

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C.



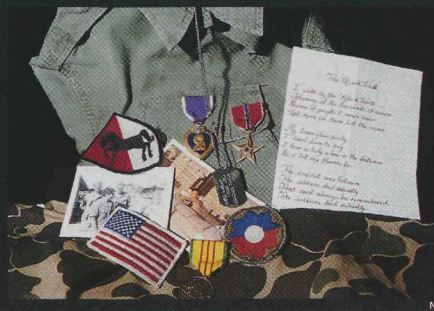
IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES
WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR.
THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
AND OF THOSE WHO REMAIN MISSING ARE INSCRIBED
IN THE ORDER THEY WERE TAKEN FROM US.

ERT W SORESENSEN • ROBERT W BORNMAN • ERN
ODORE TAYLOR Jr • JOHN C TAYLOR • ARKATHEN • ARTHUR J EARLES • SIDNEY H
ORGE M WISHAM Jr • MICHAEL R BAKER • WILLIAM J DESILETS • RICHARD E DEVORE • LARRY A DIEFENBACH
CAIQUEP • JOHN R CARLOCK • ALFRED • WILLIAM J DESILETS • RICHARD E DEVORE • LARRY A DIEFENBACH
IE RAY COX • GUILLERMO DE LEON • NOELMAN E COLOSANTI • SAMUEL FANTLE III • RALPH E FOULKS Jr
LIAM D DOWD • ROBERT W DOYLE • DENNIS C HAMILTON • JOHN P JOHNSON • JAMES C HARTNEY • CARLE HIXSON
NT GALLAGHER • GEORGE GREART CONSALES • DANIEL J JOHNSON • JAMES C HARTNEY • CARLE HIXSON
IE H HOLLAND • ALVIN S JOHNSON • BOBBIE JOE MOUNTS • RAYMOND D MCGLOTHIN
E RAY KUNTZ • FLORIAN H KUSS • LAFON W LADSON • JAMES J LIND • JOHN M LINDNER
PH LUCAS Jr • MIKE A MAKIN • BRUCE J MORAN • BOBBIE JOE MOUNTS • RAYMOND D MCGLOTHIN
ERT W RENAUD • BOBBY RAY RODGERS • JOSEPH SMALLS • GARY W RUNK • FRANCIS P RYBAK
DON D SCHULTZ • KENNETH C SCRUTON • RICHARD E SHAW • THOMAS J SKAVARIL • DANIEL E RODRIGUES
ERT G SMOOT • FRANK B SMYK • RICHARD O WILLIAMS • JAMES D WILLIAMSON • FRED M WRENN
LIAM J ADAMS • JAMES A BAILEY • WAYNE S BATES • TROY C BATTLES • ROBERT L HILLEY
NETH B BERRY • JAMES A CROSBY • STEVEN C DRAKE • EDWARD J DREW II • ERIC R FASSITT
N M GALATA • BROMLEY H GERMAN • ROBERT C GILLEN • JERRY W GILLAND • HAROLD E HAGER
LIAM E BERNARD • GEORGE L HORSMAN II • RICHARD T JACKSON • ROBERT L JONES Jr • JOHN MARTIN Jr
N H MARTINEZ • HAROLD SMITH • SOCORRO PEREIRA • ROBERT D PULLEN • JORDAN E RAMEY
ES P ROBINSON • STEVEN S SCHNACK • GERALD W NORTON • LELAND STEWART • ALONZO R TOAL
ES P TURNER • MICHAEL F WALKER • JAMES A WALL • TERRY C WALLEY • WAYNE A WHITELEY
Y W WICKAM • ROY V WIEGAND • DANIEL L WISELY • RICHARD E WOLFE • PETER A ZANCA
N P AHERN • WILLIAM M ANDERSON • THOMAS R AVILA • ROBERT F BAHL Jr • JOHN L BAROVETTO
IS W BRANCH • THOMAS N BREWER • ROBERT G BRIGHAM • DONALD R BRUCKNER • JOHNNY RAY BRYSON
NETH D BUTLER • ROBERT L HELLER • DELMER R JONES • MANUEL CASILLA-VAZQUEZ Jr • LARRY I CLEEM
HEN E COALSON • CLAUDE H DORRIS • DAVID W DYER • DAN T WARDS • ENRIQUE FERNANDEZ-LESTON
DIE D FORD • MARSHALL H FORD • CONRAD N GONZALEZ • BOB L GREGORY • RENE GUERRA-HERNANDEZ
L G GUTIERREZ • DARREL W HEEREN • JOHN C CALHOUN • JAMES E HESKETT • LOUIS HILLYER
UEL F HOLLIFIELD Jr • RUFUS HOOD • JAMES M INMAN • DAVID L JOHNSON • ARNOLDO L CARRILLO
NCE P JORDAN • JAMES JOSEPH • ROBERT C KEARNEY • RICHARD C KEEFE • ROGER D LEDBETTER
HUR L LAUDERDALE • LLOYD E KNAKE • BLAZE MAGYAR III • LAWRENCE M MALONE • RICHARD G MANGRUM
IAM A MARKARIAN • ALLAN MENDELL • ELLIOTT W MOORE • ARTHUR MILLER Jr • DONALD E MONKMAN
HAEL J MENDENHALL • JAMES J MORA • BOBBY RAY MCKINNON • ROBERT NIELSEN • JAMES E PEAY
IS G PETRONE Jr • EDWARD J REEDER • HUBERT ROYSTER Jr • PHILIP E RUMINSKI Jr • ROBERT C RUSHER
IAM G SCHRAMM • LAWRENCE K SEPULVEDA • KENNETH S SMITH Jr • JAMES M STONE • FRANK SUTTON
REW J TELLIS • ROBERT S TRUJILLO • ROBERT W VADEN • DANNY RAY VANCE • LAWRENCE R WALTON
MAS L WARD • GARY D FERNANDEZ • PAUL H WEBB • JOSEPH C WIAR Jr • MICHAEL L WILSON
ERT C WOLF • WOJCIECH WYSOCKI • TIMOTHY H ARTMAN • MELVIN BAKER • ALAN J BARDACH
NETH D BARRY • CHARLES L BIFOLCHI • HOWARD M BISSEN • LAWRENCE C COVINGTON • RUSSELL K BLATZ
LIEL BLUNT • DANIEL R BOWMAN • JAMES L BURNEY • FRANCIS E CANNON • JOHN T CHAPMAN
R CLAIBORNE • DENVER D COLBURN Jr • PHELOH H COLE • FREDDIE A BLACKBURN • ROBERT M CRAMER
ERT L CRAWLEY • HOVEY R CURRY • LAWRENCE J CYR • MICHAEL R DAY • LARRY GENE DEARING
JEL DIAZ • GARY P DIETZ • LEONARD E DORNAK • ISHMELL EADDY • PHILLIP J EBERHARDT
RGE W ELLIS • ALTON J FENNELL • RICHARD W FISCHER • RONALD L FOX • ROGER C FOXWORTH
N W FREEMAN • DANIEL R FULWIDER • ENRIQUE LORENZO GARCIA Jr • VICENTE GARZA • DONALD W KEEP
HAEL J HALL • ROBERT E L HAMILTON • HOWARD E HANSON Jr • RONALD L HETLAND • JOHN R HULBERT
LD E HUMPHREY • DONNEY L JACKSON • BOBBY W JOBE • BOBBY RAY JONES • HALCOTT P JONES Jr
MAS A CRIMES • STEPHEN B KIRSCHNER • RICHARD G LIGHTBOURNE • PAUL J LIVELY • MICHAEL D MARKS
G N MAY • JAMES I MILLER • JONATHAN MISKIMMON Jr • RAINER K M • GLEN M MORRISON
D D NICHOLSON • JOHN C NIEDERMAYER • MARTIN E O'GRADY • O'NEAL • MICHAEL P OLIVER
ETT W OLSON • JERRY PATRICK • RONNIE D PENDERGRAFT • JUAN • RICHARD A RUMLEY • LOUIS L SCHAUTTEET Jr • FRED
S A PINTAR • MILLARD E PRICE Jr • GUY J PROTANO Jr • JERRY E PRY • RICHARD A RUMLEY • LOUIS L SCHAUTTEET Jr • FRED
H O RODRIGUEZ • RICHARD A RUMLEY • LOUIS L SCHAUTTEET Jr • FRED • J C STORY
OLD W SIGMON • CHARLES H SMITH • HALLIE W SMITH • STEPHEN • WALLACE C SHAFFER L



OUR NATION HONORS THE COURAGE, SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY AND COUNTRY OF ITS VIETNAM VETERANS. THIS MEMORIAL WAS BUILT WITH PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THE HEALING BEGINS



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., a nonprofit charitable organization formed to establish the memorial, was the idea of Jan Scruggs, a former infantry corporal during the war. It was incorporated on April 27, 1979, by a group of Vietnam veterans in Washington, D.C. The founders wanted Vietnam veterans to have a tangible symbol of recognition from American society. They realized early on that whatever design would ultimately result, four basic criteria had to be met: 1. that it be reflective and contemplative in character, 2. that it harmonize

with its surroundings, especially the neighboring national memorials, 3. that it contain the names of all who died or remain missing, and 4. that it make no political statement about the war. By separating the issue of those who served in Vietnam from that of U.S. policy in the war, the group hoped to begin the important process of national reconciliation.

To veterans and their loved ones, the healing process often involves leaving mementos at the wall (*left*).

NAMES BECOME THE MEMORIAL

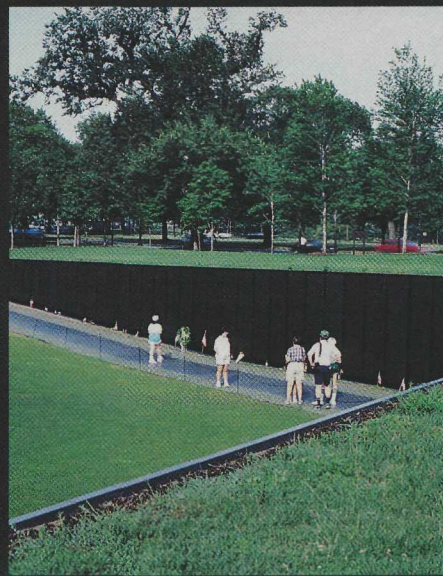
Maya Ying Lin conceived her design as creating a park within a park—a quiet protected place unto itself, yet harmonious with the site. To achieve this effect she chose polished black granite for the walls. Their mirrorlike surfaces reflect the surrounding trees, lawns, monuments, and the people looking for names. The memorial's walls point to the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. The 58,256 names are inscribed in chronological order of the date of casualty, showing the war as a series of individual human sacrifices and giving each name a special place in history. Lin said, "The names would become the memorial."

The names begin at the vertex of the walls below the date of the first casualty and continue to the end of the east wall. They resume at the tip of the west wall, ending at the vertex above the date of the last death (*west wall shown at right*). With the meeting of the beginning and ending, a major epoch in American history is denoted. Each name is

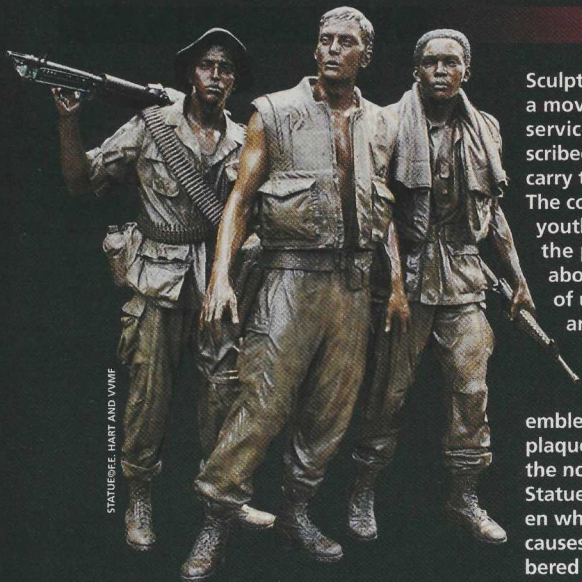
preceded on the west wall or followed on the east wall by one of two symbols: a diamond or a cross. The diamond denotes that the individual's death was confirmed. The nearly 1,000 persons whose names are designated by the cross were either missing or prisoners at the end of the war and remain missing and unaccounted for. If a person returns alive, a circle, as a symbol of life, will be inscribed around the cross. In the event an individual's remains are returned or are otherwise accounted for, the diamond will be superimposed over the cross.

Some Facts About the Memorial

The walls are 246.75 feet long, and the angle at the vertex is 125°12'. There are 140 pilings with the average depth to bedrock being 35 feet. The height of the walls at the vertex is 10.1 feet. The granite comes from Bangalore, India; it was cut and fabricated at Barre, Vt. The names were grit blasted in Memphis, Tenn., with the height of individual letters being 0.53 inch and the depth, 0.038 inch.



THE FACES OF HONOR



STATUE © E. HART AND VVWMF

Sculptor Frederick Hart's goal was to create a moving evocation of the experience and service of the Vietnam veteran. He has described it: "They wear it on their uniform and carry the equipment of war; they are young. The contrast between the innocence of their youth and the weapons of war underscores the poignancy of their sacrifice. There is about them the physical contact and sense of unity that bespeaks the bonds of love and sacrifice that is the nature of men at war. . . . Their strength and their vulnerability are both evident." The flag flies from a 60-foot staff. The base contains emblems of the five services. The In Memory plaque, dedicated in 2004, is located within the northeast corner of the Three Servicemen Statue. The plaque honors the men and women who served in Vietnam and later died from causes related to the war; they are remembered for their sacrifice.

ESTABLISHING THE MEMORIAL

On July 1, 1980, Congress authorized a site in Constitution Gardens near the Lincoln Memorial for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, providing the prominent, park-like setting that the organizers had hoped to find. That fall it was announced that the memorial's design would be selected through a national competition open to any U.S. citizen 18 years of age or older.

The 1,421 design entries submitted were judged anonymously by a jury of eight internationally recognized artists and designers. On May 1, 1981, the jury presented its unanimous selection for first prize. The winning design was the work of Maya Ying Lin of Athens, Ohio, who was a 21-year-old student at Yale University. The following January it was determined that a flagstaff and figurative sculpture depicting fighting men in Vietnam would be added to the memorial site. Washington, D.C. sculptor Frederick Hart was selected to design the sculpture of the servicemen.

On March 11, 1982, the memorial's design and plans received final approval, and ground was formally broken on March 26. Construction of the walls was completed in late October, and the memorial was dedicated November 13, 1982. The life-size sculpture was installed in the fall of 1984. On November 11 (Veterans Day) of that year, President Ronald Reagan accepted the completed memorial on behalf of the nation. The \$7 million cost of establishing the memorial was raised entirely through contributions from corporations, foundations, unions, veterans' groups, civic organizations, and over 275,000 individual Americans.

The completed memorial has achieved all that Lin and Hart hoped it would—and more. Rubbings are taken of the names by loved ones. Every day family members and friends leave mementos and tokens of remembrance at the memorial, making them as much of a legacy of the Vietnam years as the memorial itself.

Dedicated on November 11, 1993, as part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Women's Memorial honors the women of the U.S. Armed Forces who took part in the war. The statue was sculpted by Glenna Goodacre and depicts three women coming to the aid of a fallen soldier. It recalls the courage and sacrifice of all women who served. Planted around the memorial are eight yellowwood trees—a living tribute to the eight service-women killed in action while in Vietnam.

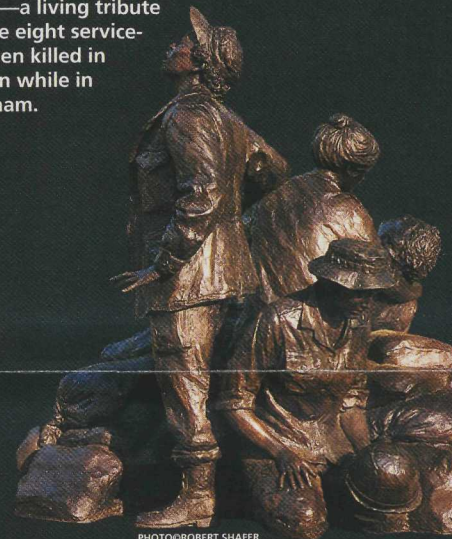


PHOTO © ROBERT SHAFER

More Information

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. The National Park Service cares for these special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. To learn more about national parks visit www.nps.gov.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive SW
Washington, DC 20024
www.nps.gov/vive

© GPO:2007—330-358/00711 Reprint 2007
Printed on recycled paper.