

# ~ Memorial Day ~

Remembered with Respect:  
These Names Will Not Be Forgotten

**S**ome time ago, I had the privilege to meet Jan Scruggs, who wrote the book *To Heal a Nation*. He is better known as the man responsible for the idea and raising of funds to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

The idea for the Wall began in a coffee shop when Scruggs bumped into man wearing an Army fatigue jacket with patches. Scruggs recognized the patches and discovered they were in same camp at the same time while in Viet Nam. They started talking about this guy and that guy...who made it home and who died.

When trying to remember the name of a Sgt. who died both men just couldn't remember his name. Scruggs began to pour out tears, he could not remember the Sgt.'s name.

The Vietnam Veterans Wall was started as a memorial so that these names would not be forgotten, but remembered with respect; not shame.

Jan Scruggs' writes in *To Heal A Nation*...

To all the politicians / To all the generals/ To everyone who  
tries to understand:

We were young. We have died. Remember us.

We have done what we could...We have given our lives...

Our deaths are not ours; they are yours; they will mean  
what you make of them.

Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace and a new  
hope or for nothing we cannot say; it is you who must  
say this.

We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.

We were young...We have died. Remember us.

**Remember those who served!**