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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BIRDSBORO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 626 TO HOST ALL-NEW LARGER
THE WALL THAT HEALS
EXHIBIT ON JULY 5-8, 2018**

New Wall replica is 375 feet in length, stands 7.5 feet tall, and travels with new educational exhibits

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *The Wall That Heals*, a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to BIRDSBORO on JULY 5-8, 2018 at DANIEL BOONE AREA HIGH SCHOOL 24 hours a day and is free to the public. *The Wall That Heals* honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and bears the names of the more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

The Birdsboro American Legion Auxiliary Unit 626 will be among the first to host the new, larger exhibit which includes a three-quarter scale Wall replica that is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. With the new replica at this size, visitors will be able to experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C. For the first time in the history of *The Wall That Heals*, visitors will be **able to do name rubbings of individual service member's names** on The Wall.

“We are thrilled to share the new *The Wall That Heals* exhibit with the public this year. Through *The Wall That Heals*, we are able to return the names home to communities across the country and allow Vietnam veterans and their family members who cannot make it to Washington, D.C. the opportunity to see The Wall. It gives communities a teaching moment for younger generations on why we should honor those who have served and sacrificed so much,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF.

The exhibit includes The Wall replica and a mobile Education Center comprised of: 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; digital photo displays of 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; video displays that teach about the history and impact of The Wall and of the collection of items left at The Wall in D.C.; educational exhibits told through items in the collection; a map of Vietnam and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is one of the most visited memorials in our nation's capital, with more than 5.2 million visitors each year. However, many Americans have not been able to visit what has become known to many as "The Wall." *The Wall That Heals* made its debut in 1996 and since then 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. Last year alone, more than 250,000 people visited *The Wall That Heals*. Hosting *The Wall That Heals* provides a community with a multi-day experience that includes an educational experience for local schools and organizations on the history of the Vietnam era and The Wall.

About The Wall replica

The three-quarter scale Wall replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Like the original Memorial, *The Wall That Heals* is erected in a chevron-shape and for the first time in the history of *The Wall That Heals*, visitors will be able to do name rubbings of individual service member's names on The Wall.

About the mobile Education Center

A new 53-foot trailer transports *The Wall That Heals* from community to community. When parked, the trailer opens with exhibits built into its sides, allowing it to serve as a mobile Education Center. This unique educational experience gives visitors a better understanding of the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the collection of items left at 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; digital photo displays of 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; video displays that teach about the history and impact of The Wall and of the collection of items left at The Wall in D.C.; educational exhibits told through items in the collection; a map of Vietnam and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War.



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