



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Mayor Jacobs Spearheads Return of The Wall That Heals**

*KNOXVILLE, Tenn.*—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has announced that The Wall That Heals and its mobile education center will return to Knox County as part of its 2022 national tour schedule.

“We are honored to be selected to host such an impactful display,” said Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. “The number of people who visited it last time it was here is part of the reason it’s coming back. Remembering and honoring those who served in Vietnam is something East Tennesseans are proud to do. This memorial allows the public to learn more and our local veteran population a chance to heal in a unique experience.”

Mayor Jacobs also thanks the Tennessee Valley Authority Retirees and the Bicentennial Volunteers for their support and sponsorship of the event.

The 27<sup>th</sup> season of The Wall That Heals will begin on March 24 in Bay St. Louis, Miss. and visit 29 communities during the year. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

Some 9,740 East Tennesseans visited the display when it was last here in 2017 under former Mayor Tim Burchett’s administration.

The wall will arrive on April 19 and be on public display 24 hours a day from April 21 through closing at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 24. The Vietnam Veterans of America Captain Bill Robinson Chapter 1078 will serve as host with Bill Robinson featured as the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony at 10 a.m. April 21. Robinson was the longest held enlisted POW with more than seven years in captivity at 2,703 days. The ceremony will include a wreath placement by several community organizations and a helicopter flyover by the Aviation Unit of the Knox County Sheriff’s Office, weather dependent. Transportation to the exhibit will be provided by Knox County CAC Transit from the Food City parking lot at 4805 N. Broadway Street at Adair to the display at Lynnhurst Cemetery, 2300 West Adair.

“My experiences at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in D.C. and The Wall That Heals are markedly similar,” said Buzz Buswell, director of Veterans & Senior Services for Knox County. “The stark black panels etched with the names of men I knew and with whom I fought transport me to a place of contemplation. They are never out of my mind, but I am closer to them when I

see my image reflected in their panel. Whether it is in Washington, D.C., or Knoxville, Tennessee, it feels the same.”

The Wall That Heals exhibit features a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of Vietnam Veterans Memorial in D.C.

Like the original Memorial, The Wall That Heals is erected in a chevron-shape and visitors can do name rubbings of individual service member’s names on The Wall. The replica is constructed of Avonite, a synthetic granite, and its 140 numbered panels are supported by an aluminum frame. Machine engraving of the more than 58,000 names along with modern LED lighting provide readability of The Wall, day and night.

As on The Wall, the names on The Wall That Heals are listed by day of casualty. Beginning at the center/apex, the names start on the East Wall (right-hand side) working their way out to the end of that wing, picking up again at the far end of the West Wall (left-hand side) and working their way back in to the center/apex, joining the beginning and end of the conflict at the center.

The 53-foot trailer that carries The Wall That Heals transforms to become a mobile Education Center. The exterior of the trailer features a timeline of “The War and The Wall” and provides additional information about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Additional exhibits give visitors a better understanding of the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the collection of items left at The Wall. Personnel is on hand to tell you what panel the person’s name is on and is also provided digitally. There will also be a photographic panel featuring Tennessee personnel killed.

For more information, please visit [thewallthathealsknoxville.org](http://thewallthathealsknoxville.org).

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