The Moving Wall





Thurs, May 24, Ed, Don, Valerie, Tom, Bill Schwartz and Bob Lambert met at the Embassy Suites. We were there to escort the Moving Wall to the Airport where it would be set up and viewed. There were over 30 bikes there. Later, there was going to be a ceremony at the Airport, Monday May 28, at 11am on Memorial Day. The Sheriff had about 5 cars that would escort us and block traffic. As we drove through town, people had lined the street to wave flags at us and salute. It was a quiet solemn procession.















When we arrived at the Airport, the set up started quickly. First the brackets are placed in the ground. Then the lights are placed next to the chipped wood that made a path around the Moving Wall.. They then put camouflaged sheets on top of the frame to protect the wall and hide the framework. When finished the wall was 254 ft. long























After, the brackets are framed, the 74 panels that hold the 58,272 names of our comrades start to get placed in the frame. It is awesome to see these panels go up and then see the names of our men & women who fought for our Freedom. At first I was afraid to carry a panel, but they are made of aluminum and are very light. Bob & Ed carried a number of the panels. As the panels go up, Don used the level to make the final adjustment to make the panels vertical.















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After 2 hrs and 45 min the Wall was UP! Aaron Gray travels with the Moving Wall and directs the volunteers on what to do. The whole procedure was very efficient.













The Moving Wall









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After the Wall was up, there was a brief Flag ceremony. The Vietnam Veterans Organization raised a flag that had been taken by a nurse in 1975. The Compound was being closed and this was the last flag flown in Vietnam. She gave this flag to the VVO many years ago. This was the first time the VVO had flown this flag.



Memoral Day Geremony at The Moving Wall

The Ceremony began with the Honor Guard and then the presentation of the flags of the US Armed Forces. The VVO President gave some very interesting stats of the Vietnam War: Of the 2 million Americans who served in Vietnam less than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today. 97% were honorably discharged. 74% said that they would serve again even knowing the outcome.

We are very proud of our men & women who served







John Steer, a decorated Vet gave a very moving speech about his experiences in the war. He told of his friends and how brave they were. They fought as brothers and never left a soldier behind.



Jackie Ochello sang a medley of songs. Boy, could she hit the HIGH NOTES. She made The Righteous Brothers sound like they were singing Alto. (For those of you who remember Unchained Melody.)







Memoral Pay Geremony at The Moving Wall





















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Bill Schwartz's cousin, Danny Schwartz was in the Army for only one month before he died, on Jan 10, 1969. Dan found his cousins name on the Wall. There is a registry booth where you can go and ask where your loved one is on the wall. It is broken down by sections and numbers, so it easy to find the name.



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After the Suds Brothers had their Awards Ceremony with Beverages at Last Chance, Don enlisted some of them to help take the flags down from Cedarvale Cemetary. Thank you Don, Ken, Nick & Marlin.

















