



CITY OF BLUE SPRINGS, MISSOURI PRESS RELEASE

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The Wall That Heals – Blue Springs event a success

BLUE SPRINGS, Mo. – The Wall That Heals – Blue Springs event held in Pink Hill Park from September 30 – October 3 was a success. During the four exhibit days, over 50,000 people gathered in Pink Hill Park to remember loved ones, share their experiences with others and learn more about the Vietnam War era.

The event registered over 2,000 Vietnam Veterans for their choice of a commemorative medal, lapel pin or patch to thank them for their service to our country. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs registered over 160 new veterans for benefits and the “Put a Face With a Name” campaign collected 123 photos during the event. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund collected \$10,651.73 at The Wall That Heals – Blue Springs event, the highest amount collected in a host city to date.

“Blue Springs was honored to host The Wall That Heals; we set a new standard by giving each Vietnam Veteran a Commemorative Medal. Thank you to the many sponsors and hundreds of volunteers who helped make this event possible,” said Blue Springs Mayor Carson Ross. “This event is near and dear to my heart, I served in Vietnam as a US Army Combat Infantryman from 1967-68. I was extremely pleased to have a member of my unit in Vietnam travel from Columbus, Georgia to support me on Saturday.”

The City of Blue Springs, Blue Springs Public Art Commission, Blue Springs School District and area businesses and veterans’ organizations formed a partnership to bring the traveling exhibition of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to Blue Springs.

“Many of our veterans found healing, signed up for benefits, connected with family and friends and gained pride in themselves and their country,” says Eleanor Frasier, chairman of the Public Art Commission. “It was wonderful to see our community come together and give Vietnam Veterans the homecoming they deserve.”

The Wall That Heals is the traveling half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The exhibition is organized by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the organization charged with preserving The Wall in Washington, D.C., and its vast legacy. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., has the names of the more than 58,000 soldiers who were killed or missing in the war.

National sponsors of the tour include Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Charitable Trust, Federal Express, Geico, New Century Transportation, Harley-Davidson Foundation and Target Corporation. Local sponsors included ATK, Hy-Vee, KFKF-FM and The Examiner.

For more information on The Wall That Heals, contact Kim Nakahodo, Communications Manager at (816) 655-0497, visit the Web site, www.bluespringswallthatheals.net or Wall That Heals Blue Springs on Facebook.

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