

AFTER WALL REPORT

by Event Coordinator Sue Quinn-Morris



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

American Legion Post 372, with the help and support of numerous people and organizations, brought "The Wall That Heals" to our community from April 16th-19th, 2009. The Wall That Heals exhibition featured a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., a Museum and an Information Center.

The following is a summary of the Wall visit;

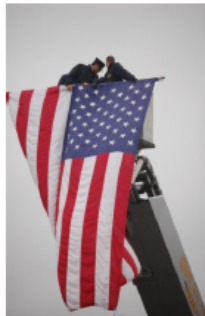
ESCORT - The Wall That Heals was escorted to the Post on Tuesday, April 14th under the direction of Escort Coordinator Tom Beitz



and Sgt Brit Henderson of the Cherry Hill Police Department. The escorts rally point was the rest area in Carneys Point, NJ. CHF—Deer Park provided their food/drink rehab vehicle at the rest stop. Although the weather was rainy, approx 100 bikes showed up for the escort – an incredible number considering



the dangerous road conditions. Prior to the Wall arrival, Post 372 members adorned the 2 mile Chapel Avenue route with flags. While the flagging was essentially for our annual Patriotic 9-11 and Gratitude Week, the timing couldn't have been better as it provided the perfect back drop for the escort. The Cherry Hill Fire Dept set up trucks and the big American flag on Chapel Ave as the children from Joyce Kilmer Elementary school and Cherry Hill West High School lined the sidewalks awaiting the arrival of the Wall.



SET-UP – Set-up of the Wall was done on Wednesday, April 15th. There were approx 50 volunteers, 20 of which were the ROTC kids from Cherry Hill West High School. Some volunteers spent the day



working out the electrical needs (Bill Quinn & Jim Arcinese), while the ROTC and others worked on assembling the Wall and the Wall truck tent – in the midst of some pretty nasty weather – cold, windy and rainy again. Finishing touches were made by adding flags behind the Wall, 24 palm plants with smaller flags in between to form the walkway in front of the wall. Park-

ing signs and Wall signs were placed around the community. 10 Port-a-Potties were delivered, along with 275 rental chairs. The weather report for Thursday – Sunday was great, so we didn't need to make arrangements for plywood walkway or tents. 3 10 x 10 tents (thanks to Richard Drapucuk and Jeff Brown) were erected to provide cover/shelter for the Camden County KIA displays that Sue Quinn-Morris made, Dave Larsen's Vietnam Display and Gunny's friend, Lewis', tribute bike. Steve Funkhouser (CHF) was a tremendous help with the generator, the RV, and helping with set-up/break down for every Ceremony.



ATTENDANCE – According to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Director, Dan Schenk, attendance was between 7000 – 7500 people in the 4 day period.

ACCOMMODATIONS



An RV was supplied by a member of the Cherry Hill Fire Department for volunteers that needed a rest between shifts, after long drive, etc. The Post Hall was open 24 / 7 offering bathroom facilities, the kitchen, seating & tables. All Volunteers were provided with food and refreshments 24/7 in the Post Hall. Many thanks to our Hospitality Coordinator, Carol Doyle, and all the Hospitality Committee members (Gus Branco, Dave Larsen, Doris Ihenfeld, George Dubell and others) for their time and efforts. Many

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thanks to all the sponsors who donated food/drinks for our volunteers as well.

The VVMF staff stayed at the Quality Inn in Maple Shade, NJ. One room was generously donated by the Quality Inn.



Several other out of town guests stayed at the Quality Inn at a discounted rate.



PARKING

Parking was managed by numerous volunteers. The Legion driveway was manned by volunteers to approve who got in and out of our lot. All parking lots were manned during our biggest ceremony, the Candlelight Ceremony, to ensure parking went smoothly.



Many thanks go out to Sgt Brit Henderson of the Cherry Hill Police Department for assistance with Parking (cones and barricades) and the Cherry Hill Fire Police for assistance in manning parking lots during ceremonies alongside our Parking Volunteers (Ed White, Phil Beck, Brian Fitzgerald, Cybil Thomas and others).



SECURITY & NEIGHBORS

We had round the clock security of the Wall beginning Tuesday, 4/14 at 4pm until Monday 4/20.



Cherry Hill Police also left an unmanned police car on the Legion property to help deter any vandalism. A concern during planning of event was neighbor complaints due to the expected crowds and parking. According to the Cherry Hill Police, there were no complaints from any of the neighbors during the Wall visit.

CEREMONIES – All ceremonies went as scheduled – a job well done by everyone involved. Cherry Hill Fire Department lent us the podium, sound system and stage for the ceremonies – and set-up and broke down for each ceremony. DJ Bob Sworg also provided some music/sound system for a couple of the ceremonies.

The Opening Ceremony was held at 6:30pm on 4/16. A Candlelight Ceremony was held on 4/17 at 7pm – Sue Quinn-Morris reached out to

Captioned here is Sr. Vice Commander Ernest G. Brosh at the Opening Ceremony on April 14th. Senior Vice Commander Brosh affirms our



commitment to all veterans; *"The Vietnam war was the longest in US history and like the Korean war, unpopular and in many ways divided our nation. The toll in suffering, sorrow and turmoil can never be tabulated. There is an inscription from WWII on a British war monument in Burma which reads" When you go home, tell them of us and say for your tomorrows, we gave our today." We, who have made it home, are here to do just that, to honor those who made the supreme sacrifice and affirm that never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."*

the family members, friends and comrades of the 88 Camden County men (and a few from other counties) that were killed in action during Vietnam to invite them to the Ceremony honoring their loved ones. Family and comrades from as far



away as Wisconsin, Illinois, Florida, Kansas, New York, Virginia and Delaware attended. It was a very emotional and touching ceremony. A Medal Ceremony was held on 4/18 at 11am. Ltc Al Bancroft presented Medals to local Vietnam veterans. The Closing Ceremony was held on 4/19 at 4pm.



Thank you goes out to the following people and organizations that participated in the

Ceremonies; Post 372 Commander Charles Macukewicz, Post 372 Sr. Vice Commander Ernest G. Brosh, Cherry Hill Mayor Bernie Platt, Congressman John Adler, State Senator James Beach, Freeholder Jeffrey Nash, Freeholder Bruce Bobbit, Freeholder Joe Donnelly, Ltc Al Bancroft, Col John Rawley, Bagpiper Curt Anderson (VVA), Cherry Hill High School Air Force Jr. ROTC, Bob Patterson, Rev. Bernie Henderson, POW/MIA Committee - Bob Jonas, Tony Ha-las, Bugler Bobby



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Mac, Chief Master Sgt AF Alexander Gargas, Charles Gallagher (SJVV), Bob Henderson (Last Patrol), Marty Seroter (Camden County Honor Guard Bugler), William Mead (State Vocalist), Chaplain Chester Malik, Cherry Hill Boy Scouts, Cpl Edward Slavin, SJ Chapter 82nd Airborne Div Assn, Camden County Commander Tom Adams, SALs Commander Brian Fitzgerald, Ladies President Carol Doyle, Val Norton, Phil Beck, Dave Larsen, Sabrina Gottron, South Jersey Vietnam Veteran Escorts,



Color Guards— American Legion Post 372, American Legion Post 371, VFW Post 2445, Vietnam Veterans of America #899, AMVets Pennsauken, Cherry Hill Fire Dept, Cherry Hill Police Dept, Cherry Hill West Jr ROTC, Marine Corp League 1775, Marine Corp League Giordano Detachment.

VOLUNTEERS: We had over 200 people step up and volunteer for various positions. Many thanks to Volunteer Coordinators Charlie Adams, Maggie Thomas, Jim Arcinese, Sean Cook, and Dave Larsen. There were also quite a few volunteers that practically lived at the Post during the visit—thank you.



don't seem adequate enough.

The outpouring of support was phenomenal. It was very inspiring to see just how many people stepped up to help out. Without everyone pulling together, working together as a team, it wouldn't have worked out so well. The words "Thank You"

On the following pages you will find individual thank you's—I apologize in advance if I've overlooked mentioning anyone. Please know everyone's help was very much appreciated.



Event Coordinator Sue Quinn-Morris sums up her sentiment in this quote from the letter she sent to the families, friends and comrades of the KIA. *"Organizing 'The Wall That Heals' visit has had a profound effect on me—one I will never forget and is hard to adequately express in words. Preparation for the Candlelight Services began with just a list of KIA names. I never dreamed of the life that list would take on—the heart and soul of each of your loved ones came shining through. Each name became a person, a life, a story—the common thread being their unfortunate ending. But I can see now, that while their lives were cut short, they live forever in and through each of you and I feel honored to have had the opportunity to learn about your loved one—heroes of our country—without such individuals our freedom would not exist."*



AFTER WALL REPORT (cont'd)



Bob Henderson
 Bob Phillips Jr.
 Brit Henderson
 Carl Trinko
 Catherine Park
 Chris Camp
 Christopher Verone
 Cindy Curran

Maggie, Cybil & Erik Thomas
 Maria Fitzpatrick
 Michael Eckert



Each and every one of you were an intricate part of educating the unknowing and helping to bring some peace and comfort to many veterans, their families, friends and comrades.

I'd like to suggest that everyone go to our website as we have hundreds of photos up and also video of the Opening Ceremony and the Candlelight Services.

For God and Country,
 Sue Quinn-Morris
 Ladies Aux. VP
 Wall Event Coordinator

Daniel Colombi
 Daniel Wine
 Dave Palmieri
 David Schumacher
 Ed Fuller
 Edward Devine
 Frank & Marie Baker
 Fred Giebel
 Fred Kraft
 Fritz Giebel
 George Giebel
 Holly Hill
 James Sweeney
 Jeff Brown
 Jeffrey Fry
 Joan Pearce
 Joann Fearn
 Joe Skenesky
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 John & Sandy Mink
 John Miller
 John Moyer
 Joie Gates
 Judy Wasylszyn
 Kathleen Noon
 Kathy Bruton
 Kirk & Diane Hehl
 Last Patrol
 Libby Weisberg
 Lillian Brady



Michael Strackbein
 Paul & Dolly Gibelyou
 Peter Flowers
 Phil DeRoxtra
 Phil Steinberg
 Pledge Webb
 Richard Drapczuk
 Richard Kranz
 Rita Knox
 Robert Luebke
 Ron Saunders
 Roy Flannigan
 South Jersey Vietnam Veterans
 Stephanie Selah
 Terry & John Brasko
 Tom Lydick
 Tom Young
 Tony Halas
 Tony Laudicina
 Vince Borrelli



THANK YOU

SECURITY & VISITOR ASST. VOLUNTEER THANKS

American Legion Post 372
Volunteers (too numerous to name individually)

AnnLynne Benson
 Barbara Laning
 Barbara Stebbins
 Bernadette Kooi
 Bernie & Gloria Henderson

ESCORT GROUPS

American Legion Riders Post 84
 American Legion Riders (from other Posts in NJ)
 Blue Knights
 Centurions NJ
 Cherry Hill Police Dept
 HOG
 Last Patrol
 Leathernecks
 Medford Twp Po-



AFTER WALL REPORT (cont'd)

lice Department
Nam Knights
Patriot Guard PA
POW/MIA Awareness
Red White & Blue Free-
dom Riders
Second Brigade/
Vietnam Vets
STAR Riders
Warriors Watch
Willingboro Police Department
Barb's Harley Davidson



COORDINATORS & 24/7 Thanks

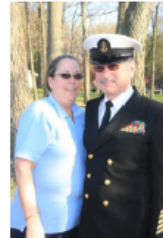
Charlie Adams, Dave Larsen, Sean
Cook, Jim Arcinese, Maggie Tho-
mas, Ed White, Phil Beck, Mike Lo-
bascio, Doris Ihenfeld, Gus Branco
Carol Doyle, Sgt Brit Henderson
Steven Funkhouser, Bill Quinn,
Ernie Brosh, Rob Quinn, Barb Lan-
ing, Tom Beitz, Ernie Linden,
American Legion Canteen Bartend-
ers and Management; (Chin John-
son, MaryEllen Murray, Mary Leo-
nardo, Evelyn Fritsche, Kim Bier-
bach, Val Norton, Patti Hohwald,
Dexter, Jeanie Rooney)

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