



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: March 29, 2023

CONTACT: Charles Rivera, 646-740-7296 or charivera@veterans.nyc.gov

**Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of Combat Operations in Vietnam  
*The Wall That Heals* Coming to Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Fall 2023**

*Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica Wall and Mobile Education Center  
will spread healing legacy and educate about the impact of the Vietnam War*

**New York** —The NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) took part in a Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of combat operations in Vietnam. Organized by the United War Veterans Council (UWVC), the event brought together over two hundred members of the community to honor the service and sacrifice of America's Vietnam Veterans. Additionally, DVS and the UWVC announced that *The Wall That Heals*, a traveling version of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C., will visit Queens this fall.

For over a decade, men and women fought to protect and defend this nation during a period where American involvement in the Vietnam conflict faced public scrutiny both at home and abroad. Despite its controversial nature, our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines served with valor, dutifully protected their brothers-and-sisters-in-arms, and asked for little upon their return home outside of dignity and respect. More than 58,000 service members paid the ultimate price during the war, and over 1,500 remain missing or unaccounted for.

It is in this acknowledgment of the sacrifice and awareness of the controversy surrounding the Vietnam War that we have the chance to make clear to those who served that New York City still cares. Today, 50 years after the last American troops left Vietnam, we must recommit to the Veterans of this era and reframe our collective consciousness in a way that prioritizes the healing of every American affected by this conflict.

For the people of New York City the opportunity to remember and offer their respect will present itself later this year with *The Wall That Heals*—a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., along with a mobile education center, will be coming to Flushing Meadows Corona Park from September 28, 2023 to October 1, 2023 and will be free and open to the public. *The Wall That Heals* is a partnership with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) that honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War.

“This week, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of combat operations in the Vietnam War and honor the sacrifice of the brave men and women in uniform, our Gold Star Families, and all the families of those who have served our country so bravely,” said **New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. “Those who have served know what it takes to put their life on the line on behalf of their fellow Americans. We owe you what we value most, our freedom, and hope that you will join us this fall when *The Wall That Heals* comes to Flushing Meadows Corona Park to honor and offer healing to our Vietnam War era brothers and sisters.”

“The end of the Vietnam War marked a turning point in American history, and we must never forget those who gave up so much of themselves in service to this nation. The courage and dedication of these brave men and women should never be forgotten,” said **Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom**.



“The legacy of the Vietnam War is one that continues to shape our nation and the world. To the men and women who wore the uniform during this time, and to the families who have endured so much—you are a testament to the strength of the human spirit in times of adversity. May the arrival of *The Wall That Heals* in September offer you a modicum of the peace and healing you all so rightfully deserve,” said **Department of Veterans’ Services Commissioner James Hendon.**

“Bringing *The Wall That Heals* to Flushing Meadows Corona Park sends a strong message of support to New York City’s Vietnam Veterans and offers New Yorkers the opportunity to pay their respects in person,” said **NYC Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue.** “It is appropriate that *The Wall That Heals* will be displayed in such a famous and beloved public park, since parks have always served as important sites of sanctuary and healing, creating spaces for community conversation as well as individual reflection.”

“We are honored to be a part of the effort to bring *The Wall That Heals* to New York City's veterans, and we salute DVS for its commitment to preserving and promoting the legacy of our veterans. The presence of *The Wall That Heals* in our community will be deeply meaningful not only to our Vietnam Veterans, but to veterans of all eras,” said **Mark Otto, President of the United War Veterans Council.**

“Home to more Veterans than any other borough, Queens is honored to host *The Wall That Heals* this fall, and we look forward to welcoming this moving tribute to the more than 58,000 servicemembers who lost their lives during the Vietnam War,” said **Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr.** “The Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C. is world-renowned for its unique ability to help people cope with the painful impact of that war and its entire tumultuous era. I’m sure *The Wall That Heals* will have the same effect on those who view it this fall. I look forward to paying a visit to *The Wall That Heals*, and I encourage all Queens residents to do the same.”

"On the 50th anniversary of the end of combat operations in Vietnam, we honor the brave men and women who served with unwavering commitment and selflessness," said **Councilmember Robert Holden, Chair, New York City Council Veterans Committee.** “We remember those who sacrificed for our freedom and thank all who have served. Sadly, many of these heroes did not receive the welcome and appreciation they deserved when they returned home. We recognize their unfortunate treatment and vow never to let it happen again. Today, we express our deepest gratitude, and their legacy will continue to inspire us to uphold the values of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism."

“It will be an honor to host *The Wall that Heals* in New York City again, so we can remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and ‘Welcome Home’ the survivors among our neighbors,” said **John Rowan, National President, Vietnam Veterans of America 2005-21, NYC Veterans Advisory Board.**

“The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is pleased to bring *The Wall That Heals* mobile exhibit to New York City to allow local Veterans and their family members a chance to experience *The Wall*,” said **Jim Knotts, President and CEO, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.** “Hosting *The Wall That Heals* provides an opportunity to honor and remember all those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War and educate visitors on the continuing impact of the Vietnam War on America.”

Bringing *The Wall That Heals* to New York City allows the souls enshrined on the memorial to exist once more among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings. The traveling exhibit provides thousands of Veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of facing *The Wall* to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

*The Wall That Heals* is transported from community to community in a 53-foot trailer. When parked, the trailer opens with exhibits built into its sides, allowing it to serve as a mobile Education Center that will include digital photo displays of “Hometown Heroes” – service members whose names are on *The Wall* from New York City.



New Yorkers are welcome to do name rubbings and submit the names of their Vietnam Veteran loved ones who have since passed to the “In Memory Project” which can be accessed [here](#). The project will also be seeking volunteers to help support visitor services. Those interested in volunteering for *The Wall That Heals* should contact the NYC Department of Veterans’ Services at [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov) no later than June 1, 2023.

The 2023 national *The Wall That Heals* tour is generously sponsored by USAA. Through a partnership with the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA), the trucking industry, and Blue Beacon, the exhibit is able to travel across the country.

Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in more than 700 U.S. communities in addition to an April 1999 tour of the Four Provinces of Ireland and a visit to Canada in 2005. The Wall That Heals is a program of VVMF, the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1982. *The Wall That Heals* is the only traveling exhibit affiliated with The Wall in Washington, D.C. and includes the largest Wall replica that travels the country. More information can be found at: [www.thewallthatheals.org](http://www.thewallthatheals.org) and [www.nyc.gov/vetwall](http://www.nyc.gov/vetwall)

#### **About the NYC Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS)**

About the New York City Department of Veterans’ Services, The NYC Department of Veterans’ Services’ mission is to connect, mobilize, and empower New York City’s Veteran community to foster purpose-driven lives for US Military Service Members—past and present—in addition to their caregivers, survivors, and families. We assist NYC Veteran community members on issues that include, but are not limited to: employment, housing, food security, wellbeing, benefits, culture, and targeted advocacy. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/vets](http://www.nyc.gov/vets), call (212) 416- 5250, email [connect@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:connect@veterans.nyc.gov), or follow us on social media @nycveterans.

#### **About VVMF**

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington, D.C. in 1982. VVMF continues to lead the way in paying tribute to our nation’s Vietnam veterans and their families. VVMF’s mission is to honor and preserve the legacy of service in America and educate all generations about the impact of the Vietnam War and era through programs, ceremonies, and education materials. To learn more about VVMF, visit [www.vvmf.org](http://www.vvmf.org) or call 202-393-0090.

# # #