

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> '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. **2<sup>nd</sup> true chronological death - added – Harry Cramer, died 21-Oct 1957 (1E, 78).** 3<sup>rd</sup> chronological death - 2015 addition Stanley Staszak died 4-April 1959 (19E, 7). So, 3 names precede Buis/Ovnan and 1E, 1 by date – all added after the Wall was dedicated. 3<sup>rd</sup> actual physical name on Memorial– Maurice Flournoy (1E, 1) – died 21-Feb 1960. 7-month gap between Buis/Ovnan and Flournoy. Panel 1E is approximately 6 years, Panel 2E approximately 5 months and Panel 3E approximately 5 weeks.
  12. 12-Feb 1955 / **1<sup>st</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry
  17. **Last Combat Unit out** 23-Aug 1972: 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 21<sup>st</sup> 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-Apr 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 / 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne/70 KIA
  21. **A. Peter Dewey:** 26-Sep 1945 (honored at 2003 'In Memory' Ceremony) as 1<sup>st</sup> 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. **1<sup>st</sup> 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 – **la Drang Valley Campaign** – 1<sup>st</sup> major engagement between U.S. and North Vietnamese forces. 2 major battles fought 14-18, Nov 1965. 234 1<sup>st</sup> 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 la 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; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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