



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL S. YENNI
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KENNER TO HOST THE MOVING WALL, REPLICA OF VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Kenner, LA. - The City of Kenner will proudly and patriotically host a five-day visit of The Moving Wall, an exact one-half replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial permanently located in the nation's capital beginning on May 15, Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni announced.

The wall, with the names of the more than 58,000 casualties of the Vietnam War, including prisoners of war and those missing in action that remain unaccounted for, has not been in the New Orleans area for 20 years. There are 885 names from Louisiana on The Moving Wall, including 47 from Jefferson Parish and 7 from Kenner.

The visit is particularly important because it includes Armed Forces Day on May 17 and coincides with the 30th anniversary of the construction of The Moving Wall.

"This is a great honor for Kenner and an important opportunity for so many in the community who cannot afford a trip to Washington, D.C. to see the Vietnam Memorial," said Yenni, a lieutenant junior grade in the U.S. Naval Reserves. "I know that many people will visit the memorial in order to pay tribute to family members and friends that made the ultimate sacrifice for the country."

The Moving Wall will be in Veteran's Park located behind the Kenner City Hall complex at 1801 Williams Blvd. A complete itinerary for the five days has not yet been completed. However, plans call for a procession down Williams Boulevard on Thursday morning, May 15, as The Moving Wall arrives at the display site. An opening ceremony, featuring a rolling escort and motorcade, will be held Friday morning, May 16 at 10:00 a.m., with a closing ceremony scheduled for Sunday evening, May 18 at 6:00 p.m. It will be open for viewing 24 hours a day while in Kenner.

Volunteers will be needed for a variety of tasks - everything from setting up and taking down the wall to helping visitors locate the names of friends and loved ones on the wall. Preference will be given first to Vietnam veterans and their family members and then to other military veterans. However, the need for volunteers is great and anyone interested in donating a minimum of several hours of time is asked to contact Donna Hahn at (504) 468-7240.

The Moving Wall first appeared in 1984, two years after the Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened to the public. It is one of four traveling versions of the memorial that attract millions of visitors every year. The wall was built with private donations and there is no cost for members of the public to view the memorial.

"We are working now to finalize some meaningful programs and events that will be announced as we get closer to the May arrival date," Yenni said. "But this visit will not be about politicians; instead, the focus will be on the heroes lost during this war and accommodating all that want to visit this emotionally powerful memorial."

Additional information regarding The Moving Wall and its stop in Kenner can be found on the city website at www.kenner.la.us. Anyone with questions, interested in sponsorships or volunteer efforts can e-mail movingwall@kenner.la.us or call the Mayor's Office at (504) 468-7240.

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