



REFLECTIONS FROM OUR CEO, AMY OSBORN

When the men and women who served in Vietnam came back from war, they returned not to parades and celebrations, but too often to silence and rejection. Unlike veterans from nearly every other American conflict, they were denied the heroes' welcome they had so courageously earned. Vietnam veterans learned to keep their experiences hidden, that they weren't valued in the sociopolitical environment of the time.



CEO Amy Osborn with
Congresswoman Nellie Pou and
Vietnam veterans

Those who gave their lives in service were likewise denied the full measure of honor and remembrance their sacrifice deserved.

The Honorable Judge Edward T. O'Connor, the first Vietnam veteran elected to the New Jersey Legislature, authored the legislation that established the Memorial Wall of Heroes. Later, Governor Christine Todd Whitman and her husband, the late John Whitman, also a Vietnam veteran, worked to ensure the Memorial and Education Center became a reality. Together, they and their fellow visionaries created a lasting tribute to New Jersey's Vietnam veterans and the 1,566 who never returned. Their actions sparked a spirit of gratitude where there had been none, healing for a population that felt unseen, and enduring inspiration for future generations.

In 2025, we proudly renewed our commitment to that founding vision. We expanded how we tell the stories of the Vietnam War: through new and returning events, creative projects, and deeper community partnerships. We honored the origins of our memorial with fresh energy, creating more powerful visitor experiences and events that bring history to life.

I invite you to read more about our accomplishments from the past year and to share your reflections with us.

And if you're a Vietnam vet reading this...thank you for your service, and welcome home.

With gratitude,
Amy Osborn
Chief Executive Officer

A COMMAND PRESENCE

Visitors will notice our 2025 facility updates, designed to make our resources easier to navigate and more effectively honor the memorial and museum's origins.



A new plaque now highlights the story and significance of the Huey helicopter that greets visitors, paired with an **upgraded sound system after years of wear**. The iconic restored Huey at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum is one of 7,000 that served our American troops in Vietnam.

This memorial and museum property once belonged to the Crawford family, among our nation's longest-enduring bloodline. When the State acquired the land in the 1950s, first for the Garden State Parkway, then the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, it pledged to preserve the Crawford family cemetery. **Today, new signage honors their permanent place in this ground's history.**

In 2025 we set out to pay homage to the founding committees who sought to create this place of healing and recognition of the sacrifices made for our nation. **Plaques now adorn our entryway recognizing the founding legislators and community members who saw the memorial from inception to fruition.**

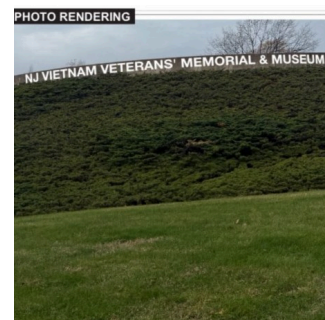
The memorial was long considered a hidden gem, barely visible even from the Parkway. **Beginning in 2026, illuminated signage will be visible from the Parkway**, sparking greater interest and visibility. The photo rendering is featured below.

The Last Patrol is a name given to the 16 Vietnam veterans who traveled on foot from Washington, D.C.'s Vietnam Veterans Memorial to our site in Holmdel in a remarkable act of unity, honoring their lifelong brotherhood. **In 2025, we dedicated a new plaque featuring the names of the soldiers whose commitment led to early and lasting awareness of our Memorial.**

Read more below about The Last Patrol and the upcoming documentary about their mission.



An updated Last Patrol plaque marks the entrance to the Memorial Wall of Heroes, shown here with Bill Starrett, a member of the Last Patrol.



Artist's rendering of future signage that will make the Memorial and Museum visible from the Garden State Parkway.

HIDDEN CASUALTIES, REMEMBERED

Agent Orange, physical and emotional wounds that occurred in battle, and other circumstances caused the deaths of thousands of veterans after returning home, causing a devastating ripple effect within their families. Their names do not appear on the memorial, but their sacrifices are no less valuable than those who perished in Vietnam.



In 2025, one of our most meaningful and tearful events was the return of our “In Memory” ceremony, a solemn remembrance of those veterans who experienced service-related deaths after returning home. Tiles are engraved and installed at the ground level of the memorial, right alongside their brothers in arms whose names appear on the walls.

The In Memory ceremony is a way for surviving family members to find solace among a community that understands the complicated nature of losing a loved one to war.

This year’s ceremony was especially somber as we honored the memory of James Biringer, one of our dedicated volunteer docents, and Henry Rossi, one of the sixteen veterans of the Last Patrol.

If your family experienced the loss of a loved one who suffered a service-related death after returning home, please visit our website at the link below.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT IN MEMORY TILES](#)



A PLACE OF HONOR SHINES WITH NATIONAL AUDIENCES

A Place of Honor is our 2024 original documentary that provides a deeply personal look into the first-hand experiences of our Vietnam veteran volunteer docents and supporters. The film continues to garner national attention, winning best Vietnam documentary short film at the MV Awards in Beverly Hills in May of 2025. The breathtaking film received accolades on the West Coast, in Washington, D.C., and throughout New Jersey. It is available to stream now at the link below.

[WATCH: A PLACE OF HONOR ON DEMAND HERE](#)

COMING MARCH 10: THE LAST PATROL

The Last Patrol is a chronicle of the 1989 expedition of 16 Vietnam veterans who walked over 200 miles from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. to our location carrying the names of New Jersey's fallen.

The film is scheduled for a red carpet premiere on March 10 at the Vietnam-era Museum.



NJVMM
New Jersey Vietnam Veterans'
Memorial & Museum
Presents

RED-CARPET PREMIERE
THE LAST PATROL
TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH 5pm - 7pm
Sponsored by
Braven
HEALTH

\$150PP includes light fare & complimentary wine & beer

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT:
Diana Chodnicki at DChodnicki@njvmmf.org

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS TO THE PREMIERE](#)



HELP US EXPAND OUR REACH

If your nonprofit group or school is interested in working together, let's start a conversation! Email dchodnicki@njvmmf.org to learn more.

SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

We are seeking new funding opportunities and sponsors. Please reach out if you are interested in sponsoring the Museum and Memorial. Email grants@njvmmf.org to connect.

STRONGER WITH OUR COMMUNITY BEHIND US

The past year brought remarkable growth in community engagement at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Museum. We doubled the number of outside organizations utilizing our space—welcoming schools, civic groups, veterans' organizations, and community partners who help us share our mission of remembrance and education.

We're also grateful to have received new support from the Horizon Foundation and Braven Health through an annual sponsorship, helping us expand programs that serve our veteran community. In partnership with Feeding Our Heroes, we were proud to provide food and hospitality at several events honoring those who served.

Our outreach extended farther across New Jersey this year as well. From our Golf Outing in Atlantic County, to a special commemoration ceremony at Cape Atlantic Community College, and a meaningful screening of *A Place of Honor* in Camden County, we strengthened our presence in South Jersey and built new connections with veterans, families, and supporters statewide.



The Horizon Foundation and Braven Health were key sponsors in 2025.



Nick Asselta, Lou Vlahakes, Bill Offutt, and Andy Logue at our 2025 Golf Outing



Feeding Our Heroes proudly joined for multiple onsite events in 2025.



*Cast members of A Place of Honor along with Director Vanessa Roth
Capt. (Ret) David Drummond, Director Vanessa Roth, John "JJ" Minor, Lou Vlahakes*

CALLING ALL VETERANS

We are looking to connect with veterans from all eras to join our team of volunteer docents. As a docent, you'll play a vital role in sharing the stories, lessons, and legacy of the Vietnam era with visitors of all ages. This rewarding opportunity allows you to meet fellow veterans, engage with school groups and the public, and help preserve an important chapter of our nation's history.

Email mknell@njvvmf.org to complete a volunteer application.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 10

The Last Patrol: Red-Carpet Premiere

[Click here to purchase tickets](#)

Tuesday, April 7 at 5:00 PM

Salute to Patriotism Benefit

[Click here to purchase tickets](#)

Thursday, May 7 at 11:00 AM

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Free and Open to the Public

Monday, May 29 at 11:00 AM

Memorial Day Ceremony

Free and Open to the Public

Saturday, June 13 at 10:00 AM

Special Operations Association of America Riders Ceremony

Free and Open to the Public

Saturday, June 13 at 1:00 PM

U.S. War Dogs Association

Rededication of the 20th anniversary War Dog Memorial

Free and Open to the Public

Thursday, June 23 at 11:00 AM

Carl Wadleigh Ceremony

Personal historical accounts led to the discovery of a New Jersey soldier killed in action who was unintentionally omitted from the Memorial Wall of Heroes.

Join us as we honor and pay our respects to Carl Wadleigh by adding his name to our Wall of Heroes.

Free and Open to the Public

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