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THE WALL THAT HEALS IS COMING TO WEST DUNDEE
MAY 22-27, 2024

*Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica Wall and Mobile Education Center
spreads healing legacy of The Wall and educates about the impact of the Vietnam War*

WEST DUNDEE, ILLINOIS – *The Wall That Heals*, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to West Dundee from May 22-27, 2024 at Randall Oaks Park and will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public from May 24-27. *The Wall That Heals* honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

This is the second time *The Wall That Heals* will be on display at Randall Oaks Park. First displayed over 4th of July in 2019, the exhibit was visited by thousands of community members paying their respects.

Sponsored by local non-profit True Patriots Care (www.truepatriotscare.com) and Carpentersville/Dundee American Legion Post 679 (www.dundeeamericanlegion.com), the site is one of just 33 locations in the country where the exhibit will be erected this year. West Dundee was selected from 85 applications received to host in 2024. The two groups hope that the display provides a healing opportunity for Vietnam vets, many of whom were not welcomed home during the tumult of the anti-war movement, and an educational experience for the community about the impact of the war had on America.

“It is a rare moment in our lives when we get to correct a mistake,” said Jerry Christopherson, President of True Patriots Care. “We may have failed to honor our Vietnam Veterans when they returned, but *The Wall That Heals* ensures we won’t repeat that mistake.”

“The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is pleased to bring *The Wall That Heals* mobile exhibit to West Dundee to allow local veterans and their family members a chance to experience The Wall,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF. “Hosting *The Wall That Heals* provides an opportunity to honor and remember all those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War and educate visitors on the continuing impact of the Vietnam War on America.”

The Wall That Heals is transported from community to community in a 53-foot trailer and will make its way down Main Street on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Community members are invited to welcome the trailer by lining Main Street in West Dundee. The patriotic sight is memorable and something for the whole family. The trailer will be accompanied by a motorcycle escort and veterans, residents and supporters are invited to line up along Main Street to watch its entrance into town. Details are available at www.wallthathealsdundee.com.

The three-quarter scale Wall replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors will experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C. Visitors are able to do name rubbings of individual service member's names on The Wall.

When parked, the trailer opens with exhibits built into its sides, allowing it to serve as a mobile Education Center telling the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall and the divisive era in American history. The exhibit includes: digital photo displays of "Hometown Heroes" - service members whose names are on The Wall that list their home of record within the area of a visit; digital photo displays of Vietnam veterans from the local area honored through VVMF's *In Memory* program which honors veterans who returned home from Vietnam and later died; video displays that teach about the history and impact of The Wall; educational exhibits told through items representative of those left at The Wall in D.C.; a replica of the *In Memory* plaque; a map of Vietnam and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War. 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.

The 2024 national *The Wall That Heals* tour is generously sponsored by USAA. Through a partnership with the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA), the trucking industry, and Blue Beacon, the exhibit is able to travel across the country. Local sponsors will be sought out to help support the enormous effort required to bring *The Wall That Heals* to our community.

Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in more than 700 U.S. communities in addition to an April 1999 tour of the Four Provinces of Ireland and a visit to Canada in 2005. *The Wall That Heals* is a program of VVMF, the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1982. *The Wall That Heals* is the only traveling exhibit affiliated with The Wall in Washington, D.C. and includes the largest Wall replica that travels the country. Two VVMF staff members lead volunteers on site, educate visitors and students, and ensure the reflective atmosphere of The Wall. More information can be found at: www.thewallthatheals.org.

About VVMF

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington, D.C. in 1982. VVMF continues to lead the way in paying tribute to our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families. 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 through programs, ceremonies and education materials. To learn more about VVMF, visit www.vvmf.org or call 202-393-0090.

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