

GREATER CLEVELAND VETERANS MEMORIAL, INC.

**Eaton Center, Suite 1350
1111 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2500
(216) 623-0900 - Fax (216) 623-0935**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 23, 2003

POINTS OF CONTACT:

- Patrick McLaughlin, 216-623-0900
- Bob Camburn, 440-734-3227
- Jim Quisenberry, 216-521-5604

The Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial, Inc. (“GCVM”), formerly the Greater Cleveland Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Inc., announced today that its “**living memorial**” website honoring Greater Cleveland’s casualties of war is being launched on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2003. The GCVM site can be reached at “**www.ClevelandVetsMemorial.org**”.

This “**living memorial**” invites family, loved ones, friends, comrades-at-arms, acquaintances, and strangers to enter and learn about those who served and died for their country.

“This ‘**living memorial**’ honors those men and women from Cuyahoga county who died in war-time service to this country beginning with the Spanish-American War, and including World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam

War, Persian Gulf War I, and Persian Gulf War II,” according to Patrick M. McLaughlin, GCVM President. McLaughlin said the launching of the website completes a portion of the veterans’ mission started in 1988 originally to honor those Greater Clevelanders who served, died, or were declared missing in Vietnam. “The scope of the GCVM mission evolved into one to create and maintain appropriate memorials to those Greater Clevelanders who died or were declared missing in service to our nation in the wars that have taken place in the twentieth century. That mission, once again, has expanded to include the casualties of Gulf War II (Iraq, 2003)”, said McLaughlin, who served as a combat infantryman in Vietnam.

The “**living memorial**” contains names of 5,511 casualties of war spanning the 104 years from 1899 to 2003. The casualty count, by war, is as follows:

1) Spanish-American	<u>1</u>
2) World War I	<u>807</u>
3) World War II	<u>3,954</u>
4) Korean War	<u>329</u>
5) Vietnam War.....	<u>417</u>
6) Gulf War I	<u>1</u>
7) Gulf War II	<u>2</u>

According to Bob Camburn, a Navy veteran of Vietnam, “the effort to provide biographical information for each of the casualties of war is ongoing. We

ask the greater Cleveland community and others to assist the GCVM Honor Roll Committee by sending in factual information and photographs to help us honor these fallen heroes.” Camburn noted that two (2) non-military casualties from the Vietnam era are also recognized on the “**living memorial**” website.

Enter the website at “www.ClevelandVetsMemorial.org” and follow the instructions for sending biographical information and photographs to the GCVM.

McLaughlin announced that the GCVM, comprised exclusively of volunteers, expects to also complete this year the second phase of its original mission: to add additional names to the Center Fountain of the Veterans Memorial Plaza, which surrounds Marshall Fredericks’ sculpture, “The Fountain of Eternal Life”, in downtown Cleveland.

This second phase of the GCVM’s mission is spearheaded by an Army combat veteran of Vietnam, Jim Quisenberry. According to Quisenberry, “There are currently 4,177 names of WWII and Korean War casualties on the Center Fountain Memorial. The GCVM will add the names of the remaining casualties from the wars of the twentieth century, and Gulf War II, including additional casualties of WWII and Korea not now on the Center Fountain.”

McLaughlin applauded the more than a decade long effort by GCVM volunteers to make this “**living memorial**” a reality. Special recognition and thanks is made on the website to the GCVM officers, trustees, and volunteers as

well as those who provided financial and in-kind contributions to the GCVM over the years. Current GCVM officers are (in alphabetical order):

Dell Beekman, Jr.
Harriet M. Beekman
Robert A. Camburn
Richard W. Danielson
Sean S. Ennis
Karl J. Koch
Patrick M. McLaughlin
Joseph P. Meissner
Richard Oehlstrom
James D. Quisenberry

The website will be maintained by the GCVM, under the supervision of Bob Camburn, who McLaughlin singled out as “a tireless volunteer, a patriot, without whose efforts over the years this day would not be possible.”

The website was designed by Interotech, of Bay Village, Ohio, which will continue to host the site for the GCVM.

For further information, contact any of the following:

- 1) Patrick McLaughlin, GCVM President, (216) 623-0900;
- 2) Bob Camburn, Chairman, GCVM Honor Roll Project, (440) 734-3227; or
- 3) Jim Quisenberry, Chairman, GCVM Center Fountain Memorial Project, (216) 521-5604.

**(if you receive a voice mail please leave a message
and your call will be returned)**

End of Release