



THE HEALING WALL

Jan C. Scruggs conceived of the idea to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and served President of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. He is the author of *To Heal a Nation: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial* (Harper & Row, 1985).

In the forward to another book, (*Reflections On The Wall: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial*, copyright 1987 by the Smithsonian Institution, published by Stackpole Books of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (ISBN 0-8117-1846-8). he wrote. "America has other great and inspiring national memorials. But the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, with nearly 60,000 names engraved on its black granite wall, is unlike any other. No other memorial so occupies a place in the heart and soul of the nation as does this simple, reflective wall."

"No one remembered the names of the people killed in the war. I wanted a memorial engraved with all the names. The nation would see the names and would remember the men and women who went to Vietnam, and who died there."

"The creation, development, and construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial ultimately involved two U.S. presidents, the U.S. Congress, hundreds of volunteers, a dedicated full-time staff, and hundreds of thousands of Americans who donated the nearly \$9 million needed to build it."

Many advocates came to the front to preserve this unusual concept. Larry Century perfected a technique using photo stencils, which, with some developmental work, could do the job of inscribing the names. Architect Maya Lin, the designer, wanted the Wall to tell the day-by-day story of the tragedy of deaths. She also specified that the end of the list of names be near the beginning, to show a closed circle, like a wound that is closed and healing.

Optima was chosen for the type, a classic face from the house of Hermann Zapf. Names are approximately half an inch high and are photoetched to a depth of .015 inches. The two walls extend almost 500 ft and are slightly higher than 10 ft in the middle. On the web, interested individuals can search the actual Wall in virtual reality and find any name on the Wall as seen at:

http://www.thevirtualwall.org/view/view_index.htm

There are 140 black granite panels, numbered 70W to 1W from the left and from 1E to 70E on the right. Ground was broken in March of 1982 and the Wall was dedicated in November of 1982. The unique tradition of leaving gifts at the base of the wall began before the Wall was even completed.

ERRORS AND DISCREPANCIES ON THE MEMORIAL

According to the Washington Post, there are potentially 38 names on the Memorial who may not have died in Vietnam. Reportedly, an official in charge of the original list used to inscribe the names, they were doubtful cases which could not be resolved in time, and he decided to list them rather than risk leaving someone off.



The New York Times has published the following 14 names of living veterans that are inscribed on the Memorial:

PFC Robert Lee BEDKER (10E 069)
SP5 Clark T BOOTZ (07W 112)
SGT Carl COX (173 034)
PFC Willard D CRAIG (12E 087)
SP4 J R GILREATH (11W 073)
SP4 Andrew J HILDEN (14E 108)
PFC Dennis C HUCKABAY (19W 101)
PFC Darrall E LAUSCH (12E 089)
SGT Christopher D MIRACLIA (07W 036)
SGT Rockney D MONROE (18E 006)
SP4 Alexander Manzanares MORALES (19W 103)
SP4 Frankie NORTHERN (07W 047)
SSG Daniel P OUELLETTE (11W 017)
SGT Eugene J TONI (07W 121)

OTHER MEMORIALS

The Three Servicemen Statue, born in a political compromise that followed an announcement of the Wall's powerful and unique design, is a 18 foot bronze statue designed by Frederick Hart. It was dedicated in November, 1984. Service emblems of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard adorn the base along with the following inscription : THIS FLAG REPRESENTS THE SERVICE RENDERED TO OUR COUNTRY BY THE VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR. THE FLAG AFFIRMS THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM FOR WHICH THEY FOUGHT AND THEIR PRIDE IN HAVING SERVED UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

Diane Carlson Evans, RN, is the founder of Vietnam Women's Memorial project. She served in the Army Nurse Corps from 1966 to 1972 and was in Vietnam from 1968-69. The sculptor is Glenna Goodacre, whose bronze concept was eventually chosen over 317 other entries. Eight yellowwood trees representing the eight women nurses killed in Vietnam surround the 8 foot tall statue. The Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated over Veterans Day weekend of November 10-12, 1993.



INTERESTING ARTICLES

Castaneda, Ruben. "38 Veterans Listed on Wall May Have Survived Vietnam." Washington Post, 15 February 1991.

"A memorial lists living as the dead." New York Times, 11 February 1991, p. A11 (N) A16 (L).

"The Vietnam Undead." The New Yorker 68:41 (30 November 1992), p. 41.

"The Wall's Mistaken Men." Time 130:21 (23 November 1992), p. 31.

"Missing No More." The Atlanta Constitution, 9 March 1995, p. 02B (State News) [Article on SFC Sabog].

Reflections On The Wall: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, copyright 1987 by the Smithsonian Institution, was published by Stackpole Books of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania (ISBN 0-8117-1846-8).