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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:
Connie Boyd
434-738-6580
thewallthatheals@mecklib.org

THE WALL THAT HEALS IS COMING TO BOYDTON, VA
ON April 2nd through April 5th 2020

*Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica Wall and Mobile Education Center
spreads healing legacy of The Wall and educates about the impact of the Vietnam War*

Boydton, Virginia – *The Wall That Heals*, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to Boydton, VA on April 2nd. The exhibit will be on display on Park Street in Boydton and will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public. Mecklenburg County Public Library is leading the effort that will bring the exhibit to Southside Virginia, *The Wall That Heals* honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,276 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

“The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is pleased to bring *The Wall That Heals* mobile exhibit to Boydton to allow local veterans and their family members a chance to experience The Wall and honor and remember those who have served and sacrificed,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF. “Hosting *the Wall That Heals* provides an opportunity for healing and an educational experience for visitors on the impact of the Vietnam War on America.”

Community support is needed to bring *The Wall That Heals* to Southside Virginia. More than 100 volunteers will be needed to set up and take down the replica Wall, staff the exhibit and guide visitors 24 hours a day. To learn more about how you can help the effort, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/mecklib/>. You can contact Connie Boyd or Mary Cherry at the Boydton Library, 434-738-6580 or email thewallthatheals@mecklib.org

The Mecklenburg County Public Library Foundation along with The Town of Boydton have come forward to support this event in Boydton, Virginia.

School and youth groups are encouraged to visit *The Wall That Heals*. Trained staff from VVMF will be on site to provide free educational tours of the exhibits. Tours can be customized based on ages so visitors can learn about the history of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, hear

stories of those who served in Vietnam and learn about the impact of the Vietnam War on America. To schedule a tour, please contact Mary Cherry at thewallthatheals@mecklib.org or 434-738-6580.

About *The Wall That Heals*

The Wall That Heals is transported from community to community in a 53-foot trailer. When parked, the trailer opens with exhibits built into its sides, allowing it to serve as a mobile Education Center telling the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall and the divisive era in American history.

The three-quarter scale Wall replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors will experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C. Visitors are able to do name rubbings of individual service member's names on The Wall.

The mobile Education Center displays includes digital photo displays of "Hometown Heroes" - service members whose names are on The Wall that list their home of record within the area of a visit and the "In Memory Honor Roll" - Vietnam veterans from the local area honored through VVMF's *In Memory* program which honors veterans who returned home from Vietnam and later died as a result of their service. A display of items representative of those left at The Wall in D.C. tell the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall and the era surrounding the conflict.

The 2020 national *The Wall That Heals* tour is generously sponsored by USAA and transported thousands of miles across the country each year through a partnership with the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA) and the trucking industry.

More than 300,000 people visited *The Wall That Heals* exhibit in 2019. Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in nearly 600 U.S. communities in addition to an April 1999 tour of the Four Provinces of Ireland and a visit to Canada in 2005. *The Wall That Heals* is a program of VVMF, the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1982. *The Wall That Heals* is the only traveling exhibit affiliated with The Wall in Washington, D.C. and includes the largest Wall replica that travels the country. Two VVMF staff members lead volunteers on site, educate visitors and students, and ensure the reflective atmosphere of The Wall. More information can be found at: www.thewallthatheals.org.

About VVMF

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington, D.C. in 1982. VVMF continues to lead the way in paying tribute to our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families. VVMF's mission is to honor and preserve the legacy of service in America and educate all generations about the impact of the Vietnam War and era through programs, ceremonies and education materials. To learn more about VVMF, visit www.vvmf.org or call 202-393-0090.