

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN, a long ago slogan from a distant war

In 1994, in Venice, California, artist Peter Stewart's dream was brought to fruition. Stewart was a Vietnam veteran, who had served as an ordinance man aboard a Navy carrier on Yankee Station. Peter conceived of a mural that contained the names of every POW/MIA from the Southeast Asia conflict. The names would be listed in alphabetical order by state, including names from three Allied nations. The centerpiece would be five representative troops from America's 20th century wars. The individuals that posed for those pictures, in period uniforms, were all Desert Storm veterans. Peter and a tiny handful of Vietnam-era veterans and POW/MIA families brought the project to its completion and unveiling in 1994, on a tiny budget and with genuine love. Sadly, in 1996, shortly after the mural's completion, Peter Stewart passed away.



Until 2016, the mural served as a reminder to the community, of those who sacrificed for our country, and also as a tribute to a generation of Americans who received hardly a welcome when they returned home, and as a memorial to a smaller group that never returned home.

During the week preceding Memorial Day 2016, the community, and the nation found itself in shock, when the mural was significantly defaced by multiple taggers. In fact, it was pretty thoroughly destroyed.



The City of Los Angeles Council District 11 and Metro are committed to supporting a full restoration. In partnership with the Venice Chamber of Commerce and the original participants, we are seeking your support. Time and taggers have not been kind to the mural. It must essentially be completely revitalized. In addition, thanks to modern advancements, there will be graffiti protection and a digital overlay so that the mural, if it becomes necessary, can be moved and then viewed for generations to come. We ask for your contributions, to honor both Peter Stewart's passion and commitment to his fellow Vietnam vets who never returned. And to honor all of those across all the years, who have heard the call and answered to defend our freedom.

To donate, please go to www.venicechamber.net/powmiamural or mail to Venice Chamber of Commerce – PO Box 202, Venice, CA 90294 (TAX ID#95-6419214, 501(c)6)

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