



There's a bigger story to tell!

DORCHESTER HERITAGE CENTER, INC.

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Dorchester Heritage
Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3)
non-profit organization,
registered with the SC
Secretary of State.
Contributions are tax-
deductible to the full
extent of the law.

December 19, 2024

Sent via email only to tjames@scprt.com

Tonisha James

Grants / Account Payable Analyst

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 517

Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Final Report for 2025 Funds

The Wall That Heals – Vietnam Traveling Wall Exhibit – October 15 – 20th 2024

The Dorchester Heritage Center is a 501 3c non-profit organization for the discovery, preservation, and presentation of the local history of Dorchester County and surrounding region. The region has significant active military, and veteran population due to the presents of Joint Base Charleston, the Naval Weapons Center, Fort Jackson, Naval Nuclear Power Training Center and others. It also was a key hub for U.S. Naval ship repair during World War II and the cold war.

The Dorchester Heritage Center has a dedicated exhibit in its museum, honoring Veterans of our region in all conflicts from the Revolutionary War to present. It was determined that the Center would apply for The Wall That Heals, one of four traveling walls, and seek to be selected as one of the host organizations on its 2024 tour schedule. The Dorchester Heritage Center in presenting The Wall That Heals specifically set out to achieve the following goals:

- Present The Wall That Heals to draw military veterans and families of veterans of the Vietnam Era to remember and honor the sacrifices of those lost in the war.
- Coordinate with the local school districts and private schools to schedule guided tours to educate the students of the history of the Vietnam War and the events of this period in our national and local history.
- Seek out and identify all the casualties of the Vietnam War, in our region, and specifically invite the Gold Star Families to participate in the presentation to honor their sacrifice.
- To present The Wall That Heals to the regional American Legion Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other Veterans groups as well as the general population, and give them the opportunity to volunteer and participate in the presentation of The Wall That Heals to draw our community closer together.

Tonisha James
19 Dec. 2024

The results of the presentation were significant to the region which are listed below:

- Over 7,000 visitors including veterans and non-veterans visited the wall during its 5-day presentation.
- Over 1,500 school children from 3rd grade to high school visited the wall and were given a personal guided tour of The Wall and the Education Center presentation of the Vietnam Era.
- Over 75 Gold Star Family members were present and given the opportunity to walk and help carry their loved one's panel on the Wall during its construction.
- Over 400 volunteers, both veterans and non-veterans of Dorchester County and surrounding counties participated to attend the Wall, assist Visitors to the Wall, and help direct visitors to the exhibit and to their loved one's name over the 5-day event.

The Dorchester Heritage Center was successful in achieving the goals it sought and received significant approval and gratitude for the efforts to bring and present this exhibit to Dorchester County and the surrounding region.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William W. Blakely", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William W. Blakely

DHC Treasurer