For Immediate Release May 6, 2022

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Vietnam Memorial Traveling Exhibit Comes to National Museum of the United States Army

"Panel 44 - 8 Days in March" on display through June 17

Fort Belvoir, Va.— The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's traveling exhibit *Panel 44: 8 Days in March* will be on display at the National Museum of the United States Army through June 17, 2022, as a part of the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The centerpiece of the exhibit is the Memorial's original Panel 44, produced in 1982 but not placed in the Memorial because of a crack in the upper-right edge. It is inscribed with the names of 337 American service members who died between March 9-16, 1968. Two hundred fifteen of the inscribed names were Army Soldiers, ranging in age from 18 to 46. All those remembered by the panel represent 44 states, the District of Colombia, and Puerto Rico.

The exhibit also includes moving artifacts that were left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. These items tell powerful stories connected to the memorial, which is commonly known as "The Wall." Among them are a Soldier's baby sweater and a note from his grieving mother who was getting older and not sure how many more times she would be able to visit the memorial. Other artifacts include a care package marked "KIA" for "Killed in Action," and sent back to the sender; a brick from the "Hanoi Hilton" Prison; and a wooden limb worn by a Soldier who suffered an amputation and died young due to Agent Orange—written on the prosthetic foot is "U.S. Army Sniper. Please put my name on the Wall."

"The Vietnam Veterans Memorial reminds our nation that each service member who lost their life in Vietnam had a name and personal story," said Tammy Call, director, National Museum of the United States Army. "We are honored to display Panel 44 and remember those whose names are engraved upon it as part of our mission to tell the story of every Soldier who served our nation."

The Museum will welcome the return of the Panel 44 exhibit September 29-October 30 for a second showing to complement the Fall Symposium, "The Vietnam War in History and Memory," on October 22, 2022. More information about the symposium will be on the Museum's website at a later date.

Free timed-entry tickets for the Museum are required and can be reserved online at the Museum's website.

To request interview or onsite coverage, contact Susan Smullen at <u>susan.l.fazakerley-</u> <u>smullen.civ@army.mil</u>, 202-246-1610. The Museum is located at 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir, Va. 22060.

More information about Panel 44 can be found at https://www.vvmf.org/Panel44/.

About the National Museum of the United States Army

The National Museum of the United States Army provides the only comprehensive portrayal of Army history and traditions through the eyes of the American Soldier. By preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting invaluable artifacts, the National Army Museum creates learning opportunities for all visitors and bonds the American people to their oldest military service. We are America's Army Museum.

The U.S. Army owns and operates the Museum. The Army Historical Foundation continues its fundraising role in support of the Museum and manages all retail, catering and special events.

For more information on the National Museum of the United States Army visit www.theNMUSA.org.

About The Army Historical Foundation

The Army Historical Foundation establishes, assists, and promotes programs and projects that preserve the history of the American Soldier and promote public understanding of and appreciation for the contributions by all components of the U.S. Army and its members. The Foundation serves as the Army's official fundraising entity for the Capital Campaign for the National Museum of the United States Army. The award-winning, LEED- certified Museum opened on November 11, 2020, at Fort Belvoir, Va., and will honor the service and sacrifice of all American Soldiers who have served since the Army's inception in 1775. For more information on the Foundation and the National Museum of the United States Army, visit www.armyhistory.org.