



MICHAEL KEATING

2022: VVA's Year at The Wall

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund—the nonprofit that built the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C., in 1982 and today coordinates Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and other ceremonies at The Wall—has invited Vietnam Veterans of America to host the official National Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Day ceremonies at The Wall on Tuesday, March 29. “It’s an honor, and it’s the right place for us to be on Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Day, working in collaboration with the VVMF,” said VVA President Jack McManus.

The March 29 program kicks off at 1:00. The color guard from VVA Chapter 451 in Baltimore—which presents the colors at NFL Baltimore Ravens home games—will do the honors at The Wall. Retired Army Gen. George Price, who spoke at The Wall’s official groundbreaking ceremony in 1982, will offer the Invocation. Former VVA National President Mary Stout, who served as a U.S. Army nurse in Vietnam, will deliver the keynote speech.

VVMF also has asked VVA to host special ceremonies at The Wall on Father’s Day in June and on Agent Orange Awareness Day

on August 10, as well as to play an important role in the fortieth anniversary commemorations of The Wall’s dedication during Veterans Day weekend in November.

“VVA is going to be very, very involved in these events at The Wall,” McManus said. “It’s a very good and important thing that we will be working with VVMF on these events in 2022, and that we will continue to do so in the future. When Vietnam veterans are long gone, that Wall will still be there. And a big part of our legacy will be tied to The Wall for as long as it stands.”

As for the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Day event at The Wall on March 29, McManus said: “We invite VVA members from around the nation to come to Washington to join us for this special event, and we welcome members of the public as well to help us as we honor those who served the nation in uniform during the Vietnam War.” ■

—Marc Leepson