

# Okaloosa County News Release

9/30/2009

Heritage Museum of NWF Director Michelle Severino, [mseverino@co.okaloosa.fl.us](mailto:mseverino@co.okaloosa.fl.us), 850.678.2615; Kathy Newby, 651.7515, [knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us](mailto:knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us)

## **Once in a Lifetime Event Coming to Okaloosa County** *Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum Coming June 2010*

The **Wall That Heals**, presented by the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida as part of the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eglin Air Force Base** in 2010, is coming to Okaloosa County. The Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum will be escorted into Okaloosa County, and will be a free visitor exhibit **June 17 through 20**, at the C.H. "Bull" Rigdon **Fairgrounds**. Many exciting details are being planned as part of this event and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – whether a visitor, an educator, a sponsor or a volunteer, please visit [www.heritage-museum](http://www.heritage-museum) and get involved. Sponsorship of this worthwhile event will be extremely beneficial, based on the numbers of visitors, educators, students, families and military participation before and during the time "**The Wall That Heals**" is here.

"Not only is this an opportunity for people to see the Wall that may not be able to travel to D.C.; but in addition, it is an incredible educational opportunity for our students, their families and the public in general," said Severino. "We are going to make it a special, far-reaching and historical event for Okaloosa County." Some of the events being organized are:

- There is a great deal of education that comes with the wall: how the design was selected; who's idea was this to begin with; American sentiment then and now for the most-visited monument in the US; how the names are arranged; etiquette surrounding visitation; there is an educational kiosk just for the wall!
- Vietnam Veterans are being interviewed by High School Students for the Museum archive. Veterans will also be speaking to classes.
- School curriculum guides are available for before/after school field trips to the Wall.
- Opening Ceremonies and Closing Ceremonies are planned.
- POWs and Vets will hold educational seminars during the event June 17-20.

-more-

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## *Sponsor Sheet*

**Current local sponsors include:** (Sponsor logos included in this press kit.)

**Cox Communications**

**C.H. “Bull” Rigdon Fairgrounds**

**City of Fort Walton Beach**

**Eglin Federal Credit Union**

**Emerald Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau**

**Okaloosa County**

**Tybrin**

**National sponsors of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund:**

- 1. Disable American Veterans (DAV)**
- 2. FEDEX**
- 3. GEICO**
- 4. Harley-Davidson**
- 5. New Century Transportation, Inc.**
- 6. Target**
- 7. TimeWarner**

## *Please join us!*

For more information, visit [www.heritage-museum.org](http://www.heritage-museum.org).

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