



News Release

**Military Officers Association of America
Southwest Virginia Chapter
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MOAA SWVA CHAPTER MEMBERS “STAND THE WATCH” AT VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL

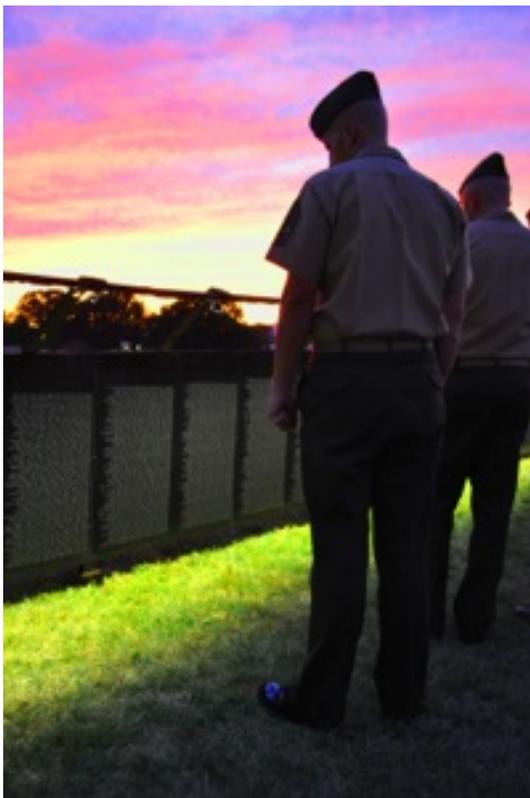
Eleven members of the MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter ‘Stood the Watch’ at the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display at the Salem Virginia Veterans Affairs Medical Center from September 16-20, 2015. Known as “The Wall that Heals”, it is a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial in Washington, D.C. and was designed to travel to communities throughout the United States to offer veterans a way to allow the healing process to take place. Since its dedication, this replica has visited more than 400 cities and towns throughout the nation, spreading the Memorial’s healing legacy to millions.

Like the original Memorial, the replica is chevron shaped and the 24 powder-coated aluminum panels contain the names of the 58,307 veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice, both KIA and MIA. Following an opening ceremony attended by city and county officials in the VA Medical Center Auditorium including ‘taps’ and a wreath laying at the Vietnam Memorial Wall, Southwest Virginia Chapter members maintained a 24 hour watch by the wall for the first two days of the event representing some 68 hours of volunteer work.

The Southwest Virginia Chapter is a commemorative partner and sponsor of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemorative Program serving on planned events in the Roanoke Valley over the next three years recognizing the sacrifice of those who contributed to the Vietnam War efforts.



Later in the evening, the Healing Wall evokes a feeling of quiet solitude as a lone visitor captures a name with his cell phone.



As the sun sets, visiting service members to the Healing Wall reflect upon the names and the sacrifices made by their brothers in arms.
