



April 22, 2003

PRESS RELEASE:

Subject: The Moving Wall—Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The Moving Wall is almost here. Thirty thousand or more people will be descending on Druding Park in San Jacinto beginning this Saturday April 26, 2003. Over 200 volunteers from around the Valley, and some as far away as Lancaster, will be on hand to assist those coming to pay their respects to veterans who have died in action and to learn more about past conflicts.

Businesses have generously donated money, supplies, and materials to insure visitors will feel welcome and appreciated. Residents are encouraged to place yellow ribbons around their neighborhoods to show the patriotic spirit of the San Jacinto Valley.

The Opening Ceremony will begin at 10:00 am. Speakers include: Mayor Jim Ayres, Robert Salgado—Tribal Chairman, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, Mike McKelroy—1st Sgt. Marine Corps Vietnam War Dog Handler.

Other events during the Moving Wall's stay include:

Tuesday April 29th, at 7:00pm. "Salute to the Armed Services"—a candlelight ceremony with guest speakers Colonel Timothy Wrighton— USAF Commander March Air Reserve Base, William Densmore—Director of Riverside County Department of Veterans Services, Colonel Lewis Millet—Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient.

Thursday May 1st, at 12:00pm Noon. National Prayer Day hosted by local churches.

Friday May 2nd, 6:00pm. Closing Ceremonies with Guest Speakers Lori Van Arsdale—Mayor of Hemet, Senator Dennis Hollingsworth—36th California State Senate District.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Moving Wall is a half size replica of the Washington, D.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for almost twenty years. The Moving Wall has drawn the attention of millions nationwide as it has toured cities across the country. A few select cities each year are chosen to host the wall for one week— only 4 in California will host it this year and San Jacinto is the only stop in Southern California.

When a person named John Devitt, a Vietnam Veteran from California, attended the 1982 dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C, he felt a positive power from the “Wall” and vowed to share that experience with those who did not have the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. Two & half years later, Mr. Devitt with the help of fellow Veterans, created The Moving Wall.

Mayor Jim Ayres, said: “We are honored to have The Moving Wall come to our City, the only stop in Southern California this year. This national treasure, a tribute to men & women who gave their lives serving our country, will help us remember the sacrifices of our veterans and instill in future generations a debt of gratitude for those who have served before them”.

The wall will be on display in Druding Park at the corner of Second and Ramona Blvd in San Jacinto beginning April 26th at 10:00am and ending May 2nd at 6:00pm. The wall will be open to the public 24 hours a day during this time.

Groups are welcome, please contact the City in advance if possible. Large crowds are expected and special arrangements will be made to accommodate groups.

Parking is available in areas along Ramona Blvd between State Street and Santa Fe Street. Parking signs for the Moving Wall will be posted. Motorcycle parking will be available next to the Moose Lodge at the Southwest Corner of Main and San Jacinto Ave.

Shuttle service to Druding Park will be available from parking locations on Ramona Blvd on Saturday & Sunday (all day) and Friday evening.

For information contact the City of San Jacinto, Community Development Department, 248 E. Main Street, San Jacinto, CA 92583, Phone Number 909-487-7330, or visit the City’s web-site, www.ci.san-jacinto.ca.us, and look under “Events” for additional details.