

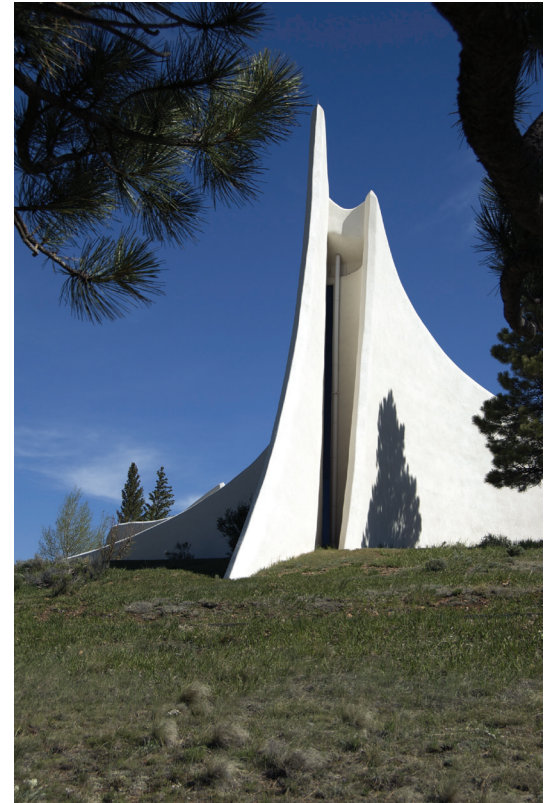
## DAVID WESTPHALL VETERANS FOUNDATION

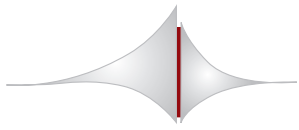
### Honoring America's Veterans

Driving up to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park in Angel Fire, New Mexico, you are surrounded by beauty. The embracing mountains and bright blue sky create a sense of peace and tranquility. Entering the Memorial, the first sight you lay eyes on is an authentic Huey helicopter which saw action in Vietnam during the war. The walkway that winds among the sculptures and tributes in the memorial gardens is lined with engraved bricks, each dedicated to a living or fallen veteran. Farther down the path, overlooking the valley and surrounded by an amphitheater, the Chapel – with its unique design suggesting wings on the hillside – invites you to sit quietly, breathe and be. Inside the Chapel, gifts, letters and poems are left behind for loved ones. The POW/MIA flag waves in the wind over the Visitors Center, which houses museum exhibits, memorabilia, and a library. For over 40 years, the Memorial has served not only as a place for reunion, reflection, healing and sharing of experiences, but also as a place of education.

The mission of the David Westphall Veterans Foundation is to support the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park, and to honor America's veterans and members of its military forces by memorializing the sacrifices they have made and by recognizing the sense of duty and the courage they have displayed as they answered their country's call to arms. The Foundation strives to educate present and future generations about the dangers to which free societies are exposed, the responsibilities inherent in citizenship and the human cost of freedom.

The Foundation strives to be progressive and dynamic as it honors past, current, and future generations of military service members. A central guiding principle of the Foundation will always be that military service is to be honored and respected, because until humanity achieves peace, the preservation of freedom will depend largely upon the convictions, the courage and the heroism of members of the United States military services.





## DAVID WESTPHALL VETERANS FOUNDATION

### The First Memorial Created to Honor Veterans of the Vietnam War

On May 22, 1968, sixteen men lost their lives in a battle near Con Thien, South Vietnam. Among them was U.S. Marine Corps First Lieutenant Victor David Westphall III. Following his death, his parents, Jeanne and Dr. Victor Westphall, began construction of the Vietnam Veterans Peace and Brotherhood Chapel to honor the memory of their son David and the men who died with him. This was during the height of the conflict, when widespread opposition to the Vietnam War made undertaking such a task a less-than-popular cause – but it was also a time when honoring Vietnam veterans was most vitally needed. So Jeanne and Victor “Doc” Westphall reached out to the families that had lost their loved ones, and welcomed home the “maimed in body and spirit.” In Doc’s words, “We who must will do what we can to encourage humankind to preserve rather than to destroy.”

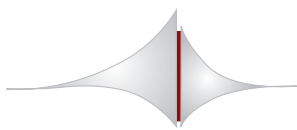
The Chapel was dedicated on May 22, 1971, the 3rd anniversary of the death of First Lieutenant David Westphall. It was the first major memorial created to honor veterans of the Vietnam War, and in its power, effectiveness, and nobility it is comparable to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. (“The Wall”), which it helped inspire. The Westphalls dedicated their lives to honoring their son and the more than 58,000 Americans who died in Vietnam, and thanks to their vision, perseverance and determination, the Memorial exists today to honor not only the Marines who died at Con Thien, but all members of America’s armed forces.

Over the years, the Memorial has expanded beyond the Chapel. In 1985, ground was broken for the Visitors Center, which includes a museum, library, and various collections. Later, the New Mexico State Parks built the amphitheater and updated the Visitors Center.

In 1988, Jeanne and Doc Westphall founded the David Westphall Veterans Foundation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to help find permanent sources of funding to support the Memorial. In 2004, the Foundation approached the state of New Mexico and Governor Bill Richardson, who saw the value in helping preserve this unique Memorial. On Veterans Day 2005, the site became the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park – the only state park in the U.S. dedicated solely as a Vietnam veterans memorial. Thanks to the partnership between the Foundation and State Parks, renovations and improvements were made to the Memorial, including increased staffing and educational programs.







## DAVID WESTPHALL VETERANS FOUNDATION

### A Unique Place for Healing and Education

***“You have provided many of us with an example of devotion and love on a scale that turns tragedy into triumph.”***

—Jan Marin, Visitor to the Memorial

Every year, the Park hosts 70,000 - 80,000 visitors, who are moved and inspired by the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans. This historic facility is the only New Mexico State Park where admission is free, and the Chapel is open 24 hours a day. Over the past four decades, the Memorial has welcomed more than two and half million visitors and has gained an international reputation as a must-visit site for veterans and their families, military history experts and others.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park provides veterans, and those who honor them, a refuge in which to reflect and heal. A representative from the Department of Veterans Services is present to offer assistance to veterans who need it, and park staff conduct a regular program of tours, educational programs, and ceremonies. The 8,000 square foot Visitors Center and museum houses exhibits, videos and memorabilia. It features photographs and banners from some of the 210 units that served in Vietnam. Angel Fire’s distinctly spiritual physical setting invites quiet contemplation of the stories presented in the Memorial’s museum. There is also a media room where visitors can view the Emmy Award-winning documentary film *Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam*.





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Outside, the Memorial maintains a Huey helicopter known originally as “Viking Surprise,” one of the first smoke ships used in Vietnam, donated to the Memorial by the New Mexico National Guard. A statue entitled “Dear Mom and Dad,” by artist Doug Scott of Taos, New Mexico, depicts a soldier, rifle on his shoulder, writing a letter home. There is also a scale model of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial designed by Glenna Goodacre of Santa Fe, which was unveiled on the Washington Mall in 1993.

The Memorial is more than just a tribute to those who have lost their lives to war; it is a place for reunion, reflection, healing, and sharing of experiences. As one visitor describes it:

***“My husband and I visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park in September 2010. It was quite an experience for us. My husband served in Nam through the Marine Corps 1969-1970. He has talked minimally about his time there. He is very private about his experience. He was one of the many who shut down. However the vehicle of your memorial provided a means for him to tell me many things. I think because we were standing side by side and not facing each other helped. The helicopter, sculptures and pictures promoted fluid conversation. He was explaining things left and right. The pictures and especially the still video really helped him talk. And the black and white artwork of Don Schol really got us. I didn’t understand what I was seeing but he sure did! It was hard to look at. On the way back to Illinois I tried to talk again but he was done. But thank you for providing the means to have this one experience.”***

—Linda LeBette, Visitor to the Memorial

The human costs of war are staggering and not confined to the battlefield. Soldiers on the front lines, families back home, returning veterans – all suffered the impacts of the Vietnam War daily and many still do. The Visitors Center is used to educate Americans about Vietnam and to maintain a haven for healing and reconciliation for all.







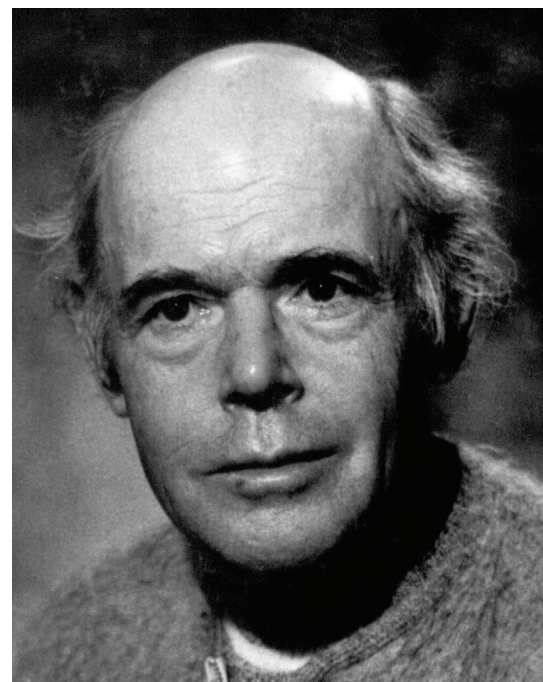
## DAVID WESTPHALL VETERANS FOUNDATION

### Preserving Not Only the Memorial, But the Legacy of David Westphall and his Family

*“John, as a Vietnam veteran, and I, as a supporter long before I married a veteran, both feel that anything we can do, whether it’s by financial means, time and or energy, that will help people heal is worth the investment. No one can guess what little thing it might be that will begin a veteran’s journey to wellness, but John knows that, for him, his healing began in 2006 with an outpouring of emotion by the people in Gallup and followed up by his first visit to Dr. Westphall’s vision, Angel Fire. Financially supporting the Westphall Foundation is one way we can “give back” to the dedicated families and others who have poured their lives into helping veterans.”*

—John and Diann McKee, Supporters of the Foundation

Jeanne and Doc Westphall have now passed away, but the Foundation is led by board president Chuck Howe (a 1967-68 Vietnam veteran) and Walter Westphall, brother of David Westphall. Walter served in the Air Force from 1964 to 1973. In addition, ten other dedicated board members from Angel Fire and around the country bring their passion to honoring our veterans. The board members (including nine veterans) collectively have extensive business experience, which includes running their own companies, consulting for private corporations and government entities, and management roles in government agencies.





## DAVID WESTPHALL VETERANS FOUNDATION

**New Mexico State Parks and the David Westphall Veterans Foundation have ambitious plans for the future. Their goal is to raise \$300,000 for special projects including:**

- Adding display cases so that more museum exhibits and artifacts can be viewed by the public, rather than remaining in storage due to a lack of space.
- Digitizing the collection of over 500 photos so that it can be shared more widely.
- Upgrading the sound system in the amphitheater to accommodate not just speaking events, but also musical performances.
- Expanding the museum's collection by acquiring the woodcut artwork of Don Schol. These woodcut prints represent Don's Vietnam experience as he led a team of combat artists to paint, sculpt, shoot pictures and – like every other soldier – try to survive.
- Increasing visibility and public awareness by creating a mobile educational trunk that would allow the Memorial to showcase itself at trade shows and conferences, as well as acquiring an educational trailer to take the Memorial's message (and a portion of its collection) on the road to state and county fairs, retirement homes, memorials and other venues.
- Assembling and preserving an oral history of the Vietnam War by obtaining recording equipment and training volunteers to collect the stories of our veterans, a task that needs to be done.



The David Westphall Veterans Foundation is a vital link to the Memorial's 40-year legacy, and continues to play a crucial and active role today. State Parks could not maintain the Memorial without the support and financial assistance of the David Westphall Veterans Foundation, a worthy cause which has become well-respected and recognized by people all around the country.

Help us protect this unique national resource and continue the legacy of honoring past, current and future generations of military service members. Your contribution will honor those who have served or fallen in war, help heal and unite those who have been most deeply affected by war, and educate all those who visit.

**For more information or to make a contribution, please see the website [vietnamveteransmemorial.org](http://vietnamveteransmemorial.org) or call the Foundation office at (575) 377 6900.**