Iraq Star Foundation at (310) 245-6775, (760) 568-403.9 or email. <mailto:iraqstarinfo@aol.com>. For additional info and videos about their life changing surgeries refer to <http://www.iraqstar.org> and/or <https://www.sedgwickcms.com/troops/>. [Source: Military connection Newsletter 25 Feb 2012 ++]

Ensuring Correct Surgery

The VA National Center for Patient Safety offers a free, downloadable brochure designed to educate patients on what will happen before their surgery and how caregivers will ensure safe and correct surgery. The "Ensuring Correct Surgery" pamphlet includes space for patients to write down medication information and answers to various questions, including the name of the surgery that will be performed and what body part will be operated on. The pamphlet also explains the "time out" process surgeons and nurses take to ensure correct surgery and tips for how patients can facilitate this process, such as ensuring "X" or "yes" marks on the site of surgery is not rubbed off. Potential surgery patients can review or download the brochure to take with them to their pre-op appointment at <http://www.patientsafety.gov/SafetyTopics/CorrectSurg/CorrSurgPt.pdf> or in the attachment to this Bulletin titled, "**Ensuring Correct Surgery Brochure**". [Source: Beckers ASC Review Jaimie Oh article 16 Feb 2012 ++]

VA Homeless Vets Update

The Department of Veterans Affairs is hoping to move some of America's homeless veterans off the streets in part by giving them jobs at the country's national cemeteries. Veterans in the program will be trained as cemetery caretakers and representatives, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki told members of the House Veterans Affairs in testimony 15 FEB. "Veterans who successfully complete the program at national cemeteries will be guaranteed full-time permanent employment at a national cemetery or may choose to pursue employment in the private sector," he said. The VA's National Cemetery Administration oversees 131 cemeteries currently, with plans underway to develop five more, officials said during the 2012 budget rollout earlier this week. The apprenticeship program comes even as the union representing federal employees slammed the VA for cutting back on its federal workforce by hiring private contractors for caretaker jobs.

John Gage, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, said in a statement last week that the outsourcing began during the Bush administration but has continued. Gage said the outsourcing violates the "Vow to Hire Heroes Act"

intended to boost veteran employment. "The outsourced jobs include many entry level jobs that disabled veterans rely on to get back on their feet after returning from the battlefield," he said. The cemetery administration's budget for next year only supports four additional jobs, so additional trainees will have to wait until current employees leave or retire. The VA currently has about 1,700 full-time employees, according to officials. The apprenticeship program is part of the "employment" category, one of the "Six Pillars" of the VA's plan to end veteran homelessness. The others are outreach, treatment, prevention, housing and support services, and community partnerships.

VA Vet Centers

Congress established the Vet Center Program in 1979 out of recognition that a significant number of veterans were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community based and part of the Department of Veterans Affairs. In April 1991, in response to the Persian Gulf War, Congress extended the eligibility to veterans who served during other periods of armed hostilities. These periods include:

- World War II
- Korea
- Vietnam
- Lebanon (25 Aug 82—26 Feb 84)
- Grenada (23 Oct 83—21 Nov 83)
- Panama (20 Dec 89—31 Jan 90)
- Persian Gulf (2 Aug 90—To Date of Presidential Proclamation Ending Operation Desert Storm)
- Somalia (17 Sep 92—To Date of Presidential Proclamation Ending Operation Restore Hope)
- Yugoslavia
- Bosnia
- Iraq
- Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)

To locate the Vet Center nearest to you refer to <http://www.veteranprograms.com/id234.html>. The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach and referral services FREE of charge to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life. The Women Veterans Health Program Act of 1992 {Public Law 103-452} authorizes counseling for women veterans who have experienced acts of sexual violence or harassment while on active duty and the Women's Health Extension Act of 1994 authorizes sexual trauma counseling for all veterans who experienced acts of sexual violence or harassment while serving in the military. In addition, the following are available upon request:

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Marriage and Family Counseling
- Alcohol/Drug Counseling & Referral
- Community Education
- Liaison With VA Facilities
- Referral To Community Agencies
- Bereavement Counseling

[Source: <http://www.veteranprograms.com/id234.html> Feb 2011 +]

Are you involved with an organization or know of an organization that sends care packages to our troops? If so, please contact Al Diaz @ Bigalchico@yahoo.com.

We would like to have this information available to share with individuals or organizations that may like to make a donation, or submit a name of a soldier to receive a care package.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE COALITION?

There are many benefits to join the Vietnam and All Veterans State Coalition. A voice of many is heard above a voice of one. The coalition meets quarterly at various locations in the State of Florida and we discuss and disseminate information pertaining to veterans and their benefits. To obtain information regarding joining the coalition either as an Organization, or an individual, please visit our website at VVOF.ORG coalition either as an Organization, or an individual, please visit our website at VVOF.ORG

If you, or your organization is already a member of the coalition, and there has been a change in officers, please immediately advise the coalition of these changes, including mailing addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers so we may keep you up-to-date with all pertinent information

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All inquiries, questions or comments may be directed to the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. All articles printed in our newsletters are strictly the opinion of the submitter and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida State Coalition or its member organizations. Updated September 17, 2006

THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL



About Our Wall

Our Wall is a 3/5 scale of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC, it stands six feet tall at the apex and covers almost 300 feet from end to end. The Memorial Wall is sponsored by The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard (VVB). Work to build our Wall was started in April of 2005. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall was completed and first shown to the public April 24, 2006.

This Traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. It was made for the purpose of helping heal and rekindle friendships. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall also allows people the opportunity to visit loved ones in their home town, who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington.

The names on The Wall were painstakingly researched from five different data bases and cross-referenced with the Department of Informational and Organizational Reports (DIOR) in Washington, DC, and is one of the most correct and up-to-date traveling wall in the country.

Feel free to take a look at our website www.travelingwall.us, read about what we have to offer. Please contact us with any questions you might have in regards to The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall coming to your town.

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