



# NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Philip Southard  
Public Information and Legislative Affairs Officer  
PHONE: (951) 746-0654  
EMAIL: [psouthard@cityofmeniffee.us](mailto:psouthard@cityofmeniffee.us)

## New. Better. Best.

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2023

#### **Meniffee to Host The Wall That Heals April 4 – April 9**

*Meniffee will be the only stop in the Inland Empire for the three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that leads the way in paying tribute to Vietnam veterans and their families.*

**MENIFEE, CA** – The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center, will be arriving in Meniffee on Tuesday, April 4. The exhibit will be open to visitors in Meniffee beginning the evening of Wednesday, April 5 through Sunday, April 9 at Miller Jones Meniffee Memorial Park and Mortuary (26770 Murrieta Rd.). The Wall That Heals will be open 24 hours a day and will be free to the public.

The Wall That Heals honors more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. The exhibit is transported from community to community in a 53-foot trailer. When parked, the trailer opens with exhibits built into its sides, allowing it to serve as a mobile Education Center telling the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall, and the divisive era in American history.

“The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is pleased to bring The Wall That Heals mobile exhibit to Meniffee to allow local veterans and their family members a chance to experience The Wall,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF. “Hosting The Wall That Heals provides an opportunity to honor and remember all those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War and educate visitors on the continuing impact of the Vietnam War on America.”

The replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors will experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in Washington D.C. Visitors are able to do name rubbings of individual service members’ names on The Wall.

The mobile Education Center exhibit includes: digital photo displays of “Hometown Heroes” - service members whose names are on The Wall that list their home of record within the area of a visit; digital photo displays of Vietnam veterans from the local area honored through VVMF’s In Memory program which honors veterans who returned home from Vietnam and later died; video displays that teach about the history and impact of The Wall; educational exhibits told through items representative of those left at The Wall in D.C.; a replica of the In Memory plaque; a map of Vietnam and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War. The exhibits tell the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall, and the era surrounding the conflict, and are designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

“Meniffee is honored to host The Wall That Heals and provide an opportunity for the region to recognize our military veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War,” said Councilmember Dean Deines. “We are very thankful to Miller Jones Meniffee Memorial Park and Mortuary and Meniffee VFW Post 1956 for helping bring this important exhibit to our community.”

(Cont.)

The 2023 national The Wall That Heals tour is generously sponsored by USAA. Through a partnership with the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA), the trucking industry, and Blue Beacon, the exhibit is able to travel across the country. The local exhibit in Menifee is a coordinated partnership between Miller Jones Menifee Memorial Park and Mortuary, the City of Menifee, and the Menifee VFW Post 1956.

“This is the opportunity for our community to come together and embrace those who were never graced with honor,” said Stephanie Ornelas, Family Service Manager for Miller Jones Menifee Memorial Park & Mortuary. “Our community will now have the opportunity to embrace them and honor them.”

Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in more than 700 U.S. communities in addition to an April 1999 tour of the Four Provinces of Ireland and a visit to Canada in 2005. The Wall That Heals is a program of VVMF, the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 1982. The Wall That Heals is the only traveling exhibit affiliated with The Wall in Washington, D.C. and includes the largest Wall replica that travels the country. Two VVMF staff members lead volunteers on site, educate visitors and students, and ensure the reflective atmosphere of The Wall.

For more information, please visit [www.cityofmenifee.us/wallthatheals](http://www.cityofmenifee.us/wallthatheals).

###

**ABOUT MENIFEE:** *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 100,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing, and convenient proximity to some of Southern California's premier attractions and employment centers. Within its 50 square miles, Menifee's business, retail, and entertainment outlets are starting to shape the community's character and this growing economic base is also contributing favorably to the city's strong financial position. Menifee's growing family-oriented population values the city's ongoing commitment to public safety, community events, and smart growth for the future. All of these elements are working together to support the city's strategic vision to make Menifee one of the state's most promising new cities.*