

NEWSLETTER

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRIBAL CHAIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Vol., 6 Issue 62

May 2004

Vietnam Wall EXPERIENCE

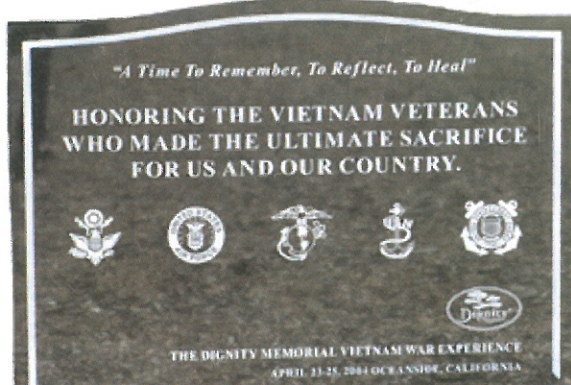
OCEANSIDE, CA - On April 23, 2004 through April 25, 2004 a replica known as the Vietnam Wall Experience was on display in Oceanside. The Wall is a three-quarter-size replica of the 10-foot tall, 493-foot-long, black granite monument in Washington, D.C., that was designed by Maya Ying Lin.

Created in 1990, the replica is the largest of the three traveling replicas. On the mirror like, black faux-granite finish are the names of the more than 58,000 dead and missing in Vietnam. It has visited more than 200 cities and been seen by millions of people.

The opening ceremony featured a military band, tributes and guest speakers. There was a candlelight vigil on Saturday and a closing ceremony on Sunday. The replica remained open to the public until midnight on Sunday.



Native American Vietnam Veteran, 82nd Airborne, Ray "Chief" Flores at the Vietnam Wall Experience.



Headstone for Vietnam memorabilia time capsule.

After the ceremony many people walked back and forth on the red carpet next to the wall looking for a friend, or relative's name engraved on the wall. All the names are listed chronologically. There were volunteers there to help people find the names through a computer data base or from a directory book.

Numerous visitors left flowers, notes, cards, portraits and military medals as mementos to be put in a time capsule that will be sealed and buried at Eternal Hills Park in Oceanside in memory of the fallen Vietnam Veterans. It will be opened 20 years from now. That date will be April 23, 2024.

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Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall Experience

"IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR. THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES AND OF THOSE WHO REMAIN MISSING ARE INSCRIBED IN THE ORDER THEY WERE TAKEN FROM US."

Preamble of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Volunteers handed out paper for visitors to etch the name of a friend or family member on the wall.



Native American Army Veteran Erwin Morales

At The Wall

*This wall is a shrine
Which hallows the names
Of brave men and women
Their last claim to fame.*

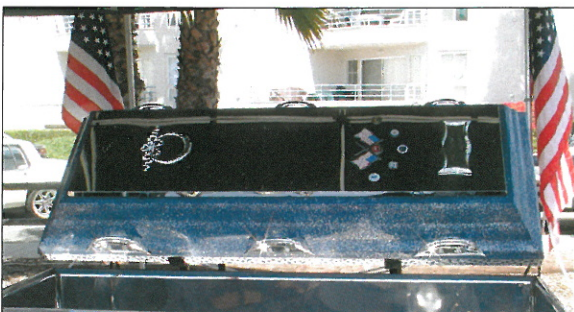
*The wall is a bridge,
Although a fine thread,
Between throngs and grieves
And the glorified dead.*

*The wall is a symbol
That lives in the heart
Of each solemn visitor
When it's time to depart.
As we march to the beat
Of a soft, mournful wail,
We leave in our wake
A heartbroken trail.*

By Catherine Irwin



Vietnam Veteran looking at the names on the Wall.



Time Capsule to be opened on April 23, 2024.