

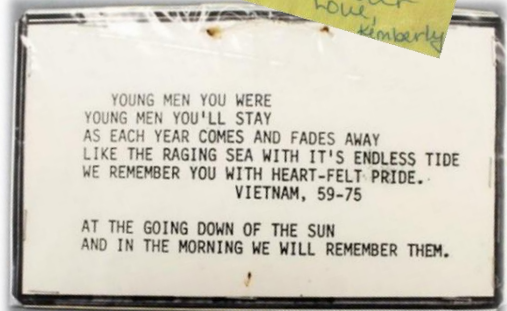
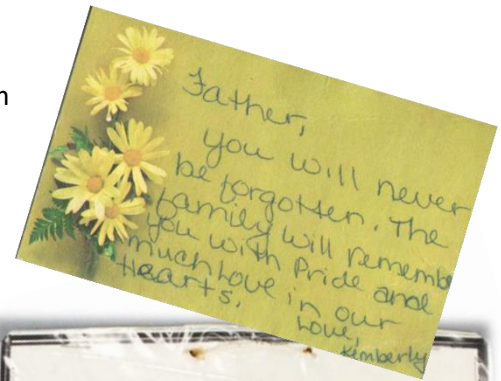
Dear friends of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight,

Do you ever wonder what becomes of the items left at the Vietnam Memorial?



From the day the memorial opened on November 13, 1982, visitors have been leaving mementos there to honor their fallen friends, family members and comrades in arms. Park Service personnel began collecting them because they didn't have the heart to throw them out. To date, more than 400,000 items have been left at The Wall, from a motorcycle to a

handwritten card. Park rangers collect the items daily and bring them to a secure storage facility where they are sorted and archived. A virtual collection of nearly 500 items left at the memorial is available at vvmf.org/items.



TO DAD. (CDR GEORGE K. FARRIS 12/6/30-10/26/66)

MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE WE LOST YOU IN VIETNAM, AT TIMES IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY THAT WE SAID GOODBYE AND YOU FLEW OFF TO WAR. WHEN WE HEARD YOU WERE KILLED IT CHANGED US FOREVER. WE STRUGGLED TO MOVE ON, BUT YOU WERE ALWAYS MISSED IN OUR LIVES. I NEEDED YOU SO MUCH GROWING UP, AND DID THE BEST I COULD. I WAS LUCKY TO HAVE YOU AS A FATHER, EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME. I ALWAYS SPEAK PROUDLY OF YOUR VIRTUES, LOVE OF FAMILY, COUNTRY, GOD, ZEAL FOR YOUR NAVAL CAREER AND FLYING. MY MEMORIES OF YOU ALWAYS GAVE ME STRENGTH THROUGH LIFE'S YEARS. I HOPE YOU WOULD BE PROUD OF THE MAN I HAVE BECOME, AS MUCH AS I AM PROUD OF YOU AS MY FATHER. I MISS YOU EVERYDAY.

LOVE ALWAYS, YOUR SON JIM



Visiting The Wall is one of the most meaningful and moving parts of our trip to Washington DC. It is there that so many of our veterans come to grips with the losses they have experienced in their service to country. We regularly encounter veterans who are reluctant to sign up for the Honor Flight because they don't want to face that Wall, but who are so grateful they did when the trip is done. They tell us, "I finally have closure."



Thanks for all you do to make experiences like this possible for our honored veterans. You're making a difference.

Here's a look at the scoreboard as it stands now after 50 missions:

Veterans flown				Waiting to fly			
WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total
1,048	1,267	2,499	4,814	0	1	455	456