WOMEN ON THE WALL

While most of the military casualties of the war were men, there are eight women on the Wall Memorial, all nurses. They are:

- CPT Eleanor Grace ALEXANDER (31E 008)
- 2LT Pamela Dorothy DONOVAN (53W 043)
- 2LT Carol Ann DRAZBA (05E 046)
- LTC Annie Ruth GRAHAM (48W 012)
- 2LT Elizabeth Ann JONES (05E 047)
- CPT Mary Therese KLINKER (01W 122)
- 1LT Sharon Ann LANE (23W 112)
- 1LT Hedwig Diane ORLOWSKI (31E 015)

In November 1993, the women who served in Vietnam were honored with the dedication of their own memorial. Vietnam Women's Memorial is an eight foot tall bronze statue depicting two women and a male casualty. It was designed by Glenna Goodacre and is surrounded by eight yellowood trees representing the eight military women who died in the conflict.

AMERICAN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN FEMALE CASUALTIES

MILITARY
U.S. Army

2nd Lt. Carol Ann Elizabeth Drazba
2nd Lt. Elizabeth Ann Jones

Lt. Drazba and Lt. Jones were assigned to the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon. They died in a helicopter crash near Saigon, February 18, 1966. Drazba was from Dunmore, PA, Jones from Allendale, SC. Both were 22 years old.

Capt. Eleanor Grace Alexander
1st Lt. Hedwig Diane Orlowski

Capt. Alexander of Westwood, NJ, and Lt. Orlowski of Detroit, MI, died November 30, 1967. Alexander, stationed at the 85th Evac., and Orlowski, stationed at the 67th Evac. in Qui Nhon, had been sent to a hospital in Pleiku to help out during a push. With them when their plane crashed on the return trip to Qui Nhon were two other nurses, Jerome E. Olmstead of Clintonville, WI, and Kenneth R. Shoemaker, Jr. of Owensboro, KY. Alexander was 27, Orlowski 23. Both were posthumously awarded Bronze Stars.
2nd Lt. Pamela Dorothy Donovan

Lt. Donovan, from Allston, MA, became seriously ill and died on July 8, 1968. She was assigned to the 85th Evac. in Qui Nhon. She was 26 years old.

1st Lt. Sharon Ann Lane

Lt. Lane died from shrapnel wounds when the 312th Evac. at Chu Lai was hit by rockets on June 8, 1969. From Canton, OH, she was a month short of her 26th birthday. She was posthumously awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Bronze Star for Heroism. In 1970, the recovery room at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, where Lt. Lane had been assigned before going to Viet Nam, was dedicated in her honor. In 1973, Aultman Hospital in Canton, OH, where Lane had attended nursing school, erected a bronze statue of Lane. The names of 110 local servicemen killed in Vietnam are on the base of the statue.

Lt. Col. Annie Ruth Graham, Chief Nurse at 91st Evac. Hospital, Tuy Hoa

Lt. Col. Graham, Chief Nurse, 91st Evacuation Hospital, 43rd Medical Group, 44th Medical Brigade, Tuy Hoa, from Efland, NC, suffered a stroke and was evacuated to Japan where she died four days later on August 14, 1968. A veteran of both World War II and Korea, she was 52.

U.S. Air Force

Capt. Mary Therese Klinker

Capt. Klinker, a flight nurse with the 10th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, temporarily assigned to Clark Air Base in the Philippines, was on the C-5A Galaxy which crashed on April 4, 1975, outside Saigon while evacuating Vietnamese orphans. This is known as the Operation Babylift crash. From Lafayette, IN, she was 27. She was posthumously awarded the Airman's Medal for Heroism and the Meritorious Service Medal.

U.S. Department of the Navy OICC (Officer in Charge of Construction)

Regina "Reggie" Williams

CIVILIAN

Catholic Relief Services

Gloria Redlin
Shot to death in Pleiku, 1969.
Central Intelligence Agency:

Barbara Robbins
Died when a car bomb exploded outside the American Embassy, Saigon, March 30, 1965.

Betty Gebhardt

United States Agency for International Development:

Marilyn L. Allan

Dr. Breen Ratterman (American Medical Association)
Died from injuries suffered in a fall from her apartment balcony in Saigon, October 2, 1969

Journalists

Georgette "Dickey" Chapelle
Killed by a mine on patrol with Marines outside Chu Lai, 1965.

Philippa Schuyler
Killed in a helicopter crash into the ocean near Da Nang, May 9, 1967.

Missionaries

Carolyn Griswald
Killed in raid on leprosarium in Ban Me Thuot during Tet 1968.

Janie A. Makil
Shot to death in an ambush, Dalat, March 4, 1963. Janie was five months old.

Ruth Thompson
Killed in raid on leprosarium in Ban Me Thuot during Tet, February 1, 1968.

Ruth Wilting
Killed in raid on leprosarium in Ban Me Thuot during Tet, February 1, 1968.
POW/MIA

Evelyn Anderson
Captured and burned to death in Kengkok, Laos, 1972.
Remains recovered and returned to U.S.

Beatrice Kosin
Captured and burned to death in Kengkok, Laos, 1972.
Remains recovered and returned to U.S.

Betty Ann Olsen
Captured during raid on leprosarium in Ban Me Thuot during Tet 1968. Died in 1968 and was buried somewhere along Ho Chi Minh Trail by fellow POW, Michael Benge. Remains not recovered.

Eleanor Ardel Vietti
Captured at leprosarium in Ban Me Thuot, May 30, 1962. Still listed as POW.

Operation Babylift

The following women were killed in the crash, outside Saigon, of the C5-A Galaxy transporting Vietnamese children out of the country on April 4, 1975. All of the women were working for various U.S. government agencies in Saigon at the time of their deaths with the exception of Theresa Drye (a child) and Laurie Stark (a teacher). Sharon Wesley had previously worked for both the American Red Cross and Army Special Services. She chose to stay on in Vietnam after the pullout of U.S. military forces in 1973.

Barbara Adams
Clara Bayot
Nova Bell
Arleta Bertwell
Helen Blackburn
Ann Bottorff
Celeste Brown
Vivienne Clark
Juanita Creel
Mary Ann Crouch
Dorothy Curtiss
Twila Donelson
Helen Drye
Theresa Drye
Mary Lyn Eichen
Elizabeth Fugino
Ruthanne Gasper
Beverly Herbert
Penelope Hindman
(continued)
Vera Hollibaugh
Dorothy Howard
Barbara Kauvulia
Barbara Maier
Rebecca Martin
Sara Martini
Martha Middlebrook
Katherine Moore
Marta Moschkin
Marion Polgrean
June Poulton
Joan Pray
Sayonna Randall
Anne Reynolds
Marjorie Snow
Laurie Stark
Barbara Stout
Doris Jean Watkins
Sharon Wesley

SOURCES

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2001 S Street NW, Suite 302
Washington, D.C. 20009
Phone: 202-328-7253

A Circle of Sisters/A Circle of Friends
1015 South Gaylord, Suite 190
Denver, CO 80209
Phone: 303-575-1311

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Philip Bigler, Hostile Fire: The Life and Death of Lt. Sharon Lane. Arlington, VA: Vandamere, 1996. Lt. Lane was killed by a 122mm rocket on June 8, 1969, at the 312th Evac Hospital in Chu Lai. She was the only U.S. servicewoman killed by hostile fire during the Vietnam War.


Noonie Fortin, Memories of Maggie: A Legend Spanning Three Wars. San Antonio: LangMark Publishing, 1995. Martha Raye, who may have been the most beloved of the entertainers who visited troops (especially Special Forces, in her case) in Vietnam.


Berneice Lanier, A Rooster at Tet. Huntington, West Virginia: University Editions, 1998. 219 pp. Lanier was a civilian logistics specialist, working at Long Binh. She was there during the Tet Offensive.


Bonni McKeown, Peaceful Patriot: The Story of Tom Bennett. Capon Springs, WV: Peaceful Patriot Press. Tom Bennett was a conscientious objector who became a combat medic, was killed in action near Pleiku on February 11, 1969, serving with B Company, 1/14 Infantry, 4th Infantry Division; he was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.


Craig Roberts, Combat Medic - Vietnam. New York: Pocket Books, 1991. Based on interviews and documentary research. Note that while Roberts served in combat units he did not do so as a medic, and that some dialog is invented.


Lynda Van Devanter, Home Before Morning (New York: Warner, 1984). Lynda Van Devanter was a U.S. Army nurse whose tour in Vietnam, June 1969 to June 1970, was served mostly at the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku province. A lot of heavy fighting, casualties. The account seems very good, but the resemblance to "M*A*S*H" is so strong as to inspire faint suspicions.
