

**Private George Phillips Detachment #1214
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box #1
Ballwin, MO 63022**



FORWARDING AND ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE

All annual dues expire on August 31st of each year. Our membership dues are \$40.00 a year and are due prior to August 31st. Please make your check payable to "Pvt. George Phillips Detachment" and send to the Detachment address.

This newsletter and previous issues can be obtained from the **new Detachment Website. <http://www.pvtgeophillips.org/>**

Please contact the Editor to receive future issues electronically.

As a suggestion, anyone wishing to provide material *should try* to have it to the editor no later than the *fourth Friday* of previous month. (This doesn't mean don't submit anything at all if you need more time, instead please contact the editor.) If sent via email, please note that newsletter submission should appear the subject line.



Next Meeting will be January 15, 2019 @ 1930



January 2019
Volume XV – Issue 1

Commandant:
Lyle McFarlin
314-630-5647

Sr. Vice-Commandant:
Ed Rau
636-978-3522

**Jr. Vice-Commandant/
Public Information
Officer:**
Hugh Smith
636-536-7040

Adjutant/Paymaster:
Dennis Simpson
636-230-5976

**Judge Advocate/
Benevolence:**
John (Jack) Bickerton
314-304-4360

Sgt at Arms:
Gerald Gerling
636-271-3778

Chaplain:
Larry Schwartz
314-780-3710

Web Sgt: Brad McNeil
636-225-2866



Meetings 3rd Tuesday of
Every Month
1930 – 7:30 PM



*News and Reflections by and for Marines
And other Patriotic Americans*

Published Monthly By

The Pvt George Phillips Detachment
Marine Corps League

Email

PvtGeoPhillips@gmail.com

Detachment Webpage

[http://www.pvtgeophillips.org/
bmcneil@sbcglobal.net](http://www.pvtgeophillips.org/bmcneil@sbcglobal.net)

Mail:

Pvt George Phillips Detachment
Marine Corps League
P.O. Box #1
Ballwin, MO 63022

Meeting Location:

225 Old Sulphur Springs Road
Ballwin, MO 63021-5356

**Detachment
Membership as
of December 31**

101

Trustee 3Yr:
Elliot Glassman
314-434-4868

Trustee 2Yr:
James
Grgurich
314-852-9511

Trustee 1Yr:
Mike Cicchese
636-208-4676

**Jr. Past
Commandant**
Gerald Gerling
636-271-3778

Ways & Means:
Elliot Glassman
314-434-4868

Quartermaster:
Rick Shelton
314-677-0087

Eagle Scout Liaison:
Vacant

Editor/Historian:
Carl E. Ramsey
314-304-7915



Meetings 3rd Tuesday
of Every Month
1915 – 7:15 PM

Commandant's Corner:

As we begin the new year it is important to consider how each of us can make our detachment stronger *and more dedicated to the mission for which our beloved League was established.*

Next month we will be electing officers to lead our detachment for the year 2019. We ask that each of you consider serving as an officer for 2019. After Members Matter are listed the elected [as well as appointed] officers and their job descriptions.

If you are interested and available for any of these positions, please contact Past Commandant Jerry Gerling. Once again Uncle Sam, aka Private George Phillips asks you to answer the call.

Lyle McFarlin
Commandant
Pvt. George Phillips Detachment 1214
Marine Corps League



January 2019

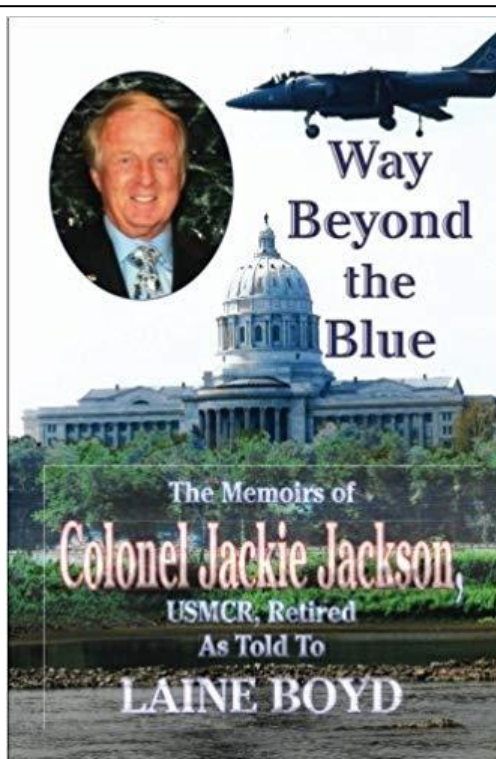
- 8 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 15 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208
- 15 – Auxiliary Meeting – 1915 Post #208

February 2019

- 12 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 19 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208
- 19 – Auxiliary Meeting – 1915 Post #208

March 2019

- 12 – Staff Meeting – 1900 Post #208
- 19 – Membership Meeting – 1930 Post #208
- 19 – Auxiliary Meeting – 1915 Post #208



Detachment member Colonel Jackie Jackson was our December guest presenting his sensational memoir. For those who enjoyed his book, below is the link for providing a review. https://www.amazon.com/Way-Beyond-Blue-Memoirs-Colonel/dp/0998501786/ref=pd_ybh_a_1?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=HAZ1EGRBH913XRRZQCF5#customerReviews

Carl Ramsey, editor (I wrote one).

MEMBERS MATTER, James Grgurich by Lyle McFarlin

I was born April 21, 1976, in Creve Coeur, Missouri, but grew up on the Main Street of Washington, Missouri, where I was the youngest of four with two sisters and a brother. I attended St. Francis Borgia High School for three and a half years, but graduated from Washington High School in 1994.

I joined the Marine Corps Reserve in September and went to Boot Camp at MCRD, San Diego, California and spent time at Camp Pendleton. I missed Thanksgiving and Christmas, but made it home on my ten days leave for New Year's Eve, 1995, and my father's birthday on January first.



Future Marine Ian Grgurich (late son of Marissa), salutes his Uncle Jim on ten day leave.

I returned to Camp Pendleton, California, for MCT (Marine Combat Training), then I was sent to my reserve unit 3/24 (Third Battalion, Twenty-Fourth marines) at Lambert Field, Saint Louis, Missouri, instead of my MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) Training. That summer I spent a month at the JOTC (Jungle Operation Training Center) at Fort Sherman, Panama. My unit was H & S

Company (Headquarters and Service). Being in Motor T with only shop licenses, I was told I'd be a driver for some officer. But we had taken the whole battalion and we all know every Marine is a rifleman! So, once we hit the base, I was reassigned to Kilo Company Mortars, where I became the third gunman on a 60 mm mortar crew.



Jim Grgurich loading a mortar.

Side Note: I was six feet, 135 pounds, and I carried an m249 SAW (light machinegun). With my rifle, spare barrel bag, ammo, full combat load, Alice pack, six sixty mm HE (high explosive) rounds, and a sixty mm mortar baseplate, my gear weighed 145 pounds. Welcome to the jungle! We moved three clicks a day under a triple canopy, and I quickly gained a deeper appreciation for what my father and our other Vietnam veterans endured.

During my last week in Panama I actually did drive two colonels into town. On the way back to base I was instructed to stop at a local bar. As I was going to wait with our Humvee, Colonel Calopy (a mustang and Vietnam vet) ordered me inside with him and Lieutenant Colonel Hixon. He ordered a round and we shared a drink. Then when it was time to return to base, Colonel Calopy informed me that he was going to drive since I had been drinking! He took a slight detour on the way back so he could do a little off-road combat driving at one of the ranges. I later had to explain to Gunny Okinga that the colonel wanted

me to get him “a little closer to the action” and I then spent the rest of the day cleaning the hummer.



Left to right: Colonel Calopy and Lieutenant Colonel Hixon.

April 21, 1996, on my twentieth birthday, I met Stacy my wife. Two months later in June, 1996, I was ordered to MOS School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. After the first week I flew home, drove Stacy to Myrtle Beach then flew her home that Sunday. We got engaged over the phone the next day, June 10, 1996, and we married November 21, 1998.



Stacy and James Grgurich wedding picture

I was stationed at Camp Johnson (part of Camp Lejeune) during Hurricane Bertha (July 5 – 18, 1996). The eye passed right over our barracks, and I spent most my weekends cleaning up the base.

While at MOS school, I was injured in a vehicle “mishap”. I continued to train with my unit, graduating second in my class of 42 at Diesel Mechanic School. I was supposed to get promotion to corporal, but I was passed over and sent back to my reserve unit 3/24 H & S Company in St. Louis to fill a billet while I processed for medical discharge. I had a retention physical, found NPQ (Not Physically Qualified) due to my injuries, and was honorably discharged in 1998.

In civilian life, I drove tow trucks, worked in air freight, and began setting up cellular sites for a company headquartered in Texas. Later I became a union heavy equipment operator.

I joined Pvt George Phillips detachment in 2008, and have been an elected officer for ten years, with positions that include Trustee, Judge Advocate, and Trustee once again.

Stacy and I were married twenty years, November, 2018. We have two children, “J J” (Jonathan James), 16, and Joanna, 14.

We have four generations of Marines in my family, including my WW II grandfather, my father and his two brothers, three cousins, my nephew, Ian, and myself. I also had a female cousin who was injured in training at Quantico and unfortunately didn’t graduate.



Top: Joseph Grgurich (WW II), John Grgurich
Bottom Ian Grgurich, James Grgurich (& right)

I have bought property near my father’s home in St. James, Missouri, where I plan to build a home and retire.

I am James M. Grgurich.

Officer Elections

Marines, it is that time of year where we decide who will lead our Detachment. We are in desperate need of Detachment members willing to step up and move our Detachment forward.

If you are interested in any of the elected or appointed positions, or would like to nominate someone for a position, please contact Jerry Gerling, (636) 633-0521, GoGerling@gmail.com. We need new leaders with fresh ideas to keep our Detachment active and current. Please consider stepping up.

Elected Positions

Commandant

Leadership of the Detachment. Chief Executive Officer of the Detachment, responsible for the activities, financial standings, and the image portrayed in the community and the League. Presides over meetings, formulates and develops programs, appoints committees, and represents the Detachment.

Senior Vice-Commandant

Second in command of the Detachment and logical successor to the Commandant. Provides support to the Commandant, backs-up the Commandant in his absence, assists with the achievement of Detachment goals and operations.

Junior Vice-Commandant

Primarily responsible for the recruitment and retention of members. Assists the Commandant and Senior Vice-Commandant and presides in their absence.

Judge Advocate

Knowledgeable in National, State, and Detachment by-laws. Assures that the Detachment abides by those by-laws. Renders opinions and rulings during meetings on procedures.

Trustees

Acts as auditing committee. Conducts at least one financial audit of the Detachment yearly.

Appointed Positions

Adjutant

Corporate recording secretary for Detachment meetings and affairs. Maintains correspondence, documentation, written communications and provides other staff assistance. Keeps accurate minutes of meetings and prepares them for permanent record of the Detachment.

Paymaster

The Detachment's Chief Financial Officer. The Paymaster serves as treasurer, accounts for all funds received and expended, assists in the annual financial audits of the Detachment, and files all forms required by law. Maintains Detachment roster, submits new member transmittals, roster additions / deletions as required to the National MCL.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Responsible for setting up and maintaining order at business meetings.

Chaplain

Provides comfort and special service to members and families in time of need. Offers invocations and prayers for meetings, installations, ceremonies, and funeral services. Visits sick members or corresponds appropriately. Provides comfort and information to families of deceased members. Provides notification to Department, Division, and National on deceased members. Maintains the record of deceased Detachment members.

Quartermaster

Maintains the property of the Detachment. Ensures the Detachment has adequate supplies needed to perform its function and items necessary for the membership. Provides Marine, Marine Corps League, Veteran related, and other items for sale at Detachment meetings.

Public Relations Officer

Responsible for getting publicity about the Marine Corps League and the Detachment publicized and recognized in the public arena.

Various Committee Chairmen

- Toys for Tots
- Marine Corps Birthday Ball
- Ways and Means
- Benevolence Committee
- Memorial Day Committee
- Private George Phillips Birthday Committee
- Color Guard
- By-Laws

January Birthday Scroll

David Campbell Ray Cromer

Elmer Dapron Gene Dixon

Carl Gordon John Grgurich

Gary Keesling Bradley McNeil

Philipp Petersen James Schalk

Walter Suhre Alfred Wallach

Gail Bickerton

*Barb Rhyne (one last birthday salute:
deceased May 21, 2018)*

December Pictures.



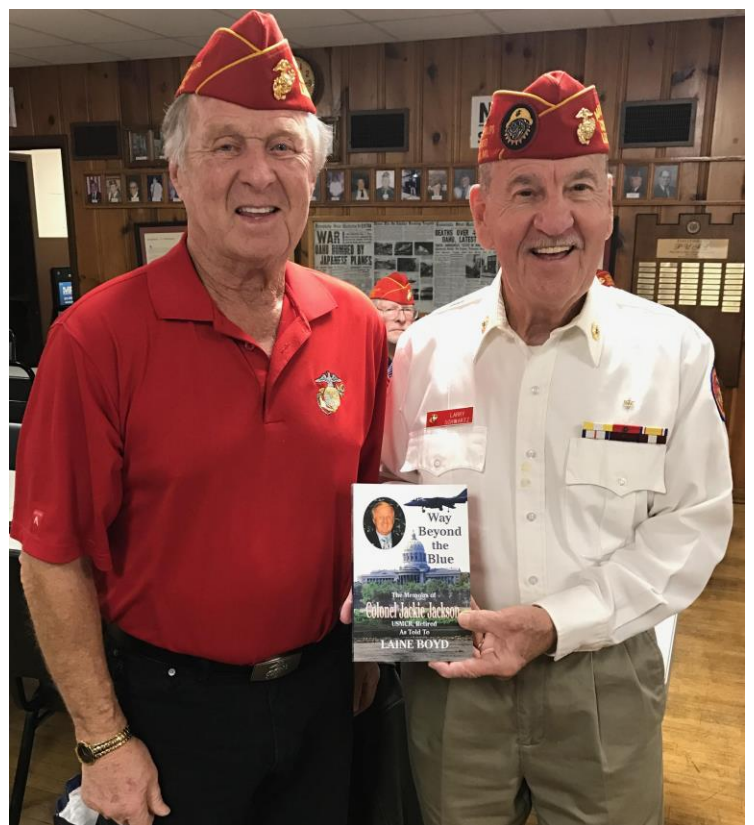
John Paruolo, his last meeting, after accepting a job in San Antonio, Texas.



Mike Moss



Colonel Jackie Jackson, our December guest speaker born to fly—just about every aircraft in US naval service.



Colonel Jackie Jackson and Chaplain Larry Schwartz

National Veterans Creative Arts Programs



VA Art Show

2019 Veterans Applied Arts,
Fine Arts and Crafts Competition

Friday
February 22, 2019
11:30 am
JB Gym, Building 63



Deadline to
Submit Artwork:
February 15, 2019

For more information,
call 314-652-4100
Karen Wait Ext. 64535
Erin Killebrew Ext. 55461
Kat Zervas Ext. 64768

VA's Got Talent

2019 Veterans Dance, Drama
and Music Competition

Thursday
February 7, 2019
5:30-7:30
JB Theater



Schedule performance by:

January 25, 2019

Rehearsal Date:
February 6, 2019
Noon to 4:00 p.m.

For more information,
call 314-652-4100
Karen Wait Ext. 64535
Matt Luitjohan Ext. 66602

VA's Written Expressions & Creative Arts Awards

2019 Veterans Creative Writing

Friday
February 22, 2019
11:30 am
JB Gym, Building 63



Entry Deadline:
January 18, 2019

For more information,
call 314-652-4100
Erin Killebrew Ext. 55461
****Entries must be submitted via e-mail to:**
Erin.killebrew@va.gov



The Memorial will Feature

A full-scale black granite model of the Vietnam Wall identical to that in Washington D.C.

An event space where organizations, individuals and businesses can host receptions, celebrations and other events

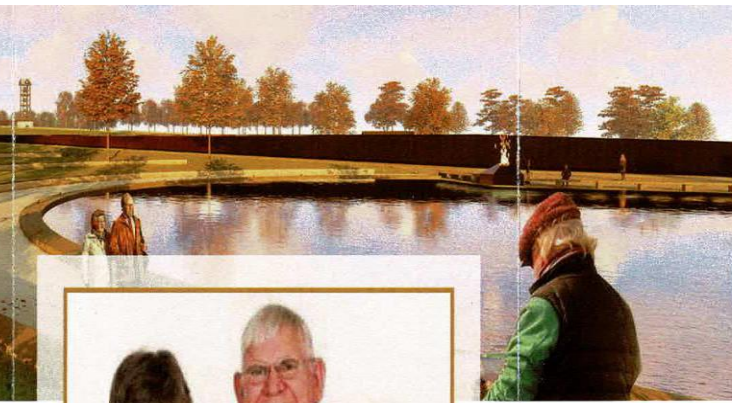
A veterans and military museum where visitors can learn about the history of the American military and the challenges and triumphs of America's veterans

An interfaith Chapel for people of all faiths to reflect and pray

Scattering oak grove where loved ones and family members can spread the remains of their veteran

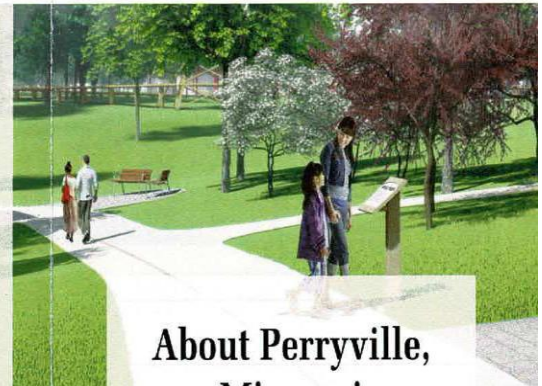
A cemetery to serve as the final resting place for our fallen heroes

The opportunity for family and friends to leave a personal, permanent tribute for their loved ones



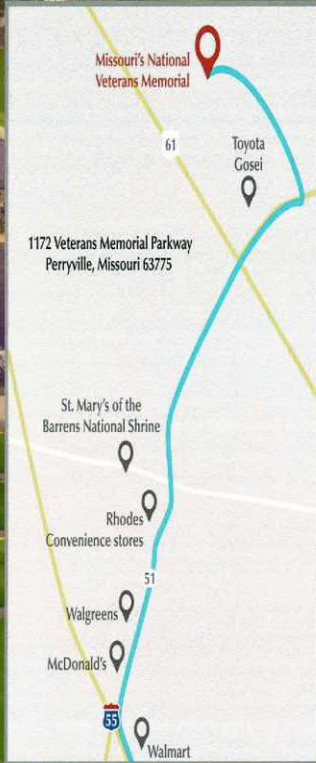
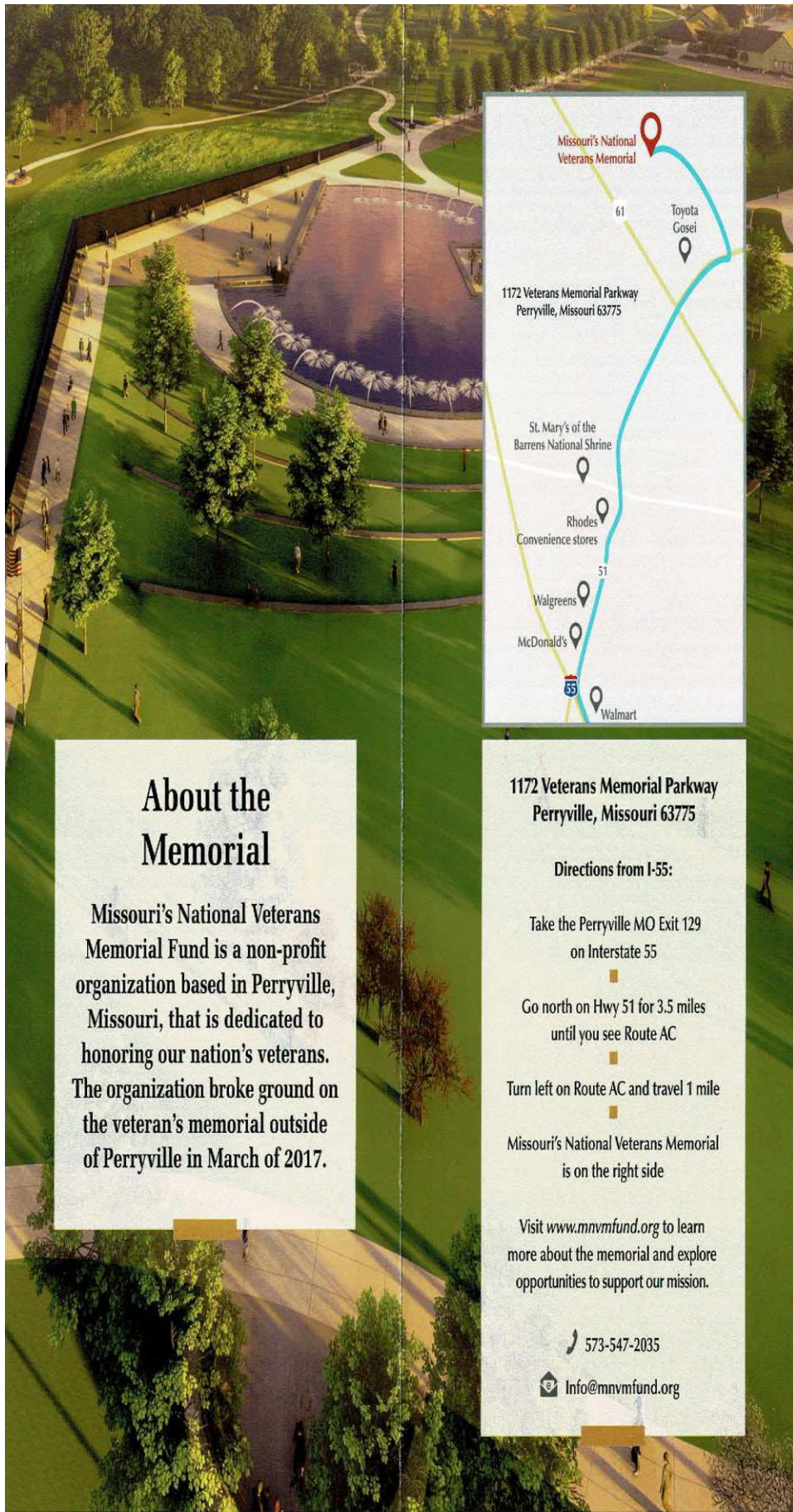
History of the Memorial

The Memorial began as the vision of several local veterans and citizens who wanted to honor and respect their fellow brothers and sisters in arms. It is being built on 46 acres of land donated from one of its founding members, Jim Eddleman. Jim bravely fought in the Tet Offensive during the Vietnam War. He watched as several of his brothers in arms died, and he carried several - severely wounded - to the medevac helicopter. The memorial is a way for him and all those who contribute to this project to provide a lasting tribute to America's veterans.



About Perryville, Missouri

Perryville is like the thousands of small towns and cities in which so many of our service members were raised and have a lasting connection. Perryville is easily accessible and centrally-located in the heartland of America. It is a 90 minute drive south of St. Louis, and within a day's drive of places like Chicago, Nashville, and Indianapolis.



About the Memorial

Missouri's National Veterans Memorial Fund is a non-profit organization based in Perryville, Missouri, that is dedicated to honoring our nation's veterans. The organization broke ground on the veteran's memorial outside of Perryville in March of 2017.

**1172 Veterans Memorial Parkway
Perryville, Missouri 63775**

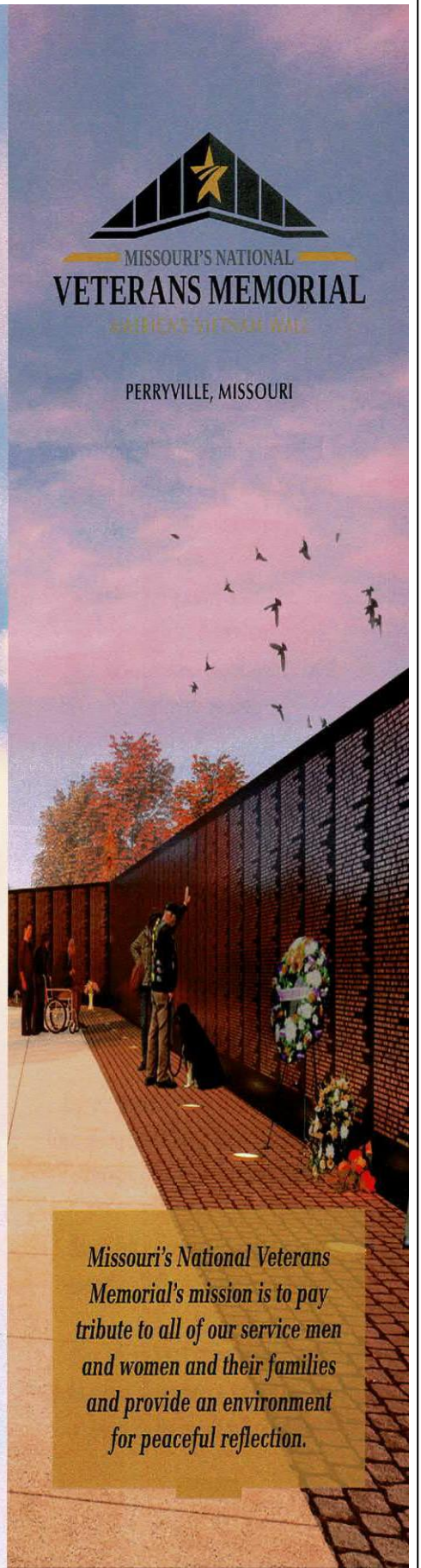
Directions from I-55:

- Take the Perryville MO Exit 129 on Interstate 55
- Go north on Hwy 51 for 3.5 miles until you see Route AC
- Turn left on Route AC and travel 1 mile

Missouri's National Veterans Memorial is on the right side

Visit www.mnvmfund.org to learn more about the memorial and explore opportunities to support our mission.

📞 573-547-2035
✉ Info@mnvmfund.org



MISSOURI'S NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL
AMERICAN VIETNAM WALL

PERRYVILLE, MISSOURI

Missouri's National Veterans Memorial's mission is to pay tribute to all of our service men and women and their families and provide an environment for peaceful reflection.

Yes I want to honor our nation's heroes. Please
accept my most generous gift of: \$ _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

Missouri's National Veterans Memorial
PO Box 566
Perryville, MO 63775
www.mnvmfund.org (573)547-2035



VS08

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



MISSOURI'S NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
P.O. BOX 566
PERRYVILLE, MO 63775

Please bill my credit card (please print): Visa MC AMEX Discover

Account # _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code _____

Name on Account _____

Signature _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

PLACE
STAMP
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MISSOURI'S NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
P.O. BOX 566
PERRYVILLE, MO 63775