

An E-Mail SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY



Here's how a controversial work of art healed America after Vietnam

.How do you build a monument to a war that was more tragic than triumphant? Maya Lin was practically a kid when her design was selected to become the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. And her design was nearly as controversial as the war it commemorated.

"The veterans were asking me, 'What do you think people are going to do when they first come here?'" Lin recalls. "And I wanted to say, 'They're going to cry.'"

Her minimalistic granite wall was initially derided as a "black gash of shame" by Vietnam veteran Tom Carhart. Carhart pushed for a more traditional monument and even submitted an entry into the contest featuring him carrying a fallen comrade. Some saw it as an anti-war statement; others wondered why an Asian-American should be the designer.

However, the initial hostility has faded, and the monument has since become a near-universally treasured piece of public sculpture.

Inscribed with the name of every fallen soldier, it became a sacred place for veterans and their families. It's also influenced later designs like the World Trade Center Memorial, which also features the names of the dead etched into black stone.

"For me, the names were key to it and they were about the individuality of each person," says Michael Arad, designer of the World Trade Center Memorial. "I wanted to mark the collective

loss but also the individual loss that one by one by one created this tally."

Some in the military saw the somber tone of the memorial as anti-war.

"The problems they saw were that it wasn't celebratory, that it made fighting and dying in an American war seem tragic," says historian Kristin Haas. "The idea of millions of schoolchildren year after year going to the National Mall and standing at the Vietnam Memorial and thinking 'This is what it means to be an American soldier?' produced a lot anxiety on the part of people who were trying to recruit those kids to be in an all-volunteer military."

Lin, the designer, admits the wall doesn't glorify the war, which many Americans considered unworthy of the sacrifice it required. Yet, she believes that it succeeds in glorifying the human lives lost in battle.

The monument's location, stretching between the Lincoln and Washington monuments, adds to its air of respect, says journalist Laura Palmer, who was a reporter in Saigon in the early 1970s. "These men and women who were reviled and stigmatized are joined with the two greatest presidents in our history," she says.

"The important thing to know about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is that it made memorials matter again," says historian Haas.

"The practice that is ubiquitous now of, at the site of some kind of public tragedy, people bringing their teddy bears and their toys and letters and flowers... it didn't happen in public places in the United States before Maya Lin's memorial."

And every item that is left behind at the Wall is saved at the National Parks' Museum Resource Center in Maryland."

Studio 360 October 6, 2013

Art Hanley and I attended a reunion of the Americal Division 8/24-8/27 this year. We had served in the same division in Vietnam. Our tours intersected for about 2 weeks. My tour was up as he was starting his tour. We would not meet each until years later. All that has nothing to do with what I want to tell you.



When we got our convention packets we eagerly went through them to see what was going to unfold over the next few days. There was something heavy at the bottom of the envelope. Pulling it out and turning it over in my hand we had been each gifted with a challenge coin. As an avid collector with over 100 coins this was a most pleasing acquisition. Then reading what the coin represented I was excited and astonished. It was a challenge coin to honor the 40th anniversary of "The Wall". Yes "The Wall" in DC. Neither of us were aware of that historic fact.

The picture on the masthead is of the crowd gathered 40 years ago for the dedication of "The Wall".

So when you are contemplating a visit to the Traveling Wall that will be in Putnam this September remember it was 40 years ago that "The Wall" was dedicated.

Cool!

Karl

WREATHS & READERS



**THE TRAVELING WALL IS COMING TO PUTNAM
 WE HOPE MANY PEOPLE WANT TO GET INVOLVED
 HERE ARE TWO WAYS TO GET INVOLVED
 COME AND READ THE NAMES ON THE WALL**

<https://bit.ly/readthenames>

This will be the 5th time that we have brought the Traveling Vietnam Wall to Putnam County. Each time we have read the names continuously the entire time the wall is in place. It looks like this time we may not be able to continue that tradition. Sad. Think about reading some names.

**CONTINUOUSLY FROM THE TIME THE WALL
 BEEN DOWN**

A WREATH

6 PM ON 9/22

PLACED DURING THE

CEREMONY

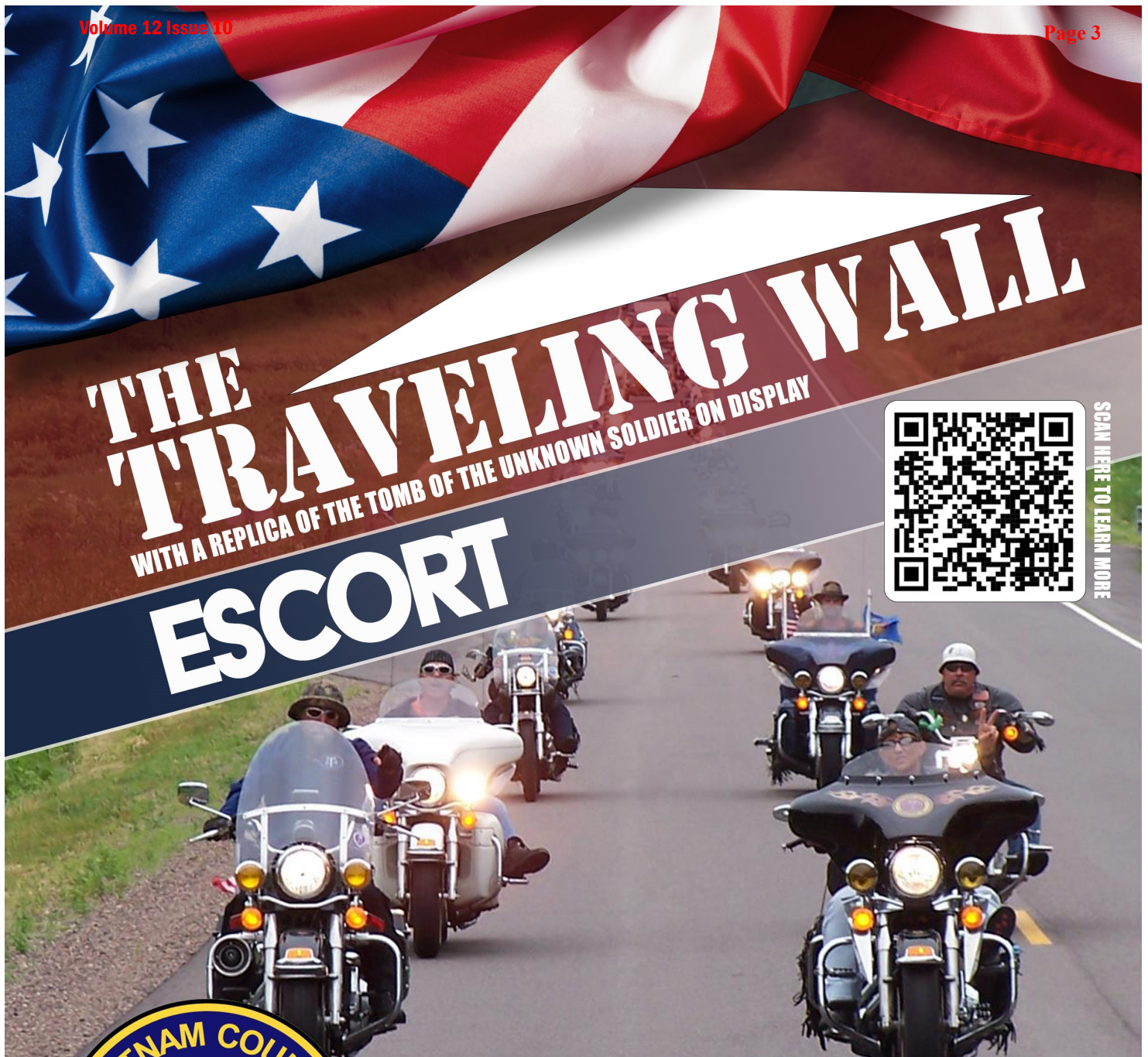
THE TRAVELING WALL

WITH A REPLICA OF THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER ON DISPLAY

ESCORT



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST 2022

MOTORCYCLE ESCORT FOR THE COST OF FREEDOM TRIBUTE MEETING AT THE REST AREA ON THE NORTHBOUND SIDE OF ROUTE 684, ONE MILE NORTH OF EXIT 8

STAGING AT 3 P.M. DEPARTURE 3:30 P.M.



WWW.PCJVC.ORG

WWW.PUTNAMCOUNTYNY.COM

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VISIT WWW.AVTT.ORG

Organization of Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Names are listed chronologically by date of casualty in the pattern shown, beginning in 1959 on panel 1E.

Volume 12 Issue 10

May 25, 1968 casualties begin on 70E and continue on 70W



By referencing a printed or online registry, the panel numbers may be used to locate a name on the wall.

The Wall A little history most people will never know or see.

There are 58,267 names now listed on that 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 36 years since the last casualties.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

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.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old. 5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam. 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall. Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded. Only one from hostile fire,, Lt. Sharon Lane.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this, they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces and 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.

(Thanks to the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association)



A Powerful Veterans Program

Our focus in this 5-session program is on helping Veterans rebuild healthy relationships. Our horses and facilitators will support you and your journey with respect and skill. Activities are non-riding. No horse experience is required.

"I learned a lot about horses and how they help address the issues I have. I learned a new way to use my horse that changed my life, there's no other way to put it. And it's a great program."



Co-sponsored by Dwyer Vet2Vet Putnam, Guardian Revival, The Equus Center, Pegasus, and ShopRite



Thursdays, 10am - 2pm

9/8 ~ 9/15 ~ 9/29 ~ 10/6 ~ 10/13

(October 20th as a make-up date, if needed)

No cost to participants



Hosted at our beautiful Pegasus Farm therapeutic riding center (address below). Bring a bagged lunch and water bottle. **Participants must attend all five sessions.**

Megan Castellano
Dwyer Vet2Vet Putnam/
Guardian Revival, Inc.
megancastellano@guardianrevival.org





FUNDRAISER A SIGN POSTED IN YOUR NAME

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- USS Cole Attack
- Fort Hood Attack



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The
Bulletin Board

Honoring Our Heroes Night

REMEMBERING 9/11
 MAY WE NEVER FORGET

An evening of music, honor and remembrance with
 Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, United For The Troops
 and community nonprofits.

WHEN: Friday, September 9, 2022 7:00PM-9:00PM
 WHERE: Mahopac Chamber Park

ORGANIZERS:
 Pastor/Chaplain Andrew Columbia, MCB CHURCH
 Jim Rathschmidt, UNITED FOR THE TROOPS

For those of you who read the
 entire Sitrep thanks!

This is a special note on 9/23 at
 7PM I will be reading my play
 that I wrote about Vietnam.
 It is a 1 man 1 act play that
 was written about 30 years
 ago.

This will be at the Traveling
 Wall at Putnam County Veterans
 Memorial Park.

**ANTHONY'S
 WALK** 

WALKING FOR OUR LOCAL VETERANS

Supporting VetZero Heroes, Hudson River Housing's
 initiative to end veteran homelessness in our community

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST
10AM | AT MARIST COLLEGE

Starting from outside
 the Allied Health Building
 29 Beck Pl, Poughkeepsie, NY

