

Vietnam Veterans “Moving Wall” Coming to Huntington Park at the Virginia War Museum in Newport News

~ Honor, Remember, Give Thanks at The Moving Wall, Sept. 14-18, 2017 ~

Newport News, VA, August 30, 2017 – A replica of Washington’s Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, called “The Moving Wall,” will be on display September 14-18 in Huntington Park, near the Virginia War Museum at 9285 Warwick Blvd. in Newport News. Though it is half the size of the Memorial Wall in D.C., the replica contains the 58,000+ names of those who died or went missing in Vietnam between 1959 and 1975.

The portable wall was built by a Vietnam veteran who attended the 1982 dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and was so moved by the experience that he wanted to share the wall with those who may not have the opportunity to see it in the nation’s capital. Within two years, the replica was built and went on display for the first time in October 1984 in Tyler, Texas. Today, two structures of The Moving Wall travel the country between April and November, spending a little less than a week at each destination. The schedule of events planned for The Moving Wall’s visit to Newport News is as follows:

Sept. 14 – The Moving Wall will be escorted to Huntington Park at 9 a.m. by the American Legion Riders of American Legion Post #25 and other motorcycle clubs. Assembly will begin shortly thereafter.

Sept. 15 – An opening ceremony will be held at noon. Citizens are invited to join dignitaries for the ceremony, which will include a flyover by the U.S. Air Force. At 6:30 p.m., a candlelight vigil will begin at the Virginia War Museum’s Vietnam War Monument and end at The Moving Wall in commemoration of National POW/MIA Recognition Day and the 25th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Monument’s dedication, which was held in 1992.

Sept. 16 – Honor and wreath-laying ceremonies are planned for the day. Visitors may schedule a ceremony by visiting www.VietnamRevisited2017.com or by clicking [here](#). The start time will be determined after the number of reservations has been confirmed. Additionally, on Sept. 16, there will be three screenings of the PBS documentary called “*They Were Our Fathers*,” held in the Virginia War Museum, at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. Free tickets will be available at the on-site welcome tent, but seating is limited. Later in the evening, an anniversary dinner in commemoration of the 25 years since the

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Vietnam War Monument was dedicated in Huntington Park will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post #25 at 7609 Marshall Ave. in Newport News.

Sept. 17 – A closing ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. at The Moving Wall

Sept. 18 – Dismantling of The Moving Wall will begin at 9 a.m. Its next destination will be Bolton Landing, NY.

“To have been given the singular honor of having our application accepted to host the Vietnam Veterans ‘Moving Wall’ here in Newport News is definitely a mark of distinction to be proud of,” said Claire Murphy, Historic Sites Project Supervisor with the city’s Historic Services Division.

The Moving Wall has been displayed in every state of the union, as well as Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam and Saipan. Requests for visits have come from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and Germany. To learn more about The Moving Wall, visit www.themovingwall.org.

For information about The Moving Wall’s local visit, call 757-817-6108, send an e-mail to info@vietnamrevisited2017.com, or visit www.VietnamRevisited2017.com.

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