

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Memorial Bricks Scheduled to be Installed**

**at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire**

***Saturday, September 4 (8am.)***

***Angel Fire, NM/Vietnam Veterans Memorial***

**(ANGEL FIRE, NM)** –More than 800 memorial bricks bearing the names of military veterans—living and deceased—are scheduled to be installed on September 4 at the DVS-managed Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire.

All attendees, volunteers, and DVS staff will be required to wear safety masks.

The day is scheduled to begin with an 8am blessing of the bricks, followed immediately by the reading of the name of each brick as it is presented to a volunteer for placement on the memorial grounds. The number of bricks this year is almost double the amount in a typical year—as last year’s event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 4,000 memorial bricks have already been installed during previous bricklaying events along the sidewalks and pathways of the memorial grounds.

**The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire**

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Angel Fire was built by Albuquerque residents Victor and Jeanne Westphall in 1971 as a memorial to their son, Marine 1st Lt. David Westphall. 28-year old David was one of sixteen Marines from Bravo Company/Third Division killed in an ambush by North Vietnamese forces near the North/South Vietnam border on May 22, 1968.

The monument was dedicated on the third anniversary of his death in 1971, and the all-volunteer David Westphall Foundation was created to manage the facility. In 2005, the Foundation donated the memorial to the State Parks Division. In 2017, management of the Memorial was transferred to DVS.

**The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services (DVS) provides support and services to New Mexico’s 151,000 veterans and their families. DVS treats every veteran, regardless of their rank achieved during military service, with the respect and gratitude befitting someone who has served our country. We strive every day to live up to our agency’s official motto: *Serving Those Who Served*

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