

**American Legion Post 215, Nahant Massachusetts**  
**Hosting The Wall That Heals**  
**Honoring Vietnam Veterans, Their Families and Friends**  
**Program of Events**  
**July 13, 2021 thru July 18, 2021**



***A Message from Bob Fields***

***Commander of American Legion Post 215***

On behalf of Post 215, the town of Nahant, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and a grateful nation – we extend our hands and our hearts in thanks to all Vietnam veterans for their service and their sacrifice. For those who gave the ultimate measure of devotion, and for their families and friends, this memorial wall is personal and special. In hosting it here, we acknowledge our huge debt of gratitude to them, and provides our final salute to these comrades in arms. Rest in peace, brothers and sisters!

## **Tuesday, July 13, 2021**

### **ARRIVAL OF THE WALL AND ITS ESCORT**

- Escorts musters and forms up at Suffolk downs
- The public along the Revere Beach Parkway and Route 1A bid welcome to The Wall That Heals procession
- Fire Boats and other vessels muster in the channel along the Causeway, for their water cannon and sound displays when the convoy arrives for the final portion of their parade into Nahant
- Brief “Thank You” to the escort participants once the dust settles after the convoy arrives at the Nahant Lowlands
- Refreshments at AL Post 215 HQ, Nahant Lifesaving Station

## **Wednesday, July 14, 2021**

### **ASSEMBLY AND INITIAL WELCOME BY HOST**

- 0800 Assembly of the wall begins
- 1800 Event briefing for all volunteers
- 2000 Post Commander’s initial welcome and sundown flag ceremony
  - Call to order by post commander
  - Invocation, Rev. Dr. Eleanor Fisher
  - National Anthem
  - Pledge of Allegiance
  - Post Commander, Event Director, Town Manager speak words of thanks
  - Laying of Wreaths by the Vietnam Veterans of America, in honor of all those KIA, but especially Nahant’s KIA, USAF Captain James Magnusson Jr. and USMC Lance Corporal Richard Davis
  - Retreat is sounded, flag is lowered
  - Amazing Grace bagpipes, Chris Whitlock
  - Taps by John Collins
  - Benediction by Reverend Fisher

The background of the entire page is a faded, wavy American flag. The stars are visible in the upper left, and the stripes flow across the rest of the page.

**Thursday, July 15, 2021**

**THE WALL THAT HEALS PUBLIC VIEWING**

- The Wall is open 24 hours
- 0900-2000 Open Mic made available for individual testimonials, music
- 2000 Sundown flag ceremony
  - Retreat, Flag is lowered
  - Amazing Grace on bagpipes by Chris Whitlock
  - Taps by John Collins

**Friday, July 16, 2021**

**THE WALL THAT HEALS PUBLIC VIEWING**

- The Wall is open 24 hours
- 0900-2000 Open Mic made available for individual testimonials, music
- 2000 Sundown flag ceremony
  - Retreat, Flag is lowered
  - Amazing Grace on bagpipes by Chris Whitlock
  - Taps by John Collins

## **Saturday, July 17, 2021**

### **FORMAL CEREMONY “WELCOME HOME”**

- 1730 – 1755 Patriotic music is played
- 1800, Master of Ceremonies, Post Commander Bob Fields
- MC welcomes everyone
  - Offers safety, security, and other important administrative remarks for the guests
  - Gives some facts about The Wall That Heals
  - Recognizes the VIP’s on the dais
    - Governor Baker and other elected and appointed officials
    - Recognizes the Gold Star Wives and Gold Star Mothers in attendance
- Invocation by Father Patrick Healy, Chaplain of the Chelsea Soldier’s Home
- Posting of the Colors, National Anthem, Ute Gfrerer vocalist
- Remarks by Governor Charlie Baker
- Missing Man Table Ceremony, Lynn English USMC Junior ROTC, led by Sergeant Major Ken Oswald
- Keynote Number One: Tommy Lyons
- Ute Gfrerer sings America the Beautiful
- Keynote Number Two: Medal of Honor recipient Ryan Pitts
- Colors retired
- Taps
- Benediction by Chaplain Toby Quirk
- 2000 Sundown flag ceremony
  - Sound Retreat, Lower Flag
  - Amazing Grace by Chris Whitlock on bagpipes
  - Taps by John Collins

**Sunday, July 18, 2021**

**FINAL DAY OF VISITATIONS**

- Wall open till 1400
- 1400 wall is dismantled and stowed
- Volunteer Celebration Party at American Legion Post 215



## **Biographies of Keynote Speakers**

### **Tommy Lyons – Distinguished Local Vietnam Veteran**



Thomas (Tommy) J. Lyons has a longstanding commitment to service—to his country, his community, and his fellow veterans. Born in South Boston, Mr. Lyons graduated from South Boston High and served in the United States Marine Corps and is a combat Veteran with a tour of duty in Vietnam. Tommy Lyons' commitment to veterans and their families runs long and deep. He was the Executive Director of the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans. He served as Commissioner for Veterans' Services for the City of Boston. He was honored by U Mass Boston with the Robert H. Quinn Award for Outstanding Community Leadership. He received the "Marine for Life" Award for his 30 years of advocacy on behalf of our nation's veterans, and also received the US Marine Commandant's Award. Tommy also founded the Semper Fidelis Society of Boston, a philanthropic Marine Corps organization that has grown to more than 2,500 members. Tommy is also the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Soldiers' Home in Chelsea.

### **Staff Sergeant Ryan Pitts - Medal of Honor Recipient**



A native of Nashua, New Hampshire, Ryan Pitts joined the Army in 2003 at the age of 17. He was stationed in Afghanistan twice as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barak Obama at The White House on July 21, 2014 "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Forward Observer in 2d Platoon, Chosen Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade, during combat operations against an armed enemy at Vehicle Patrol Base Kahler vicinity of Wanat Village, Kunar Province, Afghanistan on July 13, 2008. The official recount of the action and the entire citation can be read in full at [www.army.mil/medalofhonor/pitts](http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/pitts)

## **With Grateful Thanks to Our Sponsors**

### **Five Star**

- Carl Jenkins
- Devereaux Construction
- The Guidara Family
- Kevin M. Dwan

### **Four Star**

- Dan Fiore Wall That Heals Golf Tournament
- Coastal Heritage Bank
- The Cheryl Spencer Memorial Trust
- Iron Workers Union Local 7

### **Three Star**

- Alice Cort
- Christoph Wald
- Four Seasons Firearms
- McMackin Corp
- Clark and Dale Orzalli
- Thomas DiBenedetto

## **Special Thanks to Our In-Kind Donors**

Kelly Greens Golf Club

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US Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association

Tides Restaurant

G/J Towing and Recovery, Inc.

Periwinkles Food Shoppe

Michelle and Mike D'Agostino

Nahant Preservation Trust





**Very Special Thanks to Our Volunteers, nearly a hundred and fifty of them, whose gift of their time and talents made this event possible . . .**

**. . . and to these folks, the American Legion Post 215 Wall That Heals Project Team, who put it all together:**

**Team Leader – Toby Quirk**

**Bob Fields – Post 215 Commander**

**Jeanne Fiore – President, Post 215 Auxiliary**

**Peter Barba**

**Candace Cahill**

**John Collins**

**Larry Campbell**

**Linda Fields**

**Dan Fiore**

**Frank Guidara**

**Ed Manzano**

**Kathy Marini**

**Dan McMackin**

**Wayne Noonan**

**Dennis Treece**

**Tony Barletta, Town Administrator**

## About The Wall That Heals

On Veterans Day 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) unveiled a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., designed to travel to communities throughout the United States. Since its dedication, The Wall That Heals has been displayed at nearly 700 communities throughout the nation, spreading the Memorial's healing legacy to millions. Bringing The Wall home to communities throughout our country allows the souls enshrined on the Memorial to exist once more among family and friends in the peace and comfort of familiar surroundings. The traveling exhibit provides thousands of veterans who have been unable to cope with the prospect of facing The Wall to find the strength and courage to do so within their own communities, thus allowing the healing process to begin.

The main components of The Wall That Heals are the wall replica itself and the mobile education center.

The Wall That Heals exhibit features a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. It contains the names of the 58,318 service men and women listed on the wall in Washington. Visitors experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C.

Like the original memorial, The Wall That Heals is erected in a chevron-shape and visitors can do name rubbings of individual service member's names on The Wall. The replica is constructed of Avonite, a synthetic granite, and its 140 numbered panels are supported by an aluminum frame. Machine engraving of the more than 58,000 names along with modern LED lights provide readability both day and night.

As on The Wall in Washington D.C. the names on The Wall That Heals are listed by day of casualty, not by alphabet. Beginning at the center/apex, the names start on the right-hand side and work their way out to the end of that wing, picking up again at the far end of the left-hand side and working their way back to the center/apex, joining the beginning and end of the conflict at the center.