

## **The Moving Wall in Wareham, MA August 17-21, 2017**

The **Wareham Veterans Council** is a committee appointed by the Selectmen and charged with planning, developing and executing community events of a patriotic nature honoring the long held traditions of the community and our Nation. In doing so, who hope to educate and encourage the younger members of our town to become responsible knowledgeable citizens.

### **Background of "The Moving Wall:"**

"The Moving Wall" is the half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The "Moving Wall" has been touring the country for more than thirty years providing Americans with an opportunity to pay homage to the more than 58,000 Vietnam Veterans who gave their lives for their country.

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. John, Norris Shears, Gerry Haver, and other Vietnam veteran volunteers built The Moving Wall. It went on display for the first time in Tyler, Texas in October of 1984. Two identical editions of The Moving Wall now travel the USA from April through November, spending about a week at each site.

Source: The Moving Wall Website at <http://www.themovingwall.org>

### **The Moving Wall - Concept**

A group of community and military organizations, businesses and, volunteers from surrounding towns, organized and lead by the Wareham Veterans Council will host **"The Moving Wall" in Wareham, Massachusetts August 17-21, 2017.** An opportunity to participate in this event will be offered to groups and individuals from the towns of Bourne, Carver, Rochester, Marion, Plymouth, Middleboro, Wareham and surrounding communities.

The site selected to display "The Moving Wall" for a period of four and a half days is Anderson Track across Viking Drive from the Wareham Middle School.

Several organizations will be invited to conduct ceremonies and or services near "The Moving Wall" so as to serve the needs of a wide spectrum of individuals and groups.

A regional publicity plan will be developed and executed to provide maximum public awareness and education relating to the "The Moving Wall's" presence and significance. A published program will be developed to provide a calendar of events, a general history and facts about the "The Moving Wall."

A sizable group of volunteers will be organized to provide the person power to prepare for and host the event.

### **Some Details:**

**Definitions:** The "Provider" is Vietnam Combat Veterans, Ltd., PO Box 175, White Pine, MI 49971 which owns and provides "The Moving Wall." This organization has an extensive and very informative website. ([themovingwall.org](http://themovingwall.org))

The "Sponsor" is the Town of Wareham (Wareham Veterans Council is the lead group). The organization will consist of all the local individuals and organizations we can muster.

**Operation:** This is a 24 hour a day operation once the site opens. An indoor venue is anticipated for ceremonies when and if necessary.

Items left at the Wall will be collected and forwarded to the "Provider." Personal memorabilia will be solicited and displayed in an Exhibition Tent nearby.

The names of the individuals identified on "The Wall" will be presented during the period the monument is open to the public.

Appropriate bathroom facilities, medical and emotional support and security details will be provided on a 24 hr. basis.

Handicap parking and transportation will be available throughout. General parking and transportation will be available.

No commercial vendors will be permitted to occupy the site or surrounding Town property.

**Site:** The Moving Wall" arrives at a prepared site on Wednesday; the Wall setup occurs on Thursday and is available for viewing from Thursday 12:00 pm thru 2:00 pm Monday (approx. 4.5 days). The Wall is disassembled Monday evening or Tuesday morning depending on the weather. Setup and disassembly is accomplished by volunteers.

The "Moving Wall" and site are maintained 24 hr per day for the duration.

**Cost:** The sponsoring organization is responsible for all costs associated with hosting, publicity, site preparation, insurance, security, volunteer food, etc. Since the Wareham Veterans Council is a town committee and precluded from fund raising, a 501, c3, nonprofit organization, known as "Friends of the Wareham Veterans Council" has been created to lead the funding effort.

Financial and in kind resources will be sought within the six communities to underwrite the monetary, physical and personnel requirements of this activity. Regional and local military resources have been contacted for support.

The total estimated cost of hosting this event ranges from \$40,000 - \$50,000. Funds will be secured from whatever sources can be developed.

**Question: What can our Town/Organization/Community Group do?**

Answer: There several areas—**Publicize, Promote, Proclaim and Participate**

**Publicize** the event in your electronic distribution network on your website

**Promote** the event whenever possible in ways traditionally used in your area.

**Proclaim** Consider issuing a proclamation appropriate for the occasion during the period the Moving Wall is in our Southeast Community.

**Participate** in the event and at our fund raisers as individual volunteers or as groups.

**Fundraising information: Friends of the Wareham Veterans, Inc.**

**Jean Sarnelli, President** [jfsarnelli@verizon.net](mailto:jfsarnelli@verizon.net)

**Volunteer Coordinator: Marilyn Donahue (508) 317-7597**  
[marilyndonahue1011@gmail.com](mailto:marilyndonahue1011@gmail.com)

**Supporters**

102<sup>nd</sup> Intelligence Wing

American Legion Post #220

COVANTA

Dudley L. Brown VFW Post #2846

E. L. Morse Lumber

Pier View Restaurant

Plymouth County Sheriff Department

Rockland Trust Bank

Town of Wareham

Veterans Services of New Bedford and Hyannis

Wareham Community Television (WCTV)

Wareham School District

Wareham-New Bedford Lodge of Elks 73

**Other Points:**

This year acknowledges and commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War.

There is a strong educational component in the Wareham Schools, Art, History and Wareham High School Jr. ROTC. Those initiatives can be shared across the region.

A member of the ROTC program is an associate member of the Council as is a Cadet from the Mass Maritime Academy.

An exhibition of Vietnam era memorabilia is being developed by Mrs. Angella Dunham through a network of Historical Societies and individuals.

We will work with WCTV to encourage appropriate programming leading up to and during the presence of the Moving Wall.

We are working with the 102<sup>nd</sup> Intelligence Wing to obtain a flyover during the opening ceremony.

We are working with military and family organizations in the region to participate in the daily ceremony.

Members of the area clergy will collaborate to provide spiritual support throughout.

Emotional support services are going to be provided Veterans Services from the New Bedford and Hyannis offices.

Information regarding Veterans Benefits Programs is anticipated on site.

Help us spread the word to your Community.

Help locate and offer sources of volunteers.

Help locate sources of materials and identify individuals with special expertise and or talent for specific tasks.