

# Promote the Healing Show your Support

How do you contribute to the healing of ALL veterans and their families and friends?

We're not asking for a lot, believe it or not, the littlest things tend to make the biggest difference. You can contribute by taking one or more of the following actions.

- 1) Make a donation
- 2) Purchase RFTW merchandise
- 3) Line the streets demonstrating your recognition, appreciation and support for our veterans' sacrifices as RFTW passes through your area (see itinerary).
- 4) Register, then ride LA to DC or just a leg or two



## FNG Story

### Run For The Wall

My main reason for wanting to do this trip, in the beginning, was in remembrance of my grandfathers Col. Claude R. Nelon Sr. (USAF), CDR Joseph Ady (U.S. Navy) and Gerald H. Sterling (U.S. Army Air Corps 548th Fighter Squadron). These men were my heroes growing up. Each of us has our reasons for going and I thought I knew why I was going to DC, boy was I wrong! Not only did this trip opened my eyes and overwhelm me with pride for being an American, it made me realize the one person, that is still with me, that I had never thanked for everything he had done for his country and for me, was my dad, Claude R. Nelon Jr. Sure I have talked to him about Vietnam, at least what little he would talk about it, but I had never thanked him or welcomed him home! I had flown an American flag on the back of my bike like most people were doing but during the ride it came to me that even though my dad was not able to physically go on the run I would fly that flag for him to DC and give it to him upon returning to Hurricane WV (his home town). I now had another mission to complete. Once I made it back to Hurricane on Monday I took that flag and my RFTW pin to my dad. Through my tears and his, I thanked him for everything and I was able to finally welcome him home. Thank you is not enough for all the sacrifices that have been made in so many ways for this great country.

I WILL NEVER FORGET!

### RUN FOR THE WALL

Web: [www.rftw.us](http://www.rftw.us)

Registration Questions?  
Contact [rftw@rftw.us](mailto:rftw@rftw.us)

*What is Run For The Wall? We support our veterans*



## RFTW XXXIII

**Dedicated to  
Prisoners of War  
and  
Missing in Action**

**We ride  
for those who can't**

**L.A. TO D.C. DATES  
May 17 - May 26, 2023**

**SANDBOX DATES May  
28- 29, 2023**



# Support Our Veterans

## Mission

**Mission Statement:** To promote healing among ALL veterans and their families and friends, to call for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA), to honor the memory of those Killed in Action (KIA) from all wars, and to support our military personnel all over the world.

**Philosophy:** We strive to maintain a safe, supportive and private atmosphere in which each participant can reflect and heal during their journey to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. and in the hope that each can return home to a new beginning.

**Goals:**

1. To guide the participants across America.
2. To educate future generations as to the importance of accountability in wartime actions emphasizing that no one should be left behind.



## History

**History:** Run For The Wall (RFTW) was started in 1989 as an effort by James Gregory and Bill Evans. They were a couple of Vietnam Veterans who traveled across the heartland of America on motorcycles, talking to local radio, TV, and newspapers about the fact that we had thousands of men and women still unaccounted for from all of our wars. The need for this awareness continues today and we continue this tradition every May.

We don't give political speeches or stage demonstrations. Run For The Wall gets its message to the public by riding through the United States. We obey traffic laws and treat all citizens with dignity and respect.

But the issue of public awareness is only part of the benefit of Run For The Wall. We also give Vietnam veterans and all veterans the opportunity to get their own welcome home and start their healing process.

Everyone who has fought or has friends or loved ones who have fought in a war has their own issues from their experience. Everyone has issues -- the welcome home, the good-bye to buddies lost, the ability to finally help the young men and women we watch every night on TV, or just trying to accept coming home alive. Many who participate in Run For The Wall find that whatever they've been missing, can be found in the Run For The Wall family. They can finally start settling issues that have been put away for too long.

## Support

From the beginning, the Run for the Wall has existed to promote healing among ALL veterans and their families and friends, to call for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA), to honor the memory of those Killed in Action (KIA) from all wars, and to support our military personnel all over the world. There is a large population of Vietnam Veterans, our "old warriors," who participate every year to receive the welcome home, respect, and healing that this annual journey provides. Taking a cue from the Native American culture these "old warriors" look to reach out and help the "young warriors" as they return from their service to our great country. While the younger generation of Veterans will never face the persecution from the general public that Vietnam Vets did, the Run For The Wall recognizes the sacrifices and contributions made by all veterans who have served our nation.

Veterans of recent conflicts and those currently on active duty are especially welcome to join us as we ride for those who cannot. If you find yourself in need of assistance in order to join us or would like to make a donation to support the Benevolence Fund, please visit <https://www.rftw.us/benevolence-fund/> or send an email to [rftw@rftw.us](mailto:rftw@rftw.us).



A wealth of information about Run For The Wall (RFTW) can be obtained online at [www.rftw.us](http://www.rftw.us)

This website will provide the full history of Run For The Wall (RFTW) and also includes additional information pertaining to the Benevolence Fund,

the four routes and itineraries from LA to DC (Central, Midway, Southern and now Sandbox, which goes "Wall to Wall" from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to the Middle Eastern Conflicts Wall in Marseilles, Illinois), Newsletters, Combat Heroes, Reunions, Registration (for joining in the motorcycle ride), Merchandise store and so much more.

## Support

Promote healing amongst all veterans and their families and friends.