

The Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial's Visit To Burlington

Memories Dedicated to All Those Who Served

Compiled by:
Bob Hogan
Betty McDonough
Mike and Deana Tredeau
With Many Contributors

1955 In honor of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States of America 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.



*The Seven Brave Men from Burlington
listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Moving Wall are:*

Richard K. Harper

Roy J. Henderson

Harry W. Wallace

William H. Campbell, III

Gilford F. Dashner

Paul E. McGinness

James M. Ludwig

They are not forgotten

Our Nation Honors the Courage, Sacrifice
and Devotion to Duty and Country of its
Vietnam Veterans.

1975

The Moving Wall History

The Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial visited the Burlington Town Common from Sunday, July 18 to Sunday, July 25, 1999. The story of the Moving Wall is as interesting as the story of the building of the Memorial in Washington.



John Devitt, a Vietnam veteran from California wanted to keep alive the emotion and spirit he felt when he attended the

Opening Ceremonies of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington in 1982. He was concerned about people out west who could never get to Washington to visit the Wall.

He sat down with some friends and with their own money began the process of building the Moving Wall. The work tore at Devitt, yet he kept at it with a healing passion. Day after day, month after month, Devitt silk screened names of the dead on black Plexiglas - 1/4' - high names of more than 58,000 American soldiers who died in the Vietnam war; many were his buddies.

Devitt tried to hide from the pain of memory, to avoid reading the never-ending names. He silk-screened the letters backwards or upside down, but the names wouldn't go away. "There were times when it was pretty intense," Devitt said, "It took a long time."

With those handful of friends, Devitt was building a 250 foot replica of the Washington DC, Memorial - "The Wall". Since its construction, millions of visitors have stood in front of the Moving Wall and experienced the emotion of this simple monument.

Devitt never thought about the crowds during the two years that he was building the Moving Wall. He just kept thinking back to the unexpected and overwhelming freedom he had felt at the dedication in Washington in 1982. He left a wrenching burden there, and he simply had to share the freedom of the Wall with fellow veterans.

Even now, 17 years after that dedication, Devitt still talks with naked emotion about his first visit at the Wall. He expected to hate it, to stand before it and feel nothing. He'd read that it was black the color of mourning. And that it was in the ground, a sign of shame, as though they were trying to bury the whole thing. Also, it wasn't even designed by a Vietnam veteran.

For a while, a long while, he held back. Standing about a hundred yards away, he felt empty. "My attitude was, Is this what we get", he said. Then he walked up close, close enough to read the names. "It made me feel something nobody ever mentioned in the 14 years since I'd been home and that was pride," he said. "It was right there and then that I wanted everyone I'd ever known, whether for two minutes or twenty years, to see and feel that," he concluded. It was the first time since he left Vietnam that he felt that good, that the sacrifices that were made were being recognized, publicly recognized.

A helicopter gunner in Vietnam in 1967 and 68, the war's most hellish year, Devitt was caught in the worst of the fighting during the Tet Offensive in February 1968. He was based in Quang Tri Province, just a few miles south of the Demilitarized Zone.

His company was always where the trouble was. He also flew relief for the Marines during the 77-day siege at Khe Sanh. His 'copters were shot down three times and crashed once from engine failure. Then one day his tour of duty was over and he came home. Like thousands of Vets, Devitt struggled to fit in again. He worked at one menial job after another, snowmobile factory, rubber plant, maintenance, delivery driver, and cleaner of chemical toilets. He stayed longest at jobs where he could work alone. But he never had much responsibility; he didn't want it. Because, at 19 years of age he had more responsibility than he ever wanted as a soldier in Vietnam. He went through counseling and nothing worked...until he went to Washington.

There were many headaches in building the Moving Wall. First, Devitt hoped to redo the Vietnam Veterans Memorial as a giant photo mural. After taking pictures and having them enlarged, the names of the more than 58,000 dead could not be read. He contacted Jan Scruggs, President of the Memorial Fund in Washington, and asked to borrow the negatives they used in Washington for the Wall. Scruggs gave them the negatives and the blueprints. There were also money problems. A debt of more than \$20,000 was quickly created. Devitt moved out of his apartment and lived in his car, so that all the money would go to the Moving Wall. He kept at it, because contact with the Wall was a healing process for him, and all who visited it. Devitt travels with the Moving Wall each year and he was here in Burlington from Saturday, July 17, to Sunday, July 25, 1999. There are three Moving Walls moving around the country, all owned by the non-profit Vietnam Combat Veterans, Ltd. of San Jose California.

By Robert C. Hogan, Director of Veteran Services, Burlington

ABOUT THE MOVING WALL

"The Moving Wall" is the half-size replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial that has been touring the country for the past 15 years.



When John Devitt attended the 1982 dedication in Washington, he felt the positive power of "The Wall". He vowed to share that experience with those who did not have the opportunity to go to Washington.

"The Moving Wall" was built by John, Norris Shears, Gerry Haver, and other Vietnam veteran volunteers. It went on display in Tyler, Texas in October of 1984. Three structures of "The Moving Wall" now travel the USA from March to December, spending about a week at each site. This event will significantly affect and benefit veterans and non-veterans alike.

Why bring "The Moving Wall" to Burlington?

The main reason to bring "The Moving Wall" to Burlington is to share an extraordinary experience with our community. By bringing "The Moving Wall" into our community, we are giving many people an opportunity they might otherwise never be given in their lifetimes.

How do we do it?

"The Moving Wall" visit is sponsored by volunteers, who take care of the planning, expense, fund raising, and support for the project in honor of the Vietnam War Veterans. If you would like to help by volunteering or making a contribution, or if you just have a question, please contact the Office of Veteran Services at (781) 270-1959.

Burlington Town Common July 18-25, 1999

Created by Deana Tredeau for Publicity

INSIDE THE WALL

At first, there was no place for us to go until someone put up that Black Granite Wall. Now, everyday and night, my brothers and my sisters wait to see the many people from places afar file in front of this wall. Many stopping briefly and many for hours and some that come on a regular basis. It was hard at first, not that it has gotten any easier, but it



seems that many of the attitudes towards that war that we were involved in have changed. I can only pray that the ones on the other side have learned something and more walls as this one, needn't be built.

Several members of my unit and many that I did not recognize have called me to the Wall by touching my name that is engraved upon it. The tears aren't necessary but are hard even for me to hold back. Don't feel guilty for not being with me, my brothers. This was my destiny as it is yours, to be on that side of the Wall. Touch the Wall, my brothers, so that we can share in the memories that we had. I have learned to put the bad memories aside



and remember only the pleasant times that we had together. Tell our other brothers out there to come and visit me, not to say good-bye but to say hello and be together again, even for a short time and to ease that pain of loss that we all share.

Today, an irresistible and loving call comes from the Wall. As I approach I can see an elderly lady, as I get closer I recognize her, it's Momma. As much as I have looked forward to this day, I have also regretted it because I didn't know what reaction I would have.

Next to her, I suddenly see my wife and immediately think how hard it must have been for her to come to this place and my mind floods with the pleasant memories of 30

years past. There's a young man in a military uniform standing with his arm around her. My



God! It has to be my son. Look at him trying to be the man without a tear in his eye I yearn to tell him how proud I am, seeing him standing tall, straight and proud in his uniform.

Momma comes closer and touches the Wall and I feel the soft and gentle touch I had not felt in so

many years. Dad has crossed to this side of the Wall and through our touch, I try to convey to her that dad is doing fine and is no longer suffering or feeling pain.

I see my wife's courage building as she sees Momma touch the Wall and she approaches and lays her hand on my waiting hand. All the emotions,



feelings, and memories of three decades past flash between our touch and I tell her that it's all right.

Carry on with your life and don't worry about me. I can see as I

look into her eyes that she hears and understands me and a big burden has been lifted from her. I watch as they lay flowers and other memories of my past. My lucky charm that was taken from me and sent to her by my CO. A tattered and worn teddy bear, I can barely remember having it as a child. Also, several medals that I had earned and were presented to my wife. One of them is the Combat Infantry Badge that I am very proud of, and I notice that my son is also wearing this medal. I had earned mine in the jungles of Vietnam and he had probably earned his in the deserts of Iraq.



they turn to leave, I feel my tears that had not flowed for so many years, form as if dew drops on the other side of the Wall.

They slowly move away with only a glance over their shoulder. My son suddenly stops and slowly returns. He stands straight and proud in front of me and snaps a salute. Something makes him move to the Wall, he puts his hand upon the Wall and touches my tears that had formed on the face of the Wall. I can tell that he senses my presence along with the pride and love that I have for him. He falls to

I can tell that they are preparing to leave, and I try to take a mental picture of them together, because I don't know when I will see them again. I wouldn't blame them if they were not to return and can only thank them that I was not forgotten. My wife and momma near the Wall for one final touch and so many years of indecision, fear, and sorrow are let go. As



his knees and the tears flow from his eyes, and I try my best to reassure him that it's all right. The tears do not make him any less of a man. As he moves back wiping the tears from his eyes, he silently mouths, "God Bless you, Dad". God Bless You, Son. We will meet someday but in the meanwhile, go on your way. There is no hurry. There is no hurry at all.



As I see them walk off in the distance, I yell out to THEM and EVERYONE there today, as loud as I can, THANKS FOR REMEMBERING, and as others on this side of the Wall join in, I notice that the US flag that so proudly flies in front of us everyday, is flapping and standing proudly straight out in the wind today, "THANK YOU ALL FOR REMEMBERING."

For he today, that sheds his blood with me, shall be my brother.

Author Unknown

MERRY CHRISTMAS

TO BURLINGTON'S YOUNG MEN
SERVING IN THE ARMED
FORCES AT HOME & OVERSEAS

Joy to the World Let every heart rejoice — for
Christ is born in Bethlehem and the glory of His message shines forever, shines
abroad. Lives as shepherds and wise men come to worship and be glad, so may each
of us return in spirit to the sacred manger, there to find the peace and promise,
the hope and happiness of the first Christmas. May the miracle of His birth and the
wonder of His presence ever be our blessing and inspiration. And may this
Christmas truly be, for you and yours, a season rich in joy and deep contentment.

THIS PAGE PUBLISHED AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY
BURLINGTON BANK AND TRUST

33 CENTRAL STREET 273-6700

Burlington Times Union, Dec., 1968

Making it Happen



It took many
hands, hearts
and hours.

Bob Hogan says *Thanks* to all who helped

In January of 1997, I read about the Moving Wall coming to Stoneham. I had visited "The Wall" in Washington and had been involved with the "Moving Wall" on a couple of occasions in the past and thought that Burlington would be a great community to host a visit. I applied for it, noting that our Bicentennial Year would be a perfect time for us to bring this wonderful memorial to town.



We waited two years, then in January of 1999 we received a one-sentence e-mail from John Devitt stating that the Moving Wall would be in Burlington from Sunday, July 18 through Sunday, July 25.

The next six months were a busy time as we gathered volunteers and created committees and held meetings to bring the Moving Wall to town. The decision to place the Moving Wall on the Town Common was a great choice for all of us. It turned out to be the best site for the visit. The volunteers worked hard to prepare the site and John Devitt was pleased at the effort made by the volunteers.



More than 25,000 people visited the Moving Wall during the weeklong stay on the Town Common. It was always my hope that everyone who visited the Moving Wall remembered something about someone on the Wall,

learned something, felt something within themselves and appreciated what we had done here.

I could have been any more proud of the Town of Burlington, of all the great new friends we made who worked hard to bring this together, the veterans community, and to John Devitt for honoring us with this visit. I want to say thank-you to everyone who participated in any way, large or small, in helping to make this visit a success. I am proud to serve the veterans community. I am proud to be a veteran. I am proud to be a Vietnam Veteran. And I am proud to be an American.

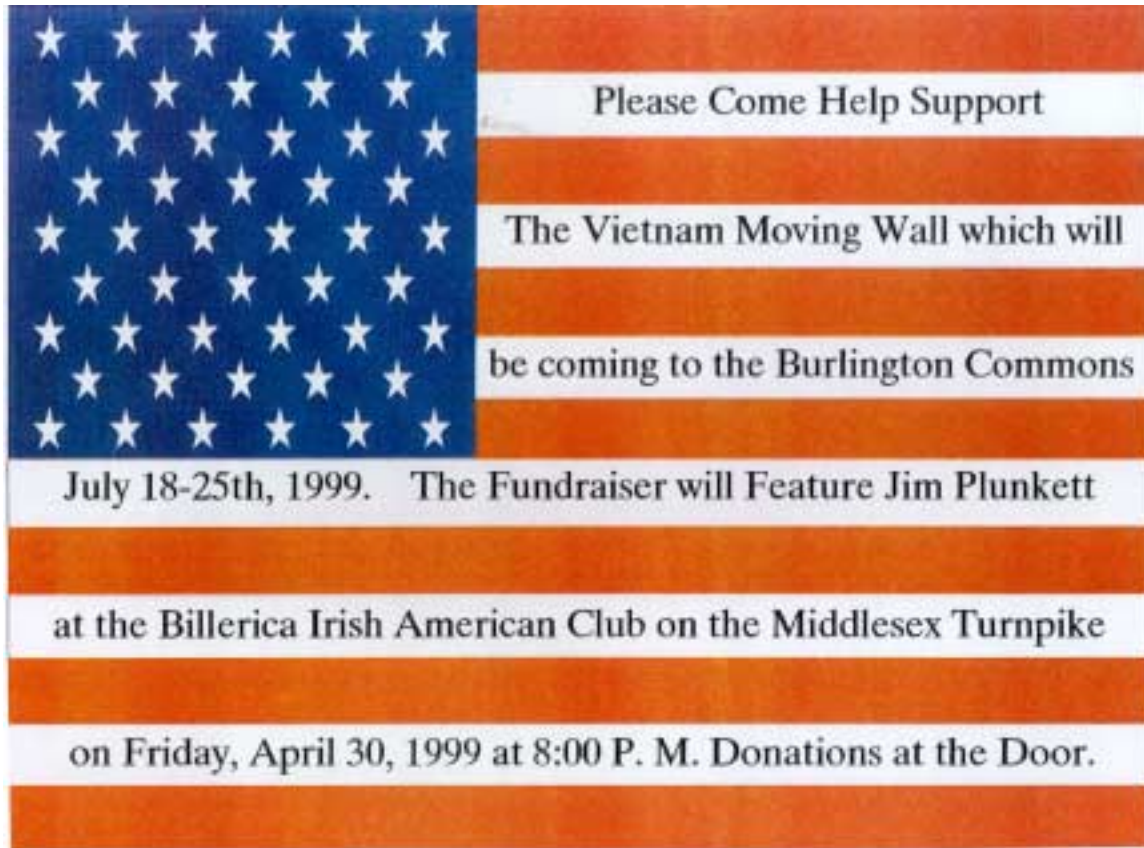
Let us never forget.

Sincerely,

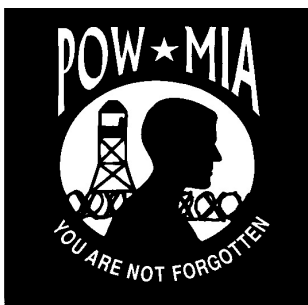
Bob Hogan

Jim Plunkett Fundraiser

One of many successful fund raising activities...



Another fundraiser...our bumper stickers were very popular.



Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial


Burlington Town Common
July 18 - 25, 1999



The Burlington Moving Wall Replica

The names of the seven men from Burlington who died in Vietnam were placed on a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall. Many dedicated volunteers gave

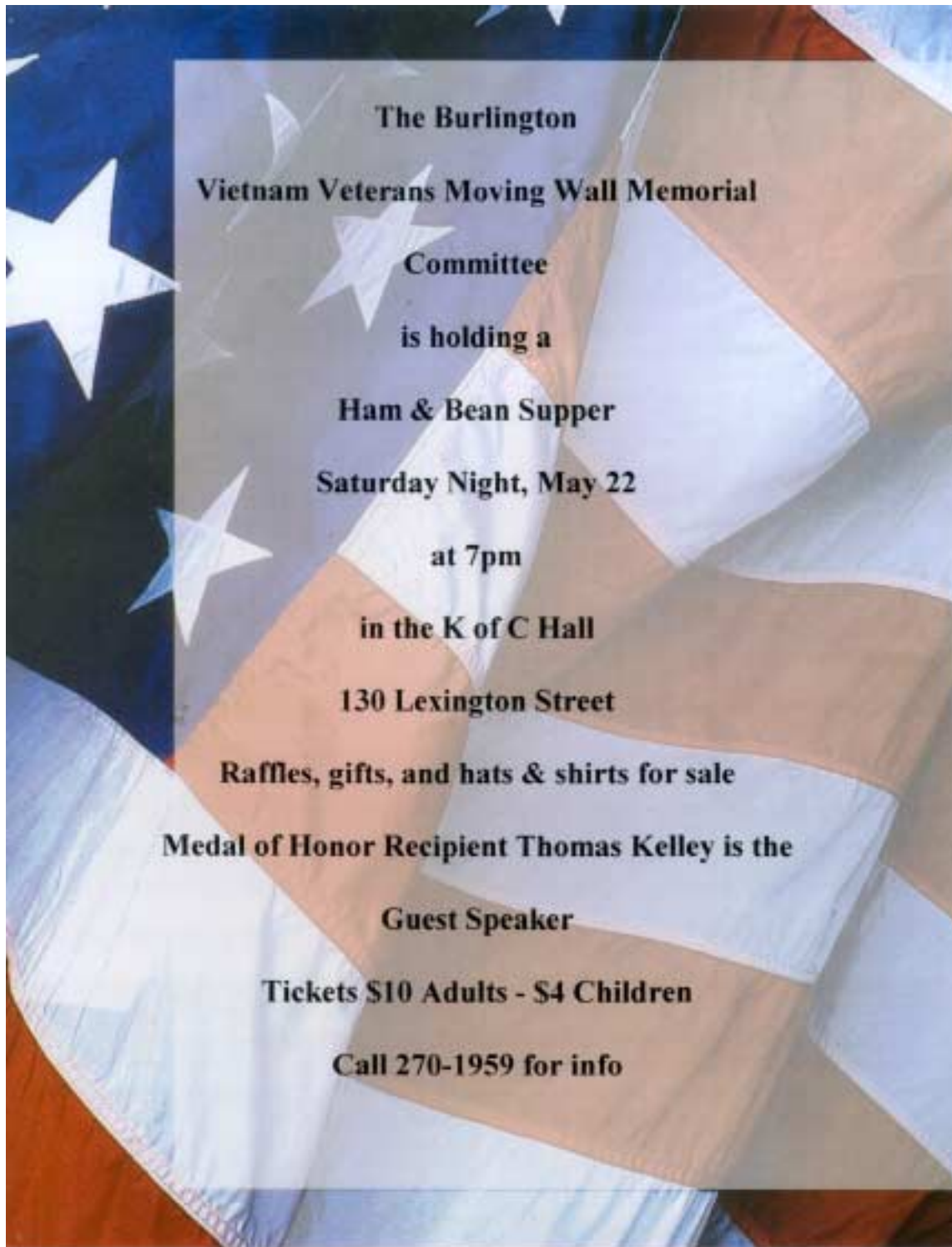
their time to have this unique addition as part of our remembrance of the more than 58,000 men and women who died in Vietnam.



It was proudly displayed in the Bicentennial Parade, as well as on the Town Common during the weeklong visit of The Moving Wall.



Ham and Bean Supper



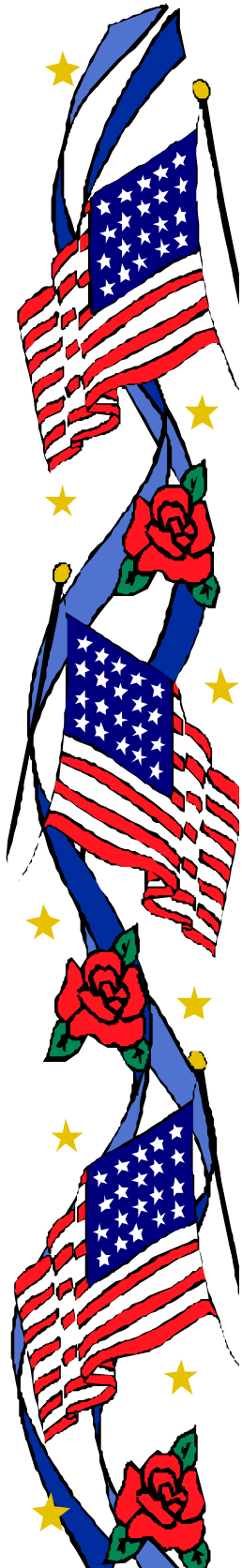


We were honored with
Thomas G. Kelley,
Commissioner of Veterans Services,
Vietnam Veteran, and Medal of Honor
Recipient, as our guest speaker.

Local Businesses and
Friends contributed valuable
gifts making our raffle one of
the evening's highlights....



...along with lots of food,
fun and good friends.



60's Rock'n Roll Dance

**JUNE 18, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.
Burlington Wyndham Garden
Hotel**

***Featuring:
Burlington's Own Dee-Jay
Jack Ferren***

**Hors d'oeuvre ♥ Cash Bar ♥
Great Raffles
Ticket Cost: \$15.00**

***Event to help bring the Vietnam
Veterans Moving Wall to
Burlington the week of
July 18-25th***

**To Order Tickets, Contact the
Office of Veteran Services at
781-270-1959.**



Jack plays our favorite Oldies...



Connie Repucci shows off our cake...



...as we dance the night away!!

We Sold Tee Shirts Everywhere

Truck Day



Dare Day



Burlington Mall



Friday, July 16th

The Flowers are ready.... Volunteers filled 21 pots with flowers.



Members of the flower delivery crew ready for work.

The flowers were then picked up and delivered to the Town Common...



...in anticipation of the arrival of the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial.



Volunteers prepare the plants around “The Three Man Statue”...

As the USAR 94th Regional Support Command from Devens arrive in Town to set up the tents used for information, food, and hospitality.



Members of the 94th RSC were stationed on the Town Common throughout the entire visit and participated in many of our daily activities and ceremonies.

Saturday, July 17th



Preparing the
Common for the
Wall's arrival...

The area was
wired and lighting
was put in place by
volunteers to
illuminate the
Moving Wall
throughout its stay
in Burlington.



Volunteers on the
Town Common
prepare the site in
90-degree
weather....



...by leveling the area and setting up the
runner...

...where the Moving
Wall would sit for the
entire eight-day visit.



Sunday, July 18th



We are ready and waiting
for the Moving Wall to
arrive.



The Moving Wall arrives with a Parade around Town...



...escorted by the
Burlington and other local
area police departments...



...along with
members of the
Vietnam Veterans
Northeast
Motorcycle Club
and other
motorcyclist. .



...back to the
Town Common ...

...where the
set up begins.



One of 70 six
foot panels being
carefully
removed from its
crate to be
placed in its
proper location
for the eight day
visit.

George Creamer, a Burlington firefighter, and Dan Raske, a local resident worked together assembling the Moving Wall. While they did that, they learned they were in the same company in Vietnam.



Regarding the Wall, Creamer answered, *"it says thanks, welcome home, to all these guys."*

From Woburn Daily Times article, by Steve DeMarco



We had lots of Volunteers and...

...we got ahead of ourselves.

We had to wait for John Devitt to catch up with our enthusiasm.



For the Very First Time

It was going to be pretty good duty. Members of the 94th RSC were assigned to assist the volunteers in Burlington with the Moving Wall visit on the Town Common. It was hot when they came on that Friday to set up the army tents for us. We got to know them all pretty well over the next ten days as they stayed, day and night, on the Common, to assist us in any way.

As was the case with many of us who had access to the massive directories containing



the names and location of those listed on the Moving Wall, we would look up our own family name to see how many with our name were there.

One reservist did so with painfully interesting results, which you will probably

guess immediately, after I mention that his mother and father were separated when he was a child and never knew his dad.

As he ran his finger down the page of the directory, he found



someone with his first name, his last name. The deceased veteran had even lived in the same city. He got an awful tightness in his stomach and called his mother.

She confirmed and for the first time in his life, he knew something about his father. He had died in Vietnam and his name was listed right there among the 58,220 men and women on that Wall, right there for all to see, for him to see, for the very first time.



What a wonderful setting....

...for a marvelous memorial.



If you needed help, there were plenty of volunteers.



Beyond the Wall

Will our hearts ever heal from the sorrow, as our hands touch the depth of "The Wall". We weep and we pray that tomorrow, can heal all the wounds we recall.

As we walk along, reflections of life, pass before us as we search the names. Emotions ring forth with humility and strife, for our memories are filled with the pain.

A country at war, brutally tearing apart, unfolding the vows that were spoken. Tests of their courage, and strength of the heart, with promises so grievously broken.

Perhaps now they'll try to understand, as the years pass, our minds ever haunted. Images of many who fought for this land, courage, duty, and honor undaunted.

Like shooting stars, so bright, yet so brief, they pass through our lives for mere seconds. We tried to reach out, to share in the grief, but history repeatedly beckons.

As the soldiers of war stand silently by, let us unite, joining hands, standing tall.

"Well done, be thou at peace", is our heart-rending cry, for hopes lie in the legacy "Beyond the Wall."

The stillness in the air, and the beauty of the sky, broken by the whispers of loved ones passing by. Our hearts so full of longing, and praying we shall see. A world forever peaceful, with hope for you and me.

So as the eagle leads us to heights "Beyond the Wall," Pray all nations ever, join us in answering the call. To always search for answers with no regress to war, preserve our earth, protect us at peace forevermore.

Leah W. Miller Copyright 1989

Sunday Evening, July 18th

Acceptance Ceremonies

Proclamations from the Town as well as the State were received on Sunday evening.



An overwhelming number of Honor Guards from the region were in attendance to help Burlington accept The Moving Wall and begin its weeklong visit.







Lauren DiPerna led us in the singing of our National Anthem on several occasions.



State and Town proclamations dedicated July 18–25, 1999 as Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial Week in the Town of Burlington.

State Rep. Charlie Murphy

... "The State of Massachusetts proclaims July 18-25, as Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial Week in Massachusetts."

Town of Burlington Proclamation

Whereas - The Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial was designed by John Devitt in 1984 to bring the moving message of healing to those who could not travel to Washington DC

Whereas - The Moving Wall travels the country each year, bringing that message of hope and healing to Vietnam veterans, their families and friends

Whereas - Millions of Americans visit the Moving Wall each year, making it the most visited memorial of its kind

Whereas - Burlington has been chosen as the site of the visit during the week of July 18 to 25, 1999, so that the 58,220 men and women whose names are forever etched in the Wall will be remembered

And Whereas - Seven Burlington young men are listed on the Wall

The Burlington Board of Selectmen proclaim the Week of July 18-25, 1999, Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial Week in Burlington.

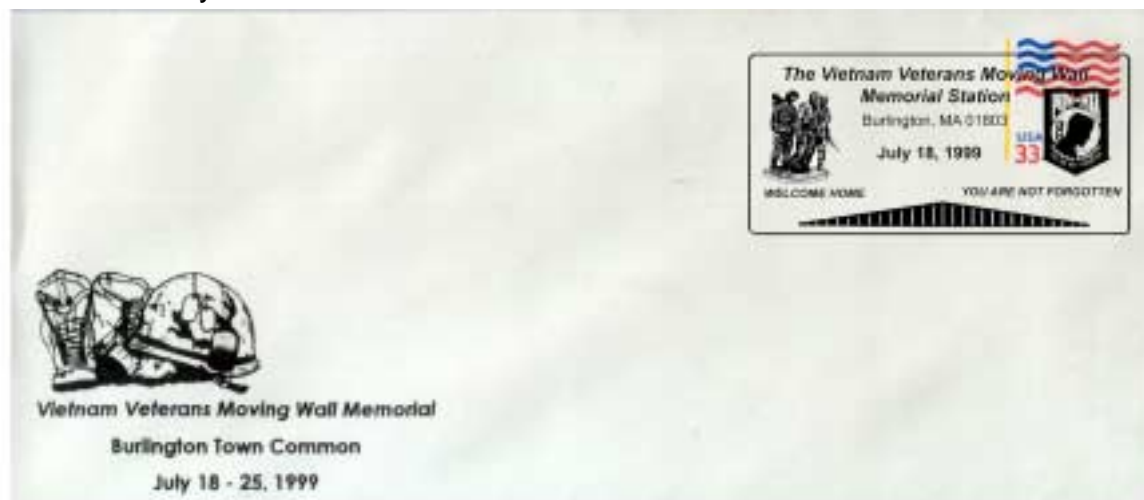
George Judge, Chairman

Joseph Impemba, Vice Chairman

Gary Gianino

Juliet Perdichizzi

Kevin McKelvey



Our Commemorative First Day Issue Postal Cancellation

Reverend Herb Taylor

" remembering those who have died in service to our Country this is more than just a monument the names on the memorial are real men and women of flesh and blood help us to honor those who died as we continue to work for peace ..."



George Judge, Chairman of the Board of Selectman

The inconvenience of the rain tonight is a small price to pay for what the Veterans paid in Vietnam.



Bob Hogan

" we come here to remember the soldiers as young and innocent and civilized in our minds we will never forget "



The family and friends of the seven men from Burlington ...

...who died in Vietnam
placed seven wreaths at
The Wall.



As the visitors approached The Moving Wall, they were given small flags to place at the foot of The Wall in memory of their loved ones.



Over the course of the week, visitors in honor of those men and women inscribed there placed thousands of these flags.

Monday, July 19th

Opening Ceremonies



What began as a rainy day ended as a beautiful evening as the rain stopped at precisely 7:00 p.m. so that we could begin our opening ceremonies.

Guest speaker, The Reverend Colonel Bill Mark, Vietnam Veteran and Chaplain at the VA Hospital in Bedford spoke in place of Commissioner Thomas Kelley, who was unable to attend.



Bob Hogan

" this Moving Wall is here with the help of so many people including Vietnam War Veterans, W.W. II Veterans, Korean War Veterans, Persian Gulf Veterans and civilians -- thank you for your help in bringing this wonderful monument to Burlington from the bottom of our hearts"



Boston Police Gaelic Column of Pipes and Drums led the procession of Color Guards as the Opening Ceremonies were held.

The Rifle Squad performs its duty proudly.



She Knows Exactly Where He Is

She had volunteered so graciously throughout the planning process, and when the Moving Wall arrived in Burlington, she continued to give her time. No one asked why. No



one needed to know what moved her to volunteer. It was never necessary for anyone to prove anything when it came to helping out.

She was sitting in the tent behind one of the two computers we used when looking up names to find out what panel the person was listed on, and which line to look for on that panel. A man quietly came into the tent, as so many did during that week

and asked for a name. He wanted to know which panel to look for, to find his old friend.

She looked up and immediately knew the panel and line number. He looked at her and hesitated, probably wondering if someone else had just come in looking up this same name, this same friend. But



no one had. She remembered because he was her friend, her first boyfriend, and the first boy she ever kissed.

No one needed to look up his name, she knows exactly where he was.

Story by Connie Reppucci



Reverend Bill Mark

"..... we thank God for these 58,220. We respect them as our friends, our brothers and sisters and as comrades in arms..... we remember them to this day. Help us to also remember for the rest of our lives the wounds, both physical and emotional of each living Vietnam veterans on their long and difficult battle since returning home. We pray for their encouragement to survive each day."

He arrived in a wheelchair but stood proudly among us.



The Names Were No Longer Just Names

I stood by a tree near the Moving Wall. I had been standing there forever, just watching. Watching the man standing at the Wall. He had been there for about forty-five



minutes, just staring at it. He had no expression on his face, no tears in his eyes. All he was doing was staring at the Wall. Blankly staring into the black wall with white writing.

I had seen the Wall in Washington D.C. I had been there, but it did nothing for me. My father had brought me to

Washington to look at a Wall with a bunch of faceless names. It never sank in; these were real people.

Then the Moving Wall came to my town. I went to the Wall to sell T-shirts with my mother for one day. But suddenly, the stories came. Stories of the names on the Wall. Suddenly, the names were no longer just names. They were faces and stories. Stories of love, friendship, loss and regret. These stories were the things that people were remembered by.

I never met anyone on the Wall, and I never cared either. Until the Wall came to my town. Suddenly, all these names became people, someone's brother or sister. Someone's husband or wife, or someone's child. Finally, I understood. These were not just names. They were first loves, school friends, and they lived on, on the Wall and in the hearts of everyone who saw it.

So as I stood there, watching the man who was watching the Wall. I had to wonder; what was he thinking? What was his story?



Written by Sarah Tredeau

Tuesday, July 20th

POW/MIA Night

A very special tribute to those men and women who were held as POW's during the war and are, or who have ever been listed as Missing in Action.



Comments from our Web Site:

Having had the good fortune to visit both the permanent Wall site on the mall in our nation's capital as well as the Moving Wall, both are fitting memorials that make a positive and

lasting impression on both veterans and non-veterans alike. What a more fitting location to display the Moving Wall than the town green of a small New England town. Thanks and congratulations to all the volunteers who made this display possible.



Ron Walker Lt Col, USAF (RET), Chantilly, VA

Father John Crispo

".....the Wall leaves a message for me of the basis of civilization: reverence, respect and remembrance God bless the families, friends, and Veteran."



The Burlington Fire Department Honor Guard stands at attention...

...As Sgt Jason Araujo and the 655th Area Support Group Honor Guard Stand at Present Arms.

The Sweet Adelaide's performed a number of touching songs during the evening's ceremony.





Deputy
Commissioner,
Walter Pero, spoke of
the sacrifice of
POW's like Tim
Sullivan, who was a 6
year POW in
Vietnam.



Walter Pero

"..... none of us can imagine the ultimate sacrifice paid by the men and women on the Walltake a moment for reflect on the service of each of the individuals on the Wall."

POW/MIA Candle Lighting Ceremony



A member from each branch of the service and five of our Vietnam Veterans prepare for the Ceremony.

The candles were lit by local Vietnam Veterans.



A proud moment and a proud salute.

The ceremony of
"Placing the Hats" of
each Branch of the
Service...



and the lighting of the
candles in the memory
of those men and
women who were
POW/MIA...

...was a very moving
tribute.



We see
ourselves in the
reflection an the
names on the
Wall...



...and we find our
Unit Banner

Faithful volunteers
look on during the
POW/MIA ceremony.



I'll Never Forget You

It was about 9:00pm when my father called me over to him. I had been at the Moving Wall for an hour and a half by then and was getting tired, so I was only half interested in whatever he might want. This changed as soon as he pointed to a guy a few feet away and told me that this one was going to be tough, but he thought I could handle it.



I knew what he wanted me to do. The two of us were working as Wall Walkers that night in July. It was our job to help visitors at the Moving Wall with whatever they might need or want, including emotional support. I followed my father as he walked me over to where the man was standing.

On the way Dad filled me in on the man's background.

His name was Frank, he is a recovering alcoholic and a closet Vietnam Veteran. Stories like this are so common that I didn't need to hear any more. I knew it was his first time anywhere near a Wall, or Moving Wall.

When we reached Frank, my father introduced me as his daughter and that I would help get any names the veteran might want. Frank gave me three names. I quickly took the list and had the names checked in our computers. The guys in the tents could only come up with two names, so I took what I had to Frank. When I got back there, he had another list of three names ready for me.

Again, two of the three were all that could be found. When I returned the second time, we then began looking for the names on the Wall together. The first names were handled okay by Frank. The next set opened a floodgate of emotions. When I showed Frank those names, we realized that they were only two of more than a hundred names that he knew, all listed together on that one panel. When he looked at all the names, reading line after line, he lost it.

Dad was right, this one was going to be tough. Frank retreated quickly, and truthfully, I almost did too. He walked a few yards away from me and sat down alone, thirty

seconds later. I was back by his side again. In the next 45 minutes I learned a lot of what this man had been carrying with him for the last 35 years, between his tears he told me about two days all those years ago.

He had been a medic. His unit was camped in a valley whose name I didn't catch. They weren't expecting the attack that came. It was a massacre, a real true massacre. An entire unit completely wiped out within a two day period. Frank had been one of the lucky ones, extremely lucky to get away with his life. As a Medic he saw many of those men die, some that maybe he thought he could help.

I don't know how long we would have been there had my father not found the nearest and most ranking person in uniform, a Marine, and sent him over to us. That helped Frank pull himself together. The Marine started talking to him and he looked in control again, so I made a quick retreat back to my father. He told me that I had done a good job.

I walked around asking myself for some kind of explanation beyond what my mind was telling me. What my mind was saying was that in war terrible things happen and there is no good reason for it except that is the nature of war. That wasn't



good enough for me. Why should people like Frank have their entire existence altered forever because of two days, 35 years ago.

I don't have the answer. I walked around awhile and then saw the two nurses who have been involved in the activities all week, talking with Frank. I walked over and just stood there listening to their conversation. Not long after I got there the talking wore itself down and Frank thanked everyone who was there, then he looked at me, "And you", he said, "thank you so very much... I'll never forget you." But, actually I should have said, "No, I'll never forget you."

Written by Jessica Lee



Some volunteers helped...

...and at times,
remembered.



Another generation
took home the name of
a loved one with a
rubbing.

Wednesday Evening, July 21st

Gold Star Families and Operation Patriotism



Comments from our Web site:

I am originally from Burlington, now living in Central Massachusetts, and 90% disabled. I am happy to see the Moving Wall come to town to honor our Brothers & Sisters who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, their lives. I graduated in 1968 and joined the Marine Corps in 1969. No matter what year you went in, or what branch you joined, it was no picnic for anyone. All our veterans served with dignity and Honor, and helped preserve Democracy. Vietnam Veterans had a less than gracious homecoming, and many still live

with scars and pain from that War. We came home as individuals to a hostile nation. Our battle went from Vietnam to our own backyard. I'm glad people are finally understanding the concept that we only did what our country asked of us. Some gave a little, some gave ALL, but we all gave something. There were no winners in that war, I hope that the Campbell, Dashner, Harper, Ludwig, McGinness, and Wallace families know that their sons will not EVER, EVER be forgotten.

Semper Fi, Bob Pizzano USMC Ret.

If The Wall Could Talk

If the Wall could talk, you would hear stories of fear, anger, and an emptiness that just cannot be filled. You would hear of the bloodshed in the jungles of "NAM" and the loss of a buddy who walked into a hooch and was killed by a child carrying a gun.

With 58,220 names on the black granite wall in Washington D.C. you would hear a



lot, more than any one person could bear. And as you walk down the long walkway at the wall, you also hear stories from the veterans who are crying because they grieve the loss of a buddy.

In 1982, a man named John Devitt attended the dedication of The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, "The Wall", in Washington. John felt the healing power of the Wall and vowed to take that power to everyone who could not attend The Memorial in our nation's capitol.

The first Moving Wall was created by Devitt, Norris Shears and Gerry Haver and it is a half size replica of the Wall in Washington. It went on display in Tyler, Texas in 1984.

The week of July 18 to 25, 1999, The Moving Wall came to Burlington Massachusetts. It touched the hearts of many, including members of the 102nd Fighter Wing. When I found out the Moving Wall was back in Massachusetts, I knew I had to act quickly. I was a member of the Stoneham Moving Wall Committee in 1997, and I wanted to be a part of the experience again.

I spoke to the Coordinator, Bob Hogan, and Betty McDonough and asked if I could invite the 102nd Fighter Wing Honor Guard to perform "Operation Patriotism". Bob liked the idea, so on Wednesday evening, July 21, members of the Honor Guard traveled to Burlington to pay respect to our comrades in arms from the Vietnam War.

Members of the Honor Guard included MSgts. Gail Briggs, Chris Coista, TSgts. Mike Miller, David Paulsen, SSgts, Ken Boyd, Rich Brousseau, Keith Delgado, Mike Gath

and Sgt. Mike Kelley.

In conjunction with our ceremony, the 101st Fighter Squadron pilots received approval from Colonel Shiver and Colonel Quenville to perform a two-ship, F-15 fly-by. This was done by LtCol. Treacy on the ground, and LtCol. Ransey, the Flight leader and Capt. Hoyt, the Wingman.

All the members of the 102nd Fighter Wing who were involved with this ceremony should be very proud of their performances. They have shown great pride in the duties tasked to them. It was just a small price to pay for the amount of names on the Moving Wall.

Lest We Forget

SSgt Kenneth L. Boyd Jr. 102nd FW/LGTO

Operation Patriotism



A History of the American Flag

The evening began with Operation Patriotism, a tribute to the history of the American Flag as performed by members of the 102nd Fighter Wing, Otis Air Force Base, Massachusetts.

I'm Proud to be an American

*If tomorrow all the things were gone I'd
worked for all my life
And I had to start again from the
beginning of my life
I'd thank my lucky stars to be living here
today
'Cause the flag still stands for freedom,
and they can't take that away*

*And I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget all those who died,
Who gave that right to me
And I'd gladly stand up next to you and
defend her still today
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this
land
God Bless the USA!
Proud to Be An American*



*From the lakes of Minnesota to the hills
of Tennessee
Across the plains of Texas
From sea to shining sea
From Detroit down to Houston
New York to L.A.
Well, there's pride in every American
heart
and it's time we stand and say....*

*That I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget all those who died,
Who gave that right to me
And I'd gladly stand up next to you and
defend her still today
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this
land
God bless the USA!*

Author: Lee Greenwood

The crowd was overwhelmed by a magnificent "fly-by" of the two F-15s from the 102nd Fighter Wing.



In attendance were gold star families and friends.

The Worcester Kiltie Bagpipe Band came to share their music.



Our guest speaker on Wednesday was Lt. General Leslie Kenne. She is the highest-ranking woman in the Air Force and Commander at Hansom Air Force Base.



Lt. General Leslie Kenne

"..... we join here as Americans deeply indebted to these men and women. The Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial helps us to pay our respects and give thanks -- we are privileged to be part of its journey- face to face with each individual's devotion and sacrifice..... "



Reverend Rod McDonald

"to honor courage even as we dream of peace."

Gold Star Families place a
Wreath at the Wall.



General Kenne personally
thanks each Gold Star
Family Member.





Those in attendance
listen to the
speakers...

...a dedicated volunteer looks on...



...as the Honor Guard Salutes the
General as she leaves the podium

Burlington's Vietnam Veterans Honored on the Wall



James Michael Ludwig

James Ludwig was born on May 18, 1948. He became a member of the United States Army and attained the rank of PFC. On December 16, 1968 at the age of 20, James Ludwig gave his life in the service of our country in South Vietnam, Thua Thien Province.

You can find James Ludwig honored on the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial on Panel 36W, Row 30.

Paul Edward McGinness

Paul McGinness was born on June 17, 1947. He became a member of the United States Army and attained the rank of Cpl. on October 19, 1968 at the age of 21, Paul McGinness gave his life in the service of our country in South Vietnam, Tay Ninh Province.

You can find Paul McGinness honored on the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial on Panel 40W, Row 4.

Gilford Frank Dashner

Gilford Dashner was born on November 2, 1946. He became a member of the United States Army and attained the rank of CPL. on September 18, 1968 at the age of 21, Gilford Dashner gave his life in the service of our country in South Vietnam, Quang Ngai Province.

You can find Gilford Dashner honored on the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial on panel 43W, Row 26.

William H. Campbell III

William Campbell was born on February 15, 1945. He became a member of the United States Army and attained the rank of Sp4. on December 26, 1967 at the age of 22, William Campbell gave his life in the service of our country in South Vietnam, Binh Dinh Province.

You can find William Campbell honored on the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial on panel 32E, Row 62.

Harry William Wallace

Harry Wallace was born on June 18, 1948. He became a member of the United States Marines and attained the rank of PFC. on September 12, 1967 at the age of 19, Harry Wallace gave his life in the service of our country in South Vietnam, Quang Tin Province.

You can find Harry Wallace honored on the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial on panel 26E, Row 64.

Roy John Henderson

Roy Henderson was born on May 18, 1947. He became a member of the United States Marines and attained the rank of PFC on March 15, 1966 at the age of 18, Roy Henderson gave his life in the service of our country in South Vietnam, Quang Tin Province.

You can find Roy Henderson honored on the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial on panel 6E, Row 10.

Richard K. Harper

Richard Harper was born October 2, 1941. He became a member of the United States Army and attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. Richard Harper is still listed as Missing In Action.

You can find Richard Harper honored on the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial on Panel 1 E, Row 121.

Separated

There are times when things happen that cannot be explained. Midway through the visit of the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial, a man from Woburn came to the Wall to see if an old long lost friend's name was there. They had been separated in Vietnam and lost track of each other. He had never been to the Wall in Washington and never sought out the Moving Wall whenever it was in the general area, but he was now ready to see if his friend was on the Wall.

He came to the Tent to look up the name in the directory. He gave the name to one



of the volunteers, and from behind him he heard a voice say that he wouldn't find the name in the book. It was him, the man he'd been looking for. He too had never been to the Wall in Washington, nor ever sought out the Moving Wall, but during the weeklong visit to Burlington, he too had decided to come and see if his friend's name was on the Wall.

The two men stood in amazement for a moment before grabbing each other in a bear hug and began to cry. They couldn't speak for a couple of minutes. When they did it was about how they were, and did they know where so and so was. They walked out to the Moving Wall and were seen talking for quite a while. They then left together not to be seen again that week.

There are times when things happen that cannot be explained... and don't need to be.



For Burlington Firefighter Bill Callahan, The Wall causes him to remember six schoolmates. Of the seven local men listed on the Wall, Callahan knew six of them.

"There are some great guys on The Wall that I haven't thought about in many years. It was emotional. It was moving to see the families placing the wreaths at the names of the men who died, who were from Burlington."

From the Burlington Union article by Deanna Cotes

A large part of the funds to support our visit of the Moving Wall...



...came from the sale of t-shirts, sweatshirts, and hats.

Everyone's generosity made the week possible.



Thursday, July 22nd

Tech. Sgt. Richard Fitzgibbons, Jr. Night



The Thursday Evening Ceremony was to honor Tech. Sgt. Richard Fitzgibbons, Jr., recently added to the Wall in Washington.

Members of the family spoke and left wreaths in the memory of both father, Tech. Sgt. Richard B. Fitzgibbons, Jr. and son, Lance Corporal Richard B. Fitzgibbons, III.

Alice DelRossi, Sister of Richard Jr. and Aunt of Richard the third is escorted to place a wreath at the Wall.



The Fitzgibbons' are the only father and son listed on the wall.

Dick DelRossi

*"..... these two men
are the only father
and son to be killed in
Vietnam. We must
continue to educate
and bring attention to
the true history of
Vietnam keep the
history going."*



Burlington Fire Department
Honor Guard

Jim Cavallucci

Local 369

Utility Workers of America

*".....when we were in
Vietnam, we as soldiers
worked as a family, ate as
a family, and watched over
each and every one of us
as a family"*



A Message From a Volunteer

It is and has been an honor for me to be able to get to know the folks involved in The Movement, first in Stoneham and now in Burlington. The results in both cities were very special and you can all be proud that there is a greater sense of peace now for a lot of vets and their families than before your efforts.



As a non-vet, my involvement has provided me a chance to say my personal thanks to quite a few true heroes (as well as the 58,000) by being "there for them" however I can be.

I have also seen a side of my daughter that would make any dad proud so I do not even try to hide that any more.

As for visiting the site, I encourage you to continue to "just drop by" from time to time. I think you will find that the memories will deepen into pride with time so enjoy it as it happens.

By Tom Lee

The Firing Squad performed its duty.



In Burlington, Vietnam Memorial A Moving Reminder of Sacrifices

On Burlington Common, small pieces of paper, etched by crayon with the names of those who died in the Vietnam War, mark the earth.

The paper tributes are pinned to the Common ground by small American flags. They have been left there by friends and relatives who have come (some from as far as Rumford, Maine) to pay their respects at the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial.



Some have left pictures, others news clippings of the dead, who have been gone for some 25 years and longer. They met their deaths in a battle that those left behind may never be able 'to come to grips' with. The Moving Wall provides them with something on which to pin their grief.

You and I hear the number of Americans killed in Vietnam -- 58,220 -- and it doesn't register. We know it's a lot, but we can't fathom exactly how much.

That's why the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial exists -- to drive home the impact of just how many lives 58,220 is.

The memorial is a half-sized replica of the real wall in Washington D.C., made up of 70 Panels about 6 feet high. Each panel contains names - some as few as five per panel, others as many as 685. The Wall will be in Burlington through Sunday. You can visit it 24 hours a day, and it doesn't cost a dime.

I first visited the Moving Wall when it made a stop in Lowell a few years back. I had gotten out of work late on a Saturday night and felt an inexplicable urge to see what it was all about.

I was struck by the number of people - dozens - who stood or knelt before the wall, even after midnight, and was unprepared for the sight. Some were weeping.

Like most Americans of my generation, I don't know much about Vietnam. I have, of course, seen Platoon and Apocalypse Now, but they seem mere glorification's. They don't seem real.

But seeing the Moving Wall that night in Lowell brought to me an understanding not of what the Vietnam War was all about, but of what price the United States paid.

That visit - and another this week to see the Moving Wall in Burlington -- also forced me to ask

myself some tough questions.

If I had been in the same quandary as the 58,220 found themselves in -- to serve their country in a fruitless war, a conflict that drove a wedge between Americans -- would I have served?

I call myself a patriot. Hey, I'm in favor of a law banning flag burning, and I stand for the National Anthem with my hand on my heart. But would I have been a true patriot when my country called? I like to think I would.

I drove home from my first visit to the Moving Wall somewhat numbly, several emotions --sadness, disbelief, shock - battling for control in my mind. But, in the end, numbness won out. I still consider it one of the more moving experiences in my life.

I felt then, and I still feel now, that there is a reason they don't call it the portable wall or the movable wall or the mobile wall. There is a reason they call it the Moving Wall.

Do yourself a favor. Visit Burlington Common this week and find out for yourself why.

Written by Dan Phelps, published in The Lowell Sun.



Vietnam veteran, Lloyd Jordon, wiped a tear from his eye as he greeted fellow veterans with a proud salute. *"This monument just hits me,"* he said.

Jordon went to fight in the Vietnam War in 1965. He has been to the original Wall in Washington DC. *"I want to be here,"* said Jordon, *"I have friends on that Wall, and all I can say is that it is truly moving. I wouldn't miss this for the world."*

From the Burlington Union article by Deanna Cotes

Friday, July 23

Women's Night

A live representation of both the “*Vietnam Women's Statue*” and the “*Three-Man Statue*” at the Wall in Washington was a highlight of the evening.

Lt. Kathleen Sullivan, our guest speaker, spoke about her experiences as a nurse in Vietnam.



Lt. Kate Sullivan/Flight nurse

“.....I saw the war through women's eyes and share a part of me that wants to be heard.....as hard as that is.....to all those courageous men who died much too young I will never forget you and to all veterans..... respect you and say ‘welcome home’.”

The Women on “The Wall”

Eight military women are officially recognized as having died during their service in Vietnam and their names are inscribed on the Wall in Washington D.C. and on the Moving Wall



**Carol Ann Elizabeth Drazba and
Elizabeth Ann Jones**

They were assigned to the 51st Field Hospital in Saigon and died in a helicopter crash near Saigon on February 18, 1966. Drazba was from Dunmore, Pennsylvania; Jones from Allendale, South Carolina. Both were 22 years old and 2nd Lieutenants.

Eleanor Grace Alexander and Hedwig Diane Orlowski

They died on November 30, 1967. Alexander, of Westwood, New Jersey, a captain stationed with the 85th Evac. and Orlowski, of Detroit Michigan, a 1st Lieutenant at the 67th Evac., were both sent to a hospital in Pleiku to help out during a push. Their plane crashed on the return trip to Qui Nhon and both were awarded Bronze Stars posthumously.

Pamela Dorothy Donovan

She died of pneumonia on July 8, 1968. A 2nd Lieutenant assigned to the 85th Evac. in Qui Nhon, from Allston, Massachusetts. She was only 26 years of age.

Sharon Ann Lane

She died from shrapnel wounds when the 312th Evac. at Chu Lai, was hit by rockets on June 8, 1969. First Lieutenant Lane was from Canton Ohio, a month short of her 26th birthday. She was posthumously awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Bronze Star for Heroism.

Annie Ruth Graham

She was the chief nurse at the 91st Evac. in Tuy Hoa, from Eftand, North Carolina. In August 1969, she suffered a stroke and was evacuated to Japan where she died four days later, at age 52. She was a veteran of both World War II and Korea.

Mary Theresa Klinker

She was an Air Force flight nurse assigned to Clark AFB in the Philippines, was on the C-5A Galaxy which crashed outside Saigon while evacuating Vietnamese orphans in April 1975. Captain Klinker was from Lafayette, Indiana and only 27. She was posthumously awarded the Airman's Medal of Heroism and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Capt. Joyce Massello,
responsible for the
Women's Night
Ceremony, stands with
Lt. Kate Sullivan.



The MDC All-Star
Band, a fabulous
regional band,
with several
members from
Burlington,
played wonderful
medleys.



Dusty

*Hello David - my name is Dusty
I'm your night nurse
I will stay with you
I will check your vitals every 15 minutes
I will document inevitability
I will hang more blood
and give you something for your pain
I will stay with you
and I will touch your face
Yes, of course I will write your mother
and tell her you were brave
I will write your mother
and tell her how much you loved her*

*I will write your mother and tell her to give
your bratty sister a big kiss and hug
What I will not tell her is that you were wasted
I will stay with you and I will hold your hand
I will stay with you and watch your
life flow through my fingers, into my soul
I will stay with you until you stay with me
Good-bye David - my name is Dusty
I am the last person you will see
I am the last person you will touch
I am the last person who will love you
So long David - my name is Dusty
David - who will give me something for my pain?*

A tribute to all the women lost in Vietnam was represented through the releasing of white balloons by those gathered in the audience.



Joyce Massello

" these white balloons being released represent the spirits and souls of the women we lost in Vietnam."





The One With The Shopping Cart

He's that man that you meet
At the end of the street
You know, the one with the shopping cart

He's moral, he's pure
He's a hero for sure
The one with the shopping cart

The man with that cart
Received the Purple Heart
For his courage north of Saigon

His family can't find him
He can't leave his past behind him
He's the one with the shopping cart

*Written by Jessica Lee
Burlington Moving Wall 1999 Volunteer*

Honoring His Memory

I had the honor of assisting at "The Moving Wall" on Friday evening, July 23rd. About 1/2 hour into my shift, a gentleman approached the computer area where I was working and asked if I could please help locate someone. This man and his wife had traveled to the Wall in Washington, DC, but it was so emotional that he could not stay long enough to identify this soldier whose memory haunted him. The man standing before me had served in Vietnam and, for a brief time, was stationed with another soldier who was killed in action before his eyes. He wasn't even sure of the last name, but said he had "unfinished business" and needed to find this soldier. We searched the computers for a long time, and were unable to find any name that matched. Finally, he asked if I could search by date because he knew the month and year. Bingo, we found the name; tears came to the man's eyes. "I could never have rested until I honored this man. The night before his death, we spent hours talking about home and family. After hearing about my family, he said that, if he should die, only his dog would miss him. He was wrong. I miss him to this day. Now I can honor his memory in my own way."

"Thank you"

Sue Sawyer



"Time to visit some old friends"

Saturday, July 24th

Our Day for Reflection



Hi, Bobby & Russ:

Just a note to say that we haven't forgotten you. Hope that you two are still friends wherever you are.

Hey! Bobby, there's a new addition to the family as a June 14, 1999. Her name is Sara, your niece.

L ove Y ou, Miss Y ou,
Y our Sister,
B arbara
July 24, 1999

Many Bring Personal Gifts To The Wall

Even before the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was opened on Nov. 13, 1982, visitors to the Wall have been leaving loving tributes to the men and women named on the Wall.

In the summer of 1981, a Naval aviator veteran of the Vietnam War, placed into the freshly poured concrete foundation, the Purple Heart awarded to his brother, who was killed in action in Vietnam.



One morning jungle boots were found side by side, heels touching the Wall. Boony hats have been placed there. And so have thousands of other items, including photos, notes and letters. One letter from a young woman says this: "I have a little girl now, and someday she'll have a first love too. Her favorite color is purple, the same color as this paper. You got a Purple Heart for dying. Well, this is your Purple Heart for living, and we will always bring you flowers. You gave me love."

To view these items is overwhelming. You look into the country's heart when you see them. the Wall in Washington, and the Moving Wall visit to the Burlington Common during the week of July 18 to 25, will bring a healing to those who visit. A visit to the Moving Wall will remind us all that death is not the final word. The names of the 58,220 men and women is the only word. It has always been and will always be about the names.

Visitors leave flowers and poems, music and photos, invitations to class reunions, wedding champagne glasses and rings.

A mother left a Teddy Bear, so loved by a small boy that it was all scuffed up and worn. It was a special childhood friend of her son. He was killed in Vietnam and she brought it to the Wall and left it for him. A young man who used to go biking with his friend left a bicycle fender. His friend had no fenders on his bike, so the man rode up to the Wall on his bike and took the fender off his bike and left it at his friend's panel.

In fulfillment of a promise to each other in Vietnam, about buying each other a beer if they got home safe, beer cans are regular items left at the Wall, as those returning, make good on the promise.

There is no precedent in this country explaining why so many people have been leaving personal items at both "The Wall" and "The Moving Wall". Notes are left at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and origami paper birds are left at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, but few other examples of mass outpouring of love and affection exists at a war memorial.

"People clearly believe that the spirits of their loved ones exist in the Wall," said Jan Scruggs, founder and President of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. the Wall in Washington and the Moving Wall are both the most visited memorials in this country and the power of these walls lies in their ability to individualize the dead.

And that show of respect has become more personalized. In the beginning, as far back as the day they poured the cement, the items left were more military in nature.

Today, the items are more personal than they were originally, like the teddy bear or the many birthday cards indicating that those special birthdays, like the 40th or 50th birthday, had arrived for those on the Wall.

A man brought his 11-year-old son and a picture was left of the two of them, along with a picture of the man and his father when he was 11 years old. His father died in Vietnam. The son asked if his grandfather knew who he was, and his father said he thought he did.



Contributed by the Burlington Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial Committee.

Gifts Left At Our Moving Wall



Some of the items lovingly left at the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial during its visit to the Burlington Town Common were newspaper articles, POW/MIA and Fallen Angel bracelets, wreaths, dog tags, poems, post cards, handwritten letters, Purple Heart and other medals, US Marine Corp license plate and baseball cap, a signed baseball, drum sticks, various

types of service, organization, and nationality flags, as well as photographs forever keeping the Vietnam Veteran young in our minds.

In the future, John Devitt plans to display all of these wonderful gifts in a permanent museum.



Strangers With a Common Link

I got a call from a friend who asked me if I would volunteer at the Moving Wall with her. They needed people to look up names in the directory. I believe in volunteering quite strongly and have to tell you that is why I said yes.” I never gave much thought to The Moving Wall. I am embarrassed to tell you, I barely gave much thought to the Vietnam War. Until that Saturday night.

It was raining. I was very pregnant. But, a promise is a promise, and I got in my car and drove down to the Common with my recruiter on the final weekend that the Wall was in town. I had driven by it all week long, and it really looked “neat” (for lack of a better word). I was impressed with how it stood in our town’s center, and I kept hearing how wonderful all of the events every night were.

Bob Hogan greeted us, and I was amazed that he could even remember my name with all the other things that he had going on



that night. I was briefed on how to use the computer and got started. During the quiet times, Bob was kind enough to explain details about the Wall and was patient enough to let me ask questions that I’m sure I probably should have known the answers to. You have to realize that for someone like myself, I was born after most of these soldiers had died in this war. Besides for the brief time that you spend in school studying the war, I never had to touch the issue again.

As the night progressed, the whole thing became quite real to me. As people approached and asked for names, I could see the sorrow in their faces as we handed off a particular panel number or the relief as we told them that we didn’t have the person they were looking for listed.

“I just knew him as” or“He was from Texas, but that’s all I know.”

It was partial pieces of a story that made you want to help these people more than ever. I was especially touched by one fellow in particular who tried to be the stronger type, and after walking the Wall and touching names of men that he spent the most trying of times with, he actually came back under the tent to say thank you to us. Imagine that?



He went off to a war, a very controversial war by the way, and fought on behalf of our country, and he was coming back to thank me. It was hard for me to hold back tears for this man and many others like him. For you knew that it took a lot for him to come down and to even try and be before the Wall in front of so many other strangers.

Strangers with a common link. All of these people had a bond that none of us would feel if we weren't there as well. I learned a valuable lesson that night. The generations that have followed have been lucky. We don't know and I don't think we could even begin to imagine what it was like to live through something like that.

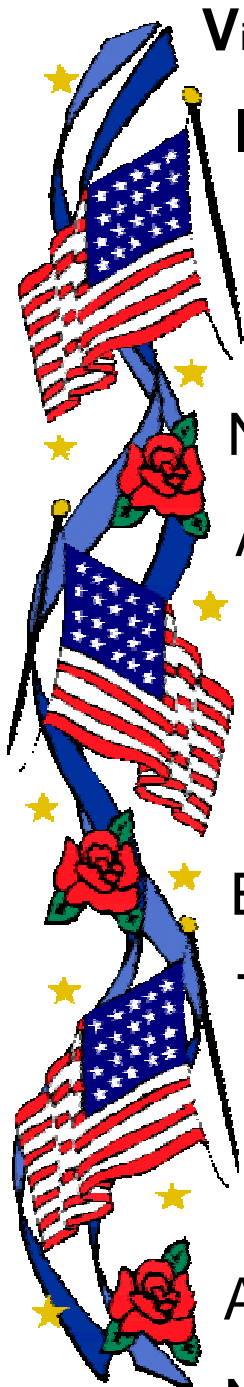
Almost 60,000 names. I kept thinking that these men (and a few women by the way) gave their lives for their country. The power of standing in front of The Moving Wall is enormous, and I am grateful that I had the opportunity to do that.

We should all be grateful to the volunteers working tirelessly over the course of the week, and the weeks working up to the opening, for a job well done and for bringing the Wall to many people, like myself, who never gave a second thought to what a war like that does to so many people's lives. Who knew that our local veterans' office put in an application two years ago for this Wall and that for every town that gets accepted, there are many others that have been denied. This town should be honored to have been chosen, and I think Burlington did fantastic.

By the end of my shift on Saturday night, I was sorry that I had not volunteered for more shifts throughout the course of the week. And every time I think about that night, I see that man who came into the tent to thank us for helping him, and I can't help thinking now that it is over, I should have been the one saying: Thank you.

Written by Sonia Rollins published in the Burlington Union.

Vietnam Veteran



Victory was never meant to be,

In this country far across the sea.

Each Veteran lost a piece of their soul,

To a nation unable to make them whole.

Names forever etched on a moving wall,

An honor to those who stood brave and tall.

Men and Women too young to die, frozen in time,

Valor, emptiness and tears for those left behind.

Eternity called them much too soon, it seems,

Time cut short, families, ambitions and dreams.

Ever more their names will live on this wall,

Remembering those who died answering the call.

And may we always honor them with prayers and love,

Names etched forever on the wall and heaven above.

Author Arlene A. DiRocco

Sunday, July 25th

Moving On Ceremonies

As we approached the time when we had to say good bye to The Moving Wall, it was the most difficult night of the week. Storm clouds approached and surrounded the Town Common.



During the words of the National Anthem "*and the rockets' red glare*" the thunder boomed in the distance.

As we said goodbye, taps played in the background and we gave our final salute to the more than 58,000 names on The Wall, a marvelous rainbow appeared over the Common.



Our guest speaker was Brigadier General Richard Colt, Deputy Commander of the USAR 94th Regional Support Command of the Northeast and a Vietnam Veteran.



Chelsea Roberts sang a song that he had written especially for the occasion.

General Dick Colt

" I am honored because I stand next to the soldiers on the Wall who gave their last measure of devotion to this country. They still remain in our hearts and in our minds "



Taps and bagpipes were played as a final close to a wonderful visit.

Bob Hogan

".....They will never be able to grow old with us. They would never return home to marry their high school sweethearts. They would not be able to sit and discuss the birth of their children, or even walk a daughter down the aisle on the most important day of her life. But they are not forgotten."

From letter printed in local newspapers

Iain Massie joined us at the closing ceremony and on several occasions to play his bagpipes.



The Ceremony closed with Thanks to all of those who gave their time, talent and love to make the week a success.

Thank You

We visited many times during the week and attended the Moving On Ceremony on Sunday. We left a wreath at panel 54E for Paul C. King Jr., unaccounted for since May 4, 1968, and for his team member Kenneth M. Cryan who was killed in action on that same mission. It was peaceful and healing to visit the names of others dear to us. They remain forever in our hearts.



Thank you to all who participated in making this tribute possible. You were great! The Moving Wall on Burlington Common was displayed with dignity and fittingly honored



your hometown heroes and all who served during the Vietnam War. Our special thanks goes to all Vietnam Veterans for their service to our country. Welcome Home! a friend.

A very small representation of the heroes and heroines who made the Moving Wall visit to Burlington a huge success.



There were more than 500 individuals and business help us to make this week an experience of a lifetime and a fitting tribute to all who served in Vietnam.
We can all take pride in the fact that it was a job well done.



Special Thanks

They were there when we needed them throughout the week, it was a real pleasure to work with this great team.



General Colt & SFC Romasco and members of the 94th Regional Support Command.

General Colt, SFC Araujo, SFC Romano and the members of the 655th Area Support Group Honor Guard.



Moving On

As the final moments of the visit of the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial approached, one lone individual was attempting a rubbing as the panels were being dismantled around him. In his haste to try to get all the names he wished he felt he could not

accomplish this task and panic showed on his face. One volunteer seeing this stopped what she was doing and approached to help. All he asked was that this one



last name to be rubbed so that he could take the name home with him as a remembrance. As the volunteer performed this last rubbing, two volunteers held the panel steady. The rubbing was completed and that final panel was placed back in



its box and the Moving Wall was ready for its journey to its next location. The veteran was grateful and held the rubbing slip tightly in his hand as he walked away having been successful in his goal.



Volunteers take down the Wall and prepare it to "Move On".

Thoughts on Wall Visit

The last flag has been lowered; the dim lights turned off. This hallowed site even more quiet than before. The long walk on the grassy pathway that guided so many as they searched for names or placed mementos for loved ones is so much harder to travel as we turn our backs to the apex.

The apex that finally joined strangers, but comrades in arms . the last casualties with the first casualties of the war in Vietnam, "Killed in Action."

The last name has been whispered, the olive drape tents folded and returned. The many visitors, committee members, and volunteers gone their separate ways, but with deep, fond memories to linger on.

The last wreath has been removed, the last memento filed away. The last taps has sounded; the trodden grass is now a bit taller.

"Amazing Grace," so heart renderingly played on the Scottish bagpipes, has faded into the night.

The thunderous roaring F-15s have returned to their base. The joyous laughter of the volunteers has been



stilled, only memories to remind us of the young men and women, also forever silenced, whose

names are etched on The Wall.

Yes! Our Wall is gone, for it surely was ours. It has gone to a new location, but will linger on in our hearts for a long, long time.

Strangely, we seldom gave the site a glance when we passed by before. Now and forever more, we will slow down, look and surely meditate as we recall this past week, gone so quickly.

In the future, many will occasionally stop by and walk onto this hallowed ground. They will also still see the names and familiar faces of the 58,200+ men and women who gave their young, precious lives so that so many others might live in freedom. For freedom is not free, but very costly in blood, sweat, and tears.

Yes! When we walk onto this hallowed ground, we will also clearly see that the sincere tears shed have not yet dried and the echoed whisper of their precious names can still be heard. And if one listens closely, they will still hear the sacred parting words as many whispered their last, final good-byes, but not forgotten, for those who shall forever remain in our hearts.

In parting we render a salute to all those young men and women on The Wall, for they are our special angels up in the sky.

So "precious Wall," thank you!, for gifting us with your presence, our new found friends and fond memories.

Perhaps you will return again someday to again lift our sprits and bless us with your very special magic.



by: Chief Warrant Officer

Charles "CB" Bevilacqua (obtained from the Daily Times Chronicle)



Many take a final opportunity to shake the hand of John Devitt, to say Thank You and Goodbye.

It was time to go, John and Bob pose for photographers as they say their final goodbye.



Final Moments



On the day the Moving Wall left and after darkness had set in, I went back to the Town Common because I still wasn't ready to let go of the emotion and experience of the previous eight days. As I stood there looking from a distance at the sight where once the Wall stood, a car pulled up in front of the town hall and a lone person got out and walked up to the site still expecting the Wall to be there. In his disappointment he realized he had been just a couple of hours too late. He stood there for a moment looking in the direction of where the Moving Wall was as if to think of the name of the person he wished to visit. He then quietly returned to his car and drove off. At that time, I turned and looked in the opposite direction to see yet another person sitting quietly on a bench perhaps also unable to let the visit of the Wall end without some serious last thoughts.

Veterans Day, 1999



A permanent marker was unveiled on Veterans Day, November 11, 1999.

It commemorates the visit of the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial to the Burlington Town Common in July of 1999 and honors all who served in Vietnam.

The marker is located on the actual spot where The Moving Wall stood during its visit.



Our Volunteers and Contributors



The community support we received was tremendous. Hundreds of individuals came out to help us. We have listed on the next several pages the names of our volunteers, businesses, participants, Honor Guards, Military Units, and Veterans Organizations, who helped to make The Moving Wall Visit to Burlington a success. With so many people have contributed their time, talents, and resources, it is possible we have missed some names. If we have missed yours, please forgive us.

The Burlington Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Committee

A Special Thank You to All Who Supported The Burlington Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial Visit

Coordinator: Robert Hogan



Assistant Coordinators



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Jim Doherty
Harold Essigman
Cindy Gilpin
Dick Hogan
Anne LeBlanc
Betty McDonough
Jim O'Brien
Brian O'Hearn
Connie & Jack Repucci
Jane & Jim Reynolds
Charlie Shea
Deana & Mike Tredeau



Individuals & Families



Noreen Abati
 Dee & Lianne Abramo
 David Alden
 Rick Arnold
 Tim Atkinson
 Robert Aloisi
 Sgt Jason Araujo
 Judy Baggs
 Roger Bell
 Jeff Benrimo
 Paul Bresnahan
 Sandy Blanchett
 Gerard Bowtin
 Jim Boyd
 S/Sgt. Ken Boyd
 Hank Bradley- National Executive
 Committeeman, American
 Legion
 Eileen Brown
 Don Broza
 Lisa Marie Buoncore
 Paul Burke
 Mariann & Aaren Burnstein
 Bill Callahan
 Judy Cannezaro
 Lindsey Cardarelli
 Charlie Caruso
 Scott Carpenter
 Gary Cauldwell
 Syamal Chadhuari
 Kevin Chamberlain
 Jane Chew
 Father John Crispo
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 Dick & Alice DeIRossi
 Cathy Devaney
 John Devaney
 George Devlin
 Helen Dignan
 Ed Dineer
 Lauren DiPerna
 Arlene DiRocco
 Norman Dobson
 Paula Doherty
 Jack & Shirley Donaldson
 State Rep Carol Donovan
 Richard Donovan
 Steve Duke
 Bob Efraimson
 Harry Enos
 Karen Fagnor
 Toni Faria
 Al Fay
 Archie & Joanne Feeney
 Walter Feeney
 Bunny Ferguson
 Jack Ferren
 Stephen Ferrick
 Scott Ferro



George Fiddler
 Laura Fitzgerald

The Fitzgibbons Family
 James Flattes, Past Commander-
 Massachusetts American Legion
 Marc & Eric Forbush



Judy & Jerry Fortin
 The Foster Family
 Karen Foster
 Steve & Cathy Frawley
 Gina & Joseph Gaffeo
 Fred Garside
 Frank Geary
 Linda Gerardi
 Doug Gillingham
 Andy Giordano
 Glen Goddard
 Rich Godinho
 Anthony Gonzalez
 George Gourgoumis



Bob, Nancy, Michelle Gouveia
 Mannie & Irene Grace
 Kevin Gray
 Herb Haines
 John Hanley
 Mike Hansen
 Romona Harlow
 Fran Hart
 Ed & Joan Hastings

Bernie Heath
 Wayne & Diane Higden
 Nancy & Melissa Hogan
 George Holey
 Andrew Howard
 Dick Howard
 Joan & Zachary Howard
 Ed & Eleanor Hutchinson
 Joe Impemba
 Joan Johnson
 Jeanne Jones
 The Jorgenson Family
 Selectman Chairman George Judge
 Paul Keating



Medal of Honor recipient, Thomas Kelley
 LtGen Leslie F. Kenne, Commander,
 Hanscom Air Force Base
 John Killion
 Ron Kullman
 John Lancallette
 Lena Lantini
 Bill Laverino
 Bill Laverrierre
 Michael Lavey
 George Leccese
 Tom & Jessica Lee
 Richard Lettieri
 Bill & Carmen Lewis
 Mary Lindley
 Jean MacDonald
 Reverend Rod MacDonald
 John Maguire
 Stephen Malames
 Stephen Malone

John Mamrahan - State Commander
 Amvets
 Jeffrey Maynard
 John Marcangelo
 Judy Marchese
 Reverend Bill Mark
 Joyce Massella
 Iain Massie
 Les Masterson
 Rocco Mastrodimonico



Peter McAskill
 Alan McCarthy
 Jim McDonough
 Joanne McDonough
 Joe McGrath
 Jim McPartlin
 Jim Melchionna, Attorney
 Bob Mello
 Linda Metcalf
 George Metivier
 Kristen Miller
 Charlie Mitchell
 Joyce Monsignor
 Ken Montgomery-Provost Marshall-
 Massachusetts, Amvets
 John & Virginia Mooney
 Moose
 Robert Mottolo
 Henry Moy
 Patricia Moy
 Richard Moy
 State Rep Charlie Murphy
 Dodie Myra
 Erin O'Brien
 Patrick & Donna O'Brien
 Ellie O'Connell
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 John Pineo
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 Jim Plunkett
 Kenny Ramsdell
 Dan Raske
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 Jane Richards
 Ray Richards, Jr.
 Gloria Riggles
 Larry Rittenberg
 Chelsea Roberts
 Don & Marty Roberts
 Jack Rodwell
 Sonya Rollins
 SFC Bill Romasko
 Terry Romkey
 Jeff & Ronda Rosenbaum
 Lloyd Rosenberg
 Gene Rossi
 Paul Roth



Jim Round
 Kevin Rourk
 Tony Saia
 Sue Sawyer
 Brad & Maureen Schuler
 Bernie Schipelliti
 Al Sciuto
 Lorna Scolponeti
 Paul Scolponeti
 Tom Shannon
 Sam Shaw
 Eileen Shea & Family

Diane Shephard
 Frederick Shine
 Lois & James Shramek
 Eugene Smith
 Harold Smith
 Nadine Spano
 Captain Bill Soda, 1 Battalion-125th
 Infantry Marines
 Chief Bill Soda
 Barry Soloman
 Joe & Sally Stavolta
 Dennis Stebbins
 Sue Stewart
 Jerry Sullivan
 Lt Kate Sullivan
 Kevin & Karen Sullivan
 Maureen & Walter Sullivan
 Tom Sullivan
 Jean Sutherby
 John Taranto
 Reverend Herb Taylor



Ed Tedesco
 Chief Paul Thibault
 Jennifer Thomas
 Gordon Thomson

Congressman John Tierney
 Jim Tigges, Burlington Police Motorcycle
 Officer
 Anita Tighe
 Jeanette Tighe
 Jim Tracy
 Sarah & Aimee Tredeau
 Michelle & Tom Trigilia
 Paul Valleli
 Ed Walsh, Knights of Columbus
 Amy Warfield
 The Warren Family
 Les White, United Methodist Church,
 Wilmington
 Bob & Bernadette Whittington
 Jim Williams
 Georgia Wingrove
 Phyllis Wist
 Jim Witkum
 Joe Witkum
 Pat Young



Elaine & Bob Zuccarro

Businesses & Organizations



AAA of Southern N.E.
 Adidas Printing
 AFSCME, Local 1701, Burlington
 American Express
 American Legion, Post 273, Burlington
 American Legion, Post 69, Malden
 American Legion, Post 63
 Amvets Post 21, Melrose Wakefield
 Amvets Post 1997, Commander Roland
 Cartier, Lowell
 Amvets Post 79-Natick
 Arthur Murray Studios
 Arrow Paper
 Aviation Insurance Co, Bedford
 BankBoston
 Bardi's Woodworking Shop
 BCAT



Belmont Springs
 Blockbuster Video
 Boston Police Gaelic Column of Pipes &
 Drums

Burlington Allied Veterans Council
 Burlington American Legion Honor Guard
 Burlington Beautification Committee
 Burlington Boy Scouts
 Burlington Cold Cut Center
 Burlington DPW
 Burlington Disabled American Veterans,
 Dan Reece, Commander



Burlington Fire Dept
 Burlington Fire Department Honor Guard
 Burlington Florist
 Burlington Garden Club
 Burlington General Cinema
 Burlington Girl Scouts
 Burlington Gold Star Families
 Burlington House of Pizza
 Burlington Knights of Columbus, #4978
 Burlington 4th Degree Knights
 Burlington Mall
 Burlington Marine Corp League



Burlington Police Dept.
Burlington Postal Workers
Burlington Recreation Dept.