

Gulf Strike Team, Honoring Those Who Sacrificed All

*Story by Chief Petty Officer Brian Richardson
Gulf Strike Team
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Giving back was the focus of Gulf Strike Team members who volunteered to help welcome and set up the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall during its five day stop in Mobile, Ala., for the Marine Corps League 89th National Convention. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is a 3/5-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., it stands six feet tall at the center and covers almost 300 feet from end to end with the names of 58,272 casualties engraved on it. The traveling memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. It was made for the purpose of helping heal and rekindle friendships and to allow people the opportunity to visit loved ones in their home town who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington.

On Aug. 8, 2012, the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall came roaring into the Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center, escorted by more than 50 motorcyclists from the Mobile area including riders from the Gulf Strike Team.

The next morning, 11 members of the Gulf Strike Team along with volunteers from Aviation Training Center Mobile, Sector Mobile and U.S. Coast Guard Recruiting Office Mobile had the honor of assembling the wall.



Over the next four hours, the volunteers worked shoulder to shoulder, assembling the tribute to the tens of thousands of men and women who died for their country, carefully placing the 40 individual pieces into the mounting channel on the deck and securing the anchoring brackets. The wall was then polished and a fresh layer of mulch and flowers were placed at the base to complete the memorial landscape. The final touch was the placement of several Prisoner of War and American Flags around the memorial.

Officer for the Gulf Strike Team. “It was a privilege to give back to the service members and their families who sacrificed so much for this country and our freedom,”

“It was such an honor to be part of this event,” said Chief Warrant Officer Chris Hinsch, the Engineering