



A learning experience

A Vietnam War education center will be built underground across from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It will include thousands of items visitors have left at the Wall.



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND GETS \$10M FOR EDUCATION CENTER

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has received a \$10 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to build an education center at the Wall. The Lilly grant is the largest single cash donation in the Memorial Fund's history.

The education center will be a 25,000-square-foot building housing interactive and multimedia exhibits. The exhibits will focus on the significance of the Vietnam era, first-person accounts of the war and consequences still being felt today.

The displays include a Wall of Faces—58,315 photos of the dead or missing listed on the memorial—and a collection of 6,000 of the 400,000 items left at the Wall by visitors. Also featured will be a hall honoring countries that supported the U.S. war effort in Vietnam.

"This grant from Lilly Endowment is a big step forward in ensuring that the legacies of our Vietnam veterans will be preserved for future generations," said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of the Memorial Fund, in a press release.

The education center will be constructed across the street from the Wall, largely underground to preserve the harmony of the National Mall. The site and building plans have been approved, and the Memorial Fund is raising \$130 million to pay for the project. The Lilly grant brings the total raised to \$42.5 million.

The Memorial Fund is the nonprofit organization that built the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982. To learn more about the campaign, visit www.vietnamera.org.