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## THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND  
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

## CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

Friday, November 17, 2023 | 6 p.m.  
Soundside Event Site, Nags Head, NC

# “THEY”

**A poem of respect and honor dedicated to Vietnam veterans. Written by Dare County Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman Wally Overman in special dedication to his cousin, Glenn Overman, who served.**

THEY WERE YOUNG AND THEY WERE FULL OF LIFE;  
THEY ALL HAD THEIR SPECIAL DREAMS.  
YET SUDDENLY THEY WERE SOLDIERS,  
UNREAL AS IT MAY SEEM.

THEIR DREAMS OF A NORMAL LIFE  
HAD SUDDENLY BEEN SPURNED;  
NO PEACEFUL JOURNEY INTO OLD AGE,  
THAT PATH, FOREVER, TO BE INTERNED.

THEIR YOUTH WAS STOLEN FROM THEM  
BY A THIEF WE KNOW AS WAR;  
THEY STOOD BRIEFLY AT LIFE'S PORTAL,  
AND THEN FATE CLOSED THE DOOR.

SOME OF THEM PERSEVERED,  
OTHERS OF THEM DID NOT.  
WHILE SOME CAME HOME INTACT AND WHOLE,  
MANY OTHERS OF THEM DID NOT.

THEY ARE NAMES SET INTO THESE WALLS,  
NEVER TO BE FORGOT.  
THEY ARE NAMES AMONG US STILL ON THIS EARTH,  
NEVER TO BE FORGOT.

THEY STILL CARRY ALL THE WOUNDS OF WAR,  
BOTH INSIDE AND OUT.  
THEY SUFFER ALL THEIR SECRET ILLS,  
BOTH INSIDE AND OUT.

SOME SUFFER THROUGH THE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS,  
EVERY NIGHT THEY SPEND,  
WHILE STILL OTHERS SUFFER NIGHTMARES,  
FOREVER PRESENT, END ON END.

THEY DID NOT REQUEST THIS FATE,  
NOR DID THEY DENY THEIR DUTY.  
THEY ALWAYS DID THEIR VERY BEST,  
JUST TO SURVIVE UNTIL TOMORROW.

AND THEY THOUGHT TOMORROW WAS JUST A  
DREAM,  
SURREAL IN ITS DISGUISE,  
AS THEIR ONLY CLOSE, TRUE FRIENDS IN LIFE  
FELL SUDDENLY, LIFELESS, BY THEIR SIDES.

WHILE MANY OF THOSE WHO DID NOT GO  
FEEL GUILTY EVERY DAY,  
FOR NOT JOINING WITH THEIR BROTHERS,  
FOR NOT JOINING IN THE FRAY.

AND SO WE COME TO THESE HALLOWED GROUNDS  
TO PAY BELATED RESPECT  
TO THEY, THE ONES UPON THESE WALLS,  
AND TO THE ONES REMAINING, SHOWN SUCH  
NEGLECT.

THEY THE ONES WHO GAVE THEIR ALL,  
THEY THE ONES WHO TRIED;  
THEY WHO LIVED, AND FOUGHT, AND DIED ON CALL,  
AND THEY THE ONES WHO NEVER SHIED

FROM THEIR DUTY OR THEIR CONSCIENCE,  
FROM THEIR COUNTRY OR THEIR CREED,  
FROM THEIR HONOR OR THEIR SACRIFICE,  
FROM THEIR SERVICE OR THEIR NEED.

THEY WHO LOST THEIR FUTURES  
IN THE BLINKING OF AN EYE,  
IN A PLACE SO FOREIGN TO THEM,  
WHAT FOR, FOR WHAT, AND WHY?

THESE QUESTIONS SEEM UNENDING  
TO ALL THOSE WHO SURVIVED,  
WITH NOTHING LEFT BUT MEMORIES  
OF THE FRIENDS NOW LEFT BEHIND.

THEY SERVED THE COUNTRY THAT THEY LOVED,  
AND THEY GAVE ALL THEY HAD.  
SOME HAVE THEIR NAMES UPON THIS WALL,  
OUR RESPECT IS ALL THEY HAVE.

SO TRAVEL SAFELY, OH BROTHERS IN ARMS,  
INTO YOUR ETERNITY,  
INTO THE FOLDS OF HEAVEN,  
WHEREVER THAT MAY BE.

INTO THE ARMS OF ANGELS,  
TO A CALM THAT DOES NOT CEASE,  
BATHED IN THE LOVE OF ALMIGHTY GOD,  
AND THERE, FOREVER, LIVE IN PEACE.

## PROGRAM

Patriotic Music

*Tripp Harrison*

Welcome

*Barry “Fuzzy” Holt  
U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran*

Opening Prayer

*Chaplain Hardy Owens,  
LCDR, USN, CHC*

Pledge

*Betsy Robinson*

National Anthem

*Betsy Robinson*

Guest Speaker

*Chaplain Hardy Owens*

Reading of Local Names  
(*Dare County Vietnam  
veterans who have passed*)

*Chaplain Hardy Owens  
and family members who lost  
loved ones*

“They” - Poem Reading

*Chaplain Hardy Owens*

“Amazing Grace”

*Patrick Mullally on Bagpipes*

Taps - Bugle

*Marty Griffin & Art Cohn*

