

Okaloosa County News Release

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Once in a Lifetime Event Coming to Okaloosa County *Sponsors & Volunteers Needed*

The **Wall That Heals**, presented by the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida as part of the **75th 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 75th Anniversary Celebration – whether a visitor, an educator, a sponsor or a volunteer, please visit www.veteranswallokalooosa.com and get involved.

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 and sponsorship opportunity** for students, families and the public. Sponsorship of this worthwhile event will be extremely beneficial, based on quality and quantity of visitors, educators, students, families and military participation before and during the time “**The Wall That Heals**” is here. A very conservative estimate for visitors is 20,000.

“With everyone’s help, we are going to make it a special, far-reaching and historical event for Okaloosa County,” says Museum Director Michelle Severino. Some of the events being organized are:

- An educational kiosk just for the wall; how the design was selected; American sentiment for the most-visited monument in the US; how the names are arranged; etiquette surrounding visitation; 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.

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