

Preparing for Arrival of the Wall in Okaloosa County *Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum Coming June 2010*

“We are committed to making the upcoming Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall visit a most honorable and memorable event.” said Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida Director Michelle Severino. With only five months remaining until the Wall arrives in Fort Walton Beach, now is the time for all sponsors and volunteers who want to be part of this historical event to come forward. The community is encouraged to follow the project and planning at www.veteranswallokalooosa.com

Some of the activities that will take place during the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and Traveling Museum’s visit in **June** at the C.H. “Bull” Rigdon **Fairgrounds** include:

- A fanfare, motorcycle escort through the county including local veteran riders on Tuesday, June 15. All are welcome to ride!
- Opening ceremonies with honored veterans and dignitaries including Medal of Honor Recipient Col. George “Bud” Day.
- Special ceremonies during the June 17-20 exhibit period will include: Reading of the Names, an Evening Candlelight ceremony and a Father’s Day Rose ceremony.
- Film and lecture presentations by scholars, historians, and veterans including POWs will be seen as part of the VVMW event at the Fairgrounds June 17 through 20.

Some of the special activities leading up to the Wall visit include:

- School curriculum guides are available for before/after field trips to the Wall.
- Interviews with local veterans by area students are currently being recorded including many with area POWs.
- Student-veteran interviews will be incorporated into local history and archived at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida as well as with the Vietnam Archives at Texas Tech University.
- Veterans are being scheduled to speak in local area schools – an extraordinary opportunity for our students, educators and community.

The Wall that Heals, as it is also called, is an exact half-size replica of the one in Washington D.C. and tells the story of the Vietnam War, the era and the Memorial. This national traveling exhibit is an outreach program developed by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of The Wall that Heals. For more information, visit www.veteranswallokalooosa.com or call 850-678-2615.

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