

By the numbers:

1. There are **58,395 names in total** on The Wall. That includes all dead and missing, duplicates, corrected spellings, still alive when the Wall was dedicated, and a civilian.
 2. There are **58,281** – dead and status unknown - on The Wall. This is the correct answer to a visitor asking how many we lost. This matches the DoD number.
 3. The **delta of 114** is due to corrected misspellings (69), duplicates (13), and a number of living who should not have been on The Wall (32). 69+13+32=114.
 4. There are **732 '+' symbols** on The Wall. The '+' symbol on The Wall does NOT mean 'missing in action'. It was a designation for 'status unknown'. **A diamond is 'dead' and a '+' is status unknown**...no confirmation of death. There were 1,256 '+' symbols on The Wall at dedication in 1982. **524 '+' symbols have been changed to diamonds**, including 3 in 2020. **No status changes were made in 2021** – though 2 servicemen were found and identified – they already had 'diamonds'.
 5. The **DoD number for 'Unaccounted for' is 1,584** as of Spring 2021. This is 852 more than the number of '+' symbols on the Wall. Someone could be 'unaccounted for' on the DoD list and have a diamond on The Wall. Michael Blassie is a good example – Panel 1E, Line 23...always had a diamond but was DoD 'unaccounted for'.
 6. A diamond does NOT mean they were 'killed in action' or KIA. Over 10,000 deaths were from other causes...accidents, drownings, snake bites, disease, suicides etc.
- History:**
7. **French Indochina** – officially formed 17-October 1887 (except Laos – added 1893). French began initial colonization of the area in the 1840's.
 8. **French defeated at Dien Bien Phu** after 6-week siege, 7-May 1954. (2 U.S. pilots flying for 'Civil Air Transport' (CAT) died in plane crash from anti-aircraft fire while ferrying in supplies to French during the siege). Not on The Wall – Civilian. French did not fully leave Vietnam until 1957.
 9. **The 1st 128 U.S. Advisors in 'French Indochina' (MAAG/I) arrived 17-Sep 1950 in support of the French** – training on U.S. equipment only – no active role in combat. Truman administration. U.S. elects to support France in our fight against Communism (domino theory – China fell to Communism in 1949, South Korea attacked 1950).
 10. **The 1st 'official' confirmed death – Richard B. Fitzgibbon Jr.: 8-Jun 1956** (added 1999 – Panel 52E, Line 21) (Fitzgibbon was murdered by a fellow USAF SSgt – who died in Vietnam, but name is not on The Wall). Fitzgibbon's son, Richard, also died in Vietnam 7-Sep 1965 - LCPL Marines (in 'correct' chronological order on 2E, Line 77)
 11. **2nd true chronological death - added – Harry Cramer, died 21-Oct 1957 (1E, 78).** 3rd chronological death - 2015 addition Stanley Staszak died 4-April 1959 (19E, 7). So, 3 names precede Buis/Ovnand on 1E, 1 by date – all added after the Wall was dedicated. 3rd actual physical name on Memorial– Maurice Flournoy (1E, 1) – died 21-Feb 1960. 7-month gap between Buis/Ovnand and Flournoy. Panel 1E is approximately 6 years, Panel 2E approximately 5 months and Panel 3E approximately 5 weeks.
 12. 12-Feb 1955 / **1st advisors assume 'de facto' responsibility for training** – pre MAAG/V. **MAAG/V: 1-Nov 1955 (earliest official date of eligibility for The Wall)**
 13. **Geneva Peace Accords (never signed)** 20-Jul 1954 finalized division of 'French Indochina' into Cambodia, Laos, North Vietnam, and South Vietnam. North/South Vietnam division was supposed to be only 'temporary' until July 1956 elections – which never occurred. U.S. feared Communists under Ho Chi Minh would win election.
 14. **Gulf of Tonkin; 2 and 4-Aug 1964.** USS Maddox attacked on 2-August by North Vietnamese gun boats. Maddox and USS Turner Joy allegedly attacked without provocation on 4-Aug 1964. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara, in 2004 documentary 'The Fog of War' says 'It never happened' (4 -Aug attack). President Johnson's 'Gulf of Tonkin Resolution' (7-Aug 1964 it passed, 10-Aug signed) permits him virtually unrestricted authority to wage war on North Vietnam. Senate vote 88-2; (Wayne Morse & Ernest Gruening oppose); House vote 416-0 in favor of the resolution. (This was not an official declaration of war)
 15. **Mayaguez Rescue:** 13-15 May 1975. 23 USAF killed on 13-May en route to staging area from Thailand base. The 18 last names on the Wall were killed in battle on 15-May 1975 on/near Koh Tang – Cambodia. 41 of the last 42 names are Mayaguez- related deaths (23+18). The crew of the Mayaguez totaled 40 – all rescued.
 16. **Peak U.S. Troop strength (in country) 30-Apr 1969 543,482** The **last ground patrol** 5-Aug 1972, by Delta Company, 3rd Bn., 21st Infantry
 17. **Last Combat Unit out** 23-Aug 1972: 3rd Bn., 21st Infantry.
 18. 16-Mar 1968/ **My Lai** 2-Sep 1969 **Ho Chi Minh dies** **Battle for Hue/31-Jan thru 26-Feb 1968 (142 Marines killed, 75 Army)**
 19. **30-Jan 1970/ Cambodia invasion** – this led to: 4-May 1970 **Kent State** ('4 Dead in Ohio' sang Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young) + 2 killed at **Jackson State**, 14-May
 20. **1-Jan 1972 / down to 133,000 total troop in country; 27-Jan 1973 Paris Peace Accords** 10-20 May 1969/**Hamburger Hill** / A Shau Valley / 101st Airborne/70 KIA
 21. **A. Peter Dewey:** 26-Sep 1945 (honored at 2003 'In Memory' Ceremony' as 1st U.S. Military KIA) (Not on the Wall - pre-1-Nov 1955).
 22. **'The 10,000-day war' – from 26-Sep 1945 – 15-May 1975 (10,848 actual) (Peter Dewey - Mayaguez).** **Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal** – 1-Jul 1958 – 3-Jul 1965
 23. **Vietnam Service Medal** – 3-Jul 1965 – 28-Mar 1973 ('Expeditionary Medal' recipients could trade for Vietnam Service Medal – but can't have both)
 24. 29-Jul 1967 – **USS Forrestal** – 134 killed. Panel 24E (the late Senator John McCain was a Naval aviator on the Forrestal – he was slightly injured)
 25. **1st regular U.S. military ground troops into Vietnam:** 2 battalions of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), 8-Mar 1965 – Da Nang
 26. **627 civilian women served with the American Red Cross: 'Supplemental Recreation Activities Overseas' (SRAO) program from 1965-1972.** (aka **'Donut Dollies'**) logged over 17,000 miles monthly by helicopter during year-long tours to play diversionary games, visit hospitals, and staff rec centers as respite for troops. 4 died in Vietnam.
 27. **Panel 3E – Ia Drang Valley Campaign** – 1st major engagement between U.S. and North Vietnamese forces. 2 major battles fought 14-18, Nov 1965. 234 1st Cav killed over the 4 days. 306 died during overall campaign. 'We Were Soldiers Once, and Young' – movie and book. Reporter Joe Galloway, a civilian, later awarded the Bronze Star with 'V' device for heroism at Ia Drang. 3 civilian reporters were also awarded the Bronze Star by the Marines for heroism during the battle of Hue.
 28. Michael Shea and William Nystul - Marines (Helicopter crashed in South China Sea) and Charles McMahon and Darwin Judge – Marines killed during rocket attack on Tan Son Nhut airport outside Saigon. All 4 died **29-Apr 1975 - The last 4 'Vietnam' deaths on The Wall (1W, Line 124)**
 29. **5 men killed/missing 27-Jan 1973 (day of Paris Peace Accords).** Harley Hall, George Morris, William Nolde, Mark Peterson, John Rucker (1W – lines 112/113)
 30. **The Draft/Lottery** – First Draft Lottery (by birth date drawing) on 1-December 1969 (took up to #195). Before that, a local Draft Board would select. Last lottery for Vietnam on 2-February 1972 for men born in 1953. None called up. 1971 lottery took up to #95. 1.7 million drafted overall during the war years (not all went to Vietnam).
 31. **Air Campaigns:** Operation **'Rolling Thunder** (N. Vietnam targets): 1965-68. Operation **'Linebacker** (N. Vietnam targets) Spring – Fall of 1972
Operation **'Ranch Hand** (Defoliants): 1962-71 (19 million total gallons of herbicides, includes 11 million of 'Agent Orange'). Operation **'Linebacker II'**: December 1972
Operation **'Arc Light** (B-52 raids, primarily S. Vietnam targets) 1965 – 1973
 32. **About 1.5 - 2.0 million Vietnamese died during 'the American War'** Estimated 800,000 - 1,100,000 North Vietnamese troops (including Viet Cong); 300,000 + South Vietnamese troops; and up to 400,000 civilians (North and South). (these estimates vary wildly based on source)
 33. **Over 153,000 U.S. soldiers** were wounded in Southeast Asia from 1955 – 1975 (requiring hospital care) Approx. 350,000 Purple Hearts awarded in Vietnam.
 34. Roughly another **150,000 listed as 'wounded', but not requiring hospital care.** Approximately 23,000 wounded considered **100% disabled.**
 35. **3.4 million U.S. servicemen and women served** in Southeast Asia from 1955 – 1975 (VA number). This includes slightly over 500,000 Navy – mostly South China Sea.
 36. 9.1 million men and women in U.S. Military service in total from 4-Aug 1964 (Gulf of Tonkin attack) to 1-April 1973 – last POW's released.
 37. Numbers vary on **total U.S. Military women who served in Vietnam.** 8,500 is Diane Carlson Evans' number. NPS says about 10,000. About 85% nurses.
 38. **Vietnam War Unknown Soldier: Michael Blassie, 1 W, Line 23.** Exhumed 14-May 1998, identity confirmed. Reburied in St. Louis 11-Jul 1998
 39. The **youngest killed** - Dan Bullock (23W, Line 96), on 7-Jun 1969 at age 15 - USMC. Next day - Sharon Lane, only U.S. military woman killed by enemy fire.
 40. **Oldest to die in Vietnam:** Kenna Taylor, 7W, Line 82 (62 years old).
 41. **Average Declared Dead/MIA per Day in 1968: 45** **Average per day 1959 – 1975: 10.** **Average per day during 7 worst years (65-71): 22**
 42. **Average declared dead/MIA's per day in WWII: 290** (19,000 dead/missing at Battle of the Bulge, over 12,000 at Okinawa, over 6,500 at Iwo Jima)
 43. **The Women:** Sharon Lane 23W 112; Eleanor Alexander 31E 8; Hedwig Orlowski 31E 15; Pamela Donovan 53W 43; Annie Ruth Graham 48W 12; Mary Klinker 1W 122; Carol Drazba 5E 46; Elizabeth Jones 5E 47 Deaths vs. Served: 1.7% (58,281/3,400,000). The 3.4 million (VA number) includes Navy. Est. 2.9 million in country.
 44. Carol Drazba and Elizabeth Jones, the first 2 women, died together on 18- Feb 1966 in helicopter crash.
 45. **Mary Klinker** died in C-5A plane crash 4-Apr 1975 during Operation 'Babylift' – orphan evacuation from Saigon. 155 on plane were killed.
 46. **Worst Day: 31-Jan 1968 / 246 'Declared Dead/Status Unknown' (35E L84 – 36E L44); Worst Week: 5-11 May 1968 / 616 'Dead/Status Unknown'**
 47. **Declared Dead/MIA / by Branch:** (approximately): **38,261 Army; 2,570 USN; 2,580 USAF; 14,862 USMC; 8 USCG**
 48. **Declared Dead/MIA / by Year (worst 7) (approximately): 1968: 16,601/ 1969: 11,622/ 1967: 11,162/ 1966: 6,150/ 1970: 6,080 /1971: 2,360/ 1965:1,860**
 49. **Declared Dead/MIA / Officers/Enlisted:** (approximately) 7,900 Officers; 50,381 Enlisted
 50. **Declared Dead/MIA / by Enlistment:** (approximately) **35,000 Enlisted, 5,800 Reserves, 100 National Guard, 17,700 were Drafted (30%)**
 51. **Declared Dead/MIA / by State (top 7):** (approximately) CA / **5570; NY / 4120; TX /3410; PA / 3140; OH / 3090; IL / 2930; MI / 2650**
 52. **Declared Dead/MIA / Race mix:** 81.1% Caucasian; 12.5% African American; 5.2% Hispanic; 1.2% other
 53. **Declared Dead/MIA / Officers** (non-Navy): Maj Gen/6; Brig Gen/6; Col/232; Lt Col/333; Maj/734; Captain/1883
1st Lt/2021; 2nd Lt /1788; WO/1274; 629 Navy officers including 1 Rear Admiral and 26 Captains.
 54. **Declared Dead/MIA / Last Name (9 most frequent):** 663/Smith; 525/Johnson; 402/Williams; 380/Brown; 346/Jones; 296/Davis; 281/Miller; 211/Wilson; 202/Moore

55. **POW's:** 771 total were captured. 114 died in captivity or are still listed as Status Unknown. Last prisoner released 1-April 1973.
56. **Average age of those declared dead/MIA was 22 years 9 months old.** About 30% of U.S. forces were drafted. Typical draft eligibility – the year you turned 19.
57. **Declared Dead/MIA / African American** represented 12.5% of total; while African Americans in total U.S. population of draft-age was 13.5% (1964-1973)
58. **State with highest percentage 'declared dead/status unknown':** West Virginia, with 84.1 of every 100,000 males. National average 58.9 per 100,000.
59. **Longest held POW (from any American war in history)– Capt. Floyd 'Jim' Thompson, U.S. Army 'Green Beret' from 26-Mar 1964 thru 28-Mar 1973. 9 years, 2 days.** Died 16-Jul 2002 in Key West, Fl. Navy pilot Everett Alvarez was NOT the longest held POW (5-Aug 1964 to 12-Feb 1973) 8.5 years.
60. **262 Medal of Honor recipients from Vietnam -159 of them on The Wall, 103 survived the incident. 160 Medal of Honor recipients on The Wall.** (1 from WWII)
- Michael Blassie – interred in the 'Tomb of the Unknowns' was awarded the MoH – but it was rescinded when remains were identified (Blassie not in 262)
61. 57 men on The Wall are listed as **'Canadians'** in the directory. The Canadian Vietnam Veterans Memorial (called The North Wall) in Windsor, Ontario, lists 103.
- The Memorial – The Wall, 3 Servicemen, Women's Memorial, In Memory www.vvmf.org (official web site) VVMF App is 'VVMF Mobile Tour'**
62. Font: Digitized version of Optima. Lettering is .53 inches high. There are no circles around any '+' symbols as no 'status unknown' has ever been found alive.
63. Dots on even numbered panels denote every 10th line from the top. 13 dots on tallest panels. These were added to the Wall after dedication.
64. **137 Lines** on the tallest panels. Approximately 700 names on tallest panels. (137 x 5 = 685) **Add 5 lines on Panel 1E** due to engraving at the top of panel.
65. **Panel 1E** covers period from 8-Jul 1959 thru 6-June 1965; Panel **1W** covers 15-Apr 1972 thru 15-May 1975 Angle of walls: 125 degrees, 12 minutes
66. **9 years covered on 1E and 1 W. Other 7 years – 138 panels. 1968 alone requires 72 of 140 panels** – from 33 to 70 east and 70 to 35 west.
67. **Panel 70E ends with Jesse Alba**, alphabetically the first casualty on 25-May 1968. **Panel 70 W begins with John Anderson, 25-May 1968**
68. **'3 Servicemen'** statue sculpted by Frederick Hart, local DC artist – deceased (13-August 1999). Dedicated Veterans Day 1984. Weapons – M-60, .45, and M-16.
69. **Spare black granite panels** are stored at Quantico Marine Corps base in Virginia. They are blank. **Wall temperature recorded at 1430 hrs. on 25-Aug 2007: 150 degrees**
70. **Granite is from Bangalore, India.** – and was used because of its deep color and consistency – and width of vein in the mine. 5 ft. panel weighs approximately 900 pounds
71. **The Wall represents a 'cut' or 'gash' in the earth,** as **21-year old Maya Lin** envisioned the field being peeled back to reveal the open wound that was Vietnam and our loss. **Black** represents earth, **granite** a permanent separation of the living and the dead, **polished granite** reflects the images of the living in the lives of those who died for our freedom. The names would tell the story of a 'journey' – and that vets could come back to their own place in the 'journey'. The 'first' and the 'last' meet at the apex of the memorial – closure. Approximately \$9 million in private contributions was raised for the memorial. **Maya Lin will be 62 years old on 5-October 2021.**
72. The **grassy areas** in front of The Wall and on the top of the memorial are supposed to represent 'healing'...as grass would grow right up to The Wall. (Sidewalk added, but at opening ceremonies there was grass between Wall and sidewalk. Maya Lin noted that the pain of loss heals over time (the grass), but never truly goes away (The Wall itself). The panels read like pages in a book – left column justified on the east panels, right column justified on the western panels – artistically like an open book. The names, as they write the history of the war – day by day, become the monument itself. The names are alphabetical by last name on days with more than 1 casualty.
73. **Maya was a Yale undergraduate majoring in architecture.** She received a B in her class on funerary architecture. 1,421 entries in total were submitted in the **1980-81 contest** and the winner selected by a panel of 8 internationally recognized landscape architects (3), sculptors (3), and architects (2). No Vietnam vets on the panel of judges. Maya was born in **Athens, Ohio.** Her parents (both university professors) had fled China – and became professors at Ohio University in Athens, OH.
74. **Vietnam Women's Memorial** – Dedicated 11-Nov 1993. Sculpture by Glenna Goodacre of Santa Fe, NM. Goodacre also designed U.S. Silver dollar issued in 2000 with image of Sacajawea – Native American who aided Lewis & Clark and statue of Ronald Reagan at Reagan library in CA. Goodacre died 13-April 2020.
75. **The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center** project has been cancelled due to insufficient funding to start the construction.
76. **59 U.S. Civilian women** died in Vietnam – 37 of them in plane crash with Mary Klinker. No civilians 'officially' listed on the Wall – but 1 listed by mistake.
77. Goodacre left open to interpretation the meaning of the 3 uniformed women at the **Women's Memorial** There are 8 trees planted around memorial in honor of the 8 military women who died. Goodacre said that in her mind the soldier does NOT die.
78. 'The Wall of Faces' campaign by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has collected photographs of all but less than 100 of those listed on the memorial.
79. **'In Memory' plaque** dedicated 10-Nov 2004. Authorized by Congress April 2000. Over 5,100 remembered on the 'In Memory' honor roll, including 361 in 2021.
80. **'The Wall That Heals'** – mobile three-quarter size replica of the actual Wall – has visited over 600 communities since 1996. 375 feet x 7.5 feet tall at highest point.
81. **All the names on The Wall** were read aloud in chronological order during dedication, on 10th (1992), 20th (2002), 25th (2007), 30th (2012) and 35th (2017) anniversaries
82. **The Wall is 246 feet, 9 inches long in both east and west directions.** 10 feet, 6 inches tall at apex. There are 148 panels...140 numbered, 4 blanks at each end.
83. **Name additions, spelling corrections, and '+' to 'Declared Dead' status** – generally done in May of each year.
84. **Good example of a name addition for visitors is Billy Smith on 1E, line 42.** He was seriously wounded 8-Nov 1963 and died 7-Oct 1995. He was added prior to Memorial Day 1999 – and was placed as close to those men he served with in 1963 as possible. Note lighter color/less weathering.
85. **Memorabilia** left at The Wall is stored in a climate-controlled warehouse in Landover, Maryland, managed by Park Service. Flowers and perishable food are not kept. Over 400,000 items are cataloged. Some items are on display at 'The Price of Freedom' in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.
86. **www.sdit.org (Sons and Daughters in Touch)** – organization for children of men who are listed on The Wall. (Org is not limited to Vietnam)
87. The **flag base** contains the emblems of all 5 branches of service including Coast Guard. The flag base at WWII memorial has 6 – including Merchant Marines.
88. 2003 law requires the **POW flag** to fly at all national military memorials – including Korea, WWII, and Vietnam and national military cemeteries.
89. The names of **Maya Lin, Jan Scruggs, 1982 members of the VVMF board, advisors, and architect Cooper-Lecky** are engraved on the top, back side of the memorial.
90. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund founded 27-April 1979 by a group of Vietnam Veterans led by Jan Scruggs.

Other Wars

91. 472 **Medal of Honor** recipients from WWII (16 million served) 145 **Medal of Honor** recipients from Korea (1.5 million served). 262 Vietnam.
92. **Korea:** 25-Jun 1950 – 27-Jul 1953 (note that the Korean War Memorial shows over 54,000 U.S. lost in Korea. This is not correct. Over 54,000 were lost in 'Korean War' era – over 17,000 died elsewhere in the world 1950-1953). Pentagon admitted error in 2000 (Washington Post carried the article).
93. **The 3 worst years of Vietnam** (67-69) were deadlier than the 37 months of Korea. 39,000+ died/missing in southeast Asia in 67-69 vs. 36,500+ in Korea
94. War Totals: U.S. Military deaths and wounded (**these are DoD figures**)

War	Total Deaths	Battle Deaths/MIA	Other Deaths	Wounded, not mortal
Revolutionary	4,435	4,435	unknown	6,188
War of 1812	2,260	2,260	unknown	4,505
Mexican War	13,283	1,733	11,550	4,152
Civil War (union)	364,511	140,414	224,097	281,881
Confederate	250,000 est.	unknown	unknown	unknown
Spanish-American	2,446	385	2,061	1,662
W W I	116,516	53,402	63,114	204,002
W W II	405,399	291,557	113,842	671,846
Korea	36,574	33,741	2,833	103,284
Vietnam	58,281	Approx.: 47,570	Approx.: 10,711	153,000 + approx. 150,000 wounded/not hospitalized
Gulf War I	382	147	235	467
Iraq/Afghanistan:	7,036 U.S. Military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan (all operations) as of May 2021. No civilians included in count			

95. **Total in-theatre military deaths in U.S. history (approx.) 1,260,000** (Roughly 1/2 of them in the Civil War)
96. **Gettysburg note:** Visitors often say that guides at Gettysburg tell them that the 51,000 'casualties' during the 3 days of battle at Gettysburg (1-3, July 1863) were nearly as bad as Vietnam. Unfortunately, the guides don't say that the 51,000 number includes killed, **wounded, MIA, and deserters**. It is estimated that 12-15,000 **died** during the 3 days or later because of wounds suffered – a horrific number, but not 58,281.
97. **Antietam** (17-Sep 1862) was **worst day** in U.S. military history with 22,720 total 'casualties' 3,650 killed; 19,070 MIA/wounded. That is total Confederate **and** Union.

General Information

98. **Park Police: 202-610-7500 (emergency) Park Police (non-emergency) 202-610-7505 Park Service (Survey Lodge): 202-426-6841**
99. **Korean Memorial Dedicated: 7/1995 WWII:5/2004 Lincoln: 5/1922 Jefferson: 4/1943 FDR: 5/1997 Washington 2/1885 MLK: 10/2011**