

# NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

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**Contact:** Tamara Brown, 614.371.4446  
[tbrown@nationalvmm.org](mailto:tbrown@nationalvmm.org)

## **National Veterans Memorial and Museum Unveils Memorial Day Weekend 2021 Events**

*Seven Opportunities to be inspired and honor our Veterans + Free Admission on Memorial Day*

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – The National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) is hosting a [Memorial Day Weekend](#) full of special experiences, events and ceremonies designed to honor, remember and share the stories of our country's brave servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives protecting our freedoms.

Memorial Day Weekend opportunities range from the Virtual Memorial Run, Walk, Ruck and Roll to *The Wall That Heals*, a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall; and from moving ceremonies and FREE admission on Memorial Day to a documentary film premiere with WWII Veterans from the famed "Screaming Eagles" 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division who parachuted into Normandy the night before D-Day.

"This Memorial Day Weekend, our team has planned an unprecedented series of experiences to provide opportunities to reflect, remember and pay respect to our service members who sacrificed their lives for our nation," said Lt. General Michael Ferriter, president and CEO, National Veterans Memorial and Museum. "I invite you to create a new tradition by coming out to the museum on Memorial Day weekend, to touch The Wall, run to remember a fallen hero, watch our Memorial Day Ceremony or meet a living legend to honor the true meaning of Memorial Day."

Following are dates and additional details on all seven Memorial Day Weekend experiences available to mark Memorial Day 2021 at the NVMM or virtually:

**May** **NVMM Memorial Virtual Run, Walk, Ruck & Roll** – Join us for the second annual Virtual Run, Walk, Ruck and Roll to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The 1-mile, 5K, and 10K run, walk, ruck and roll is a family event that can be safely completed at a location and time of your choice. [Register](#) by May 15 to receive your race packet including shirt and bib number before May 23.

Ruck participants will receive a commemorative patch. Be sure to tag @NationalVMM and use #WeHonorThemTogether in your race photos. We encourage you to complete your run, walk, ruck or roll May 23 – 31, 2021.



**May 26** ***The Wall That Heals* Photo/Video Opps (3 p.m.)** – The Wall That Heals will arrive at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum on Broad Street from the west with a police and motorcycle escort by the Combat Veterans Association. The Wall will be assembled by volunteers on May 27.

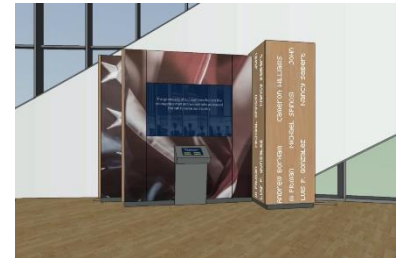
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May 28-31 [The Wall That Heals](#) (Free, Outdoors, Open 24 hours a day until 2 p.m., May 31) – A three quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., The Wall carries the names of over 58,000 U.S. service members who gave their lives in the Vietnam War. Their names are inscribed on 140 panels, spanning 375 feet in length and seven and one-half feet high at its apex. **The Mobile Education Center** provides a **Hometown Heroes** exhibit with an alphabetical listing of 226 Columbus area Veterans from The Wall and all their details from [The Wall of Faces](#) online.



Volunteers will be available to help guests locate Veterans' names from anywhere in the country to share their Veteran's service photo. Additionally, the **In Memory** program was created to share a list Vietnam Veterans who died after returning home from war due to Agent Orange, PTSD, suicide, cancer or other war-related causes and were not eligible for a listing on The Wall. There will be a separate digital display honoring these Veterans from across the state of Ohio and providing families with the opportunity to complete applications to add loved ones to the [In Memory Honor Roll](#).

May 28 **NVMM Membership Registry Unveiling (Time TBD)** – The National Veterans Memorial and Museum will unveil an interactive, digital exhibit that proudly lists the names of over 4,000 Inaugural Members who have joined the NVMM. This new exhibit in the Great Hall is sponsored by Big Lots and will allow our guests to join the Museum in the name of a Veteran they want to honor. This will be a new way to remember a loved one by having them listed in a searchable database within the museum.



May 28 **Gold Star Family Candlelight Vigil (8 p.m.)**– Families who have lost a loved one in combat will honor and remember their loved ones as they walk in procession down the NVMM ramp from our Rooftop Sanctuary through Memorial Grove to the Soldiers Cross monument. A short commemorative program will be held in the Grove with each family placing a flower in the reflecting pool in remembrance of their Veteran. [This event will be shared online as well.](#)



May 29 **Ride2NVMM (All Day)** – Motorcyclists can plan to ride to the museum anytime Saturday to rendezvous with other riders, experience *The Wall That Heals* (a free, outdoor exhibition), visit the Memorial and Museum, connect over a meal from the onsite food trucks and more. No cost to participate unless riders want to purchase food or visit the museum.



May 29

**“A Rendezvous with Destiny” Red Carpet Premiere (6: 30 – 8:30 p.m.)** – “A Rendezvous with Destiny” documentary film will premiere at the NVMM with Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, Tracie Hunter, and at least one, but possibly all three of the last “Screaming Eagles” – Dan McBride, Dick Klein and Jim “Pee Wee” Martin (WWII Veteran paratroopers of the famed 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division who jumped into Normandy the night before D-Day). Hunter’s documentary is based on the book, “Three of the Last WWII Screaming Eagles” by Jos Groen. We are planning for Lt. Col. Groen to join us virtually from the Netherlands. This will be a special opportunity to learn about our nation’s history from those who helped shape it. This is a special ticket event: \$45 for nonmember and \$35 for members which includes light hors d’oeuvres and drinks. **Public ticket link:** <https://my.nationalvmm.org/memorialday/rwd>



May 31

**Memorial Day Free Admission and Ceremony (10 a.m.)** – Admission for all guests will be free on Memorial Day, May 31. Here is a ticket link: <https://my.nationalvmm.org/tickets/memorialday>.

[The Memorial Day Ceremony](#) will take place at 10 a.m. on the NVMM Rooftop Sanctuary. Our featured speaker will be J.R. Martinez, a U.S. Army Veteran, burn survivor, actor, author and winner of *Dancing with the Stars*. Born in Shreveport, LA, the son of an immigrant mother from El Salvador, Martinez joined the U.S. Army and went through training at Fort Bragg. He became an 11-B infantryman and was assigned to the 502nd Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division before deploying to Iraq. Just a few months later in April 2003, the Humvee Martinez was driving hit a roadside bomb, and he was burned over 40 percent of his body. Thirty-four surgeries later, his positive attitude is an inspiration as he travels the world sharing words of hope, encouragement and motivation. The ceremony will be available online as well.



**Editor’s Note:** [Link to online press kit with photos and details](#)

### About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history. [The National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#) pays tribute to the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. History is presented through a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story of service to the larger context of the world.

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