
VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC



LEGACY OF HEALING AND HOPE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event: Vietnam: In Their Own Words – Veterans Day
Story Telling at the Vietnam Women's Memorial Statue
Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

Date of Event: **Veterans Day, November 11, 2015**

Time of Event: Event commences at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 12:15 p.m. followed by the ceremony at The Wall from 1:00 -2:30 p.m.

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(For information or to arrange interviews)

Description of the Event:

In the spring of 2015 the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation passed the management of programs and their vision for the Vietnam Women's Memorial to Eastern National, a non-profit organization that promotes the educational and interpretive mission of the National Park Service. Each Veterans Day and Memorial Day people gather at the Vietnam Women's Memorial statue at the National Mall and Memorial Parks to tell their stories. Vietnam: In Their Own Words – Veterans Day will showcase some of those brave tales. The stories of the women cast in bronze will come to life as Vietnam era veterans, and the people touched by that war speak “in their own voices” about their experiences. The lessons learned in the past of bravery, the desire for peace, courage, and sacrifice will be reflected in the stories on Veterans Day. Stories from individuals who served in Vietnam and those that served at home will be linked to the stories of individuals who have served in more recent conflicts. We will hear from family members of Vietnam Veterans. All of these individuals will reflect on how the sacred space that is the Vietnam Women's Memorial has helped to unleash stories and support healing.

Veterans Day 2015 Storytelling at the Vietnam Women's Memorial Statue begins at 9:00 a.m. and features six speakers. The first speaker of the day is Constance Gibbons, author of “Mom Told Me you are a Hero”. At 9:30 a.m. the speaker is Neal Stanley a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War and a National Park Service volunteer at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The 10:00 a.m. speaker is Dennis Robinson, a U.S. Army veteran and a Pat Tillman Foundation Military Scholar. At 10:30 a.m. the speaker is Julie Kink whose brother David Kink was killed in action in Vietnam. The 11:00 a.m. speaker is Jane McCarthy a veteran of the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. The final speaker of the morning program is Sheldon Smith, a U.S. Army veteran and former Executive Director of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation.

People joining for Storytelling at the Vietnam Women's Memorial will be able to attend the 1:00 ceremony at The Wall. Among the speakers at the ceremony will be documentary filmmaker Daria Sommers. Ms. Sommers is the award winning co-director and co-producer of “Lioness” a film about female combat veterans in the Iraq war. She grew up in Bangkok in the shadow of the Vietnam War as her father worked for the U.S. State Department Agency for International Development. Ms. Sommers was able to visit Vietnam as a child; she experienced the war from a very unique perspective. This view assisted her ability to tell the current era stories of five women of the Army.

For Additional Information:

For more information on Eastern National or the Vietnam Women's Memorial you are invited to call Stacy Madalena, Regional Manager, National Capital Region of Eastern National at 703-837-0746 or via email at stacym@easternnational.org or Jack Ryan, Chief Administration Officer at 267-464-7124 or via e-mail at jack@easternnational.org. You may also contact the Founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial and the Vietnam Women's Memorial/Eastern National Advisory Board Chair, Ms. Diane Carlson Evans at vietnamwomensmemorial@easternnational.org. Additional information is available on the web site www.VietnamWomensMemorial.org. Also visit the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov/vive The Vietnam Women's Memorial accepts donations, which are tax deductible, to cover the costs of these and other programs. To donate to the Vietnam Women's Memorial, please write to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Fund, c/o Eastern National, 470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1, Fort Washington, PA 19034 or via email at vietnamwomensmemorial@easternnational.org.

Vietnam: In Their Own Words

Story Telling at the Vietnam Women's Memorial
Wednesday, November 11, 2015

List of Presenters:

- 9:00 Constance Gibbons, Author
Mom Told Me You Are a Hero
- 9:30 Neal Stanley, U.S. Army, Vietnam 1967-1968
Volunteer with the National Park Service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- 10:00 Dennis Robinson, U.S. Army, Afghanistan 2002, Iraq 2003
Dennis is a Pat Tillman Foundation Military Scholar
- 10:30 Julie Kink, Sister of David Kink
David Kink was Killed in Action in Vietnam
- 11:00 Jane McCarthy, U.S. Army, Vietnam 1970-1971
Jane served in the 95th Evacuation Hospital in DaNang
- 11:30 Sheldon Smith, U.S. Army, Iraq 2004, Afghanistan 2006-2007, 2009
Former Executive Director of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation
- 1:00 Ceremony at The Wall

Story Telling at the Vietnam Women's Memorial is an educational program presented by Eastern National and the National Park Service. On this Veterans Day remembrance, we combine the stories of members those who served in Vietnam and those who have served in more recent conflicts. We also include family members who have been touched by the Vietnam War. The lessons learned in the past of bravery and the desire for peace, courage, and healing are reflected in the remarks of these individuals. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance with sound provided by Ohm Productions.

In the spring of 2015 the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation partnered with Eastern National and together they are dedicated to honoring women who served during the Vietnam era. For additional information on the Memorial or its products and projects including other educational programs or research on women who served during the Vietnam era, you are invited to visit the Vietnam Women's Memorial Web site at www.VietnamWomensMemorial.org. Donations to the Vietnam Women's Memorial which support these and other programs are always appreciated. To donate to the Vietnam Women's Memorial, please write to Vietnam Women's Memorial Fund, c/o Eastern National, 470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1, Fort Washington, PA 19034, or email: vietnamwomensmemorial@easternnational.org. If you would like to participate in the Story Telling program for Memorial Day 2016, please contact Stacy Madalena, Regional Manager, National Capital Region for Eastern National at (703)837-0746 or via email at stacym@easternnational.org. You may also contact the Memorial's Advisory Board Chair Diane Carlson Evans via e-mail at vietnamwomensmemorial@easternnational.org.

If you or someone you care for finds that they need help coping with the aftermath of Vietnam, you are invited to call the Veterans' Administration at 1-800-273-8255. They will assist you, including connecting you to the counseling services offered by Vet Centers located throughout the United States.

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