

### First-ever memorial for veterans lost to PTSD coming to Illinois



CHANNAHON, Ill. (Tribune News Service) – Channahon State Park will be home to a one-of-a-kind memorial for military veterans who have lost their battles with post-traumatic stress disorder. The Forgotten Warrior Memorial Wall will be a tribute to all veter-

ans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and have been afflicted with PTSD and sacrificed their lives beyond the limits of active duty. The memorial, expected to open in November, was funded through private donations to Chicago-based nonprofit K9s For Veteran Warriors.

K9s For Veteran Warriors CEO Michael Tellerino said it's proper to have memorials for veterans who lost their lives in battle; however, currently no memorials exist for the countless veterans who have taken their own lives while fighting another war at home – PTSD.

"How can we honor them for paying the ultimate price?" Tellerino said. "They come home with wounds you can't see. People don't understand how serious this is."

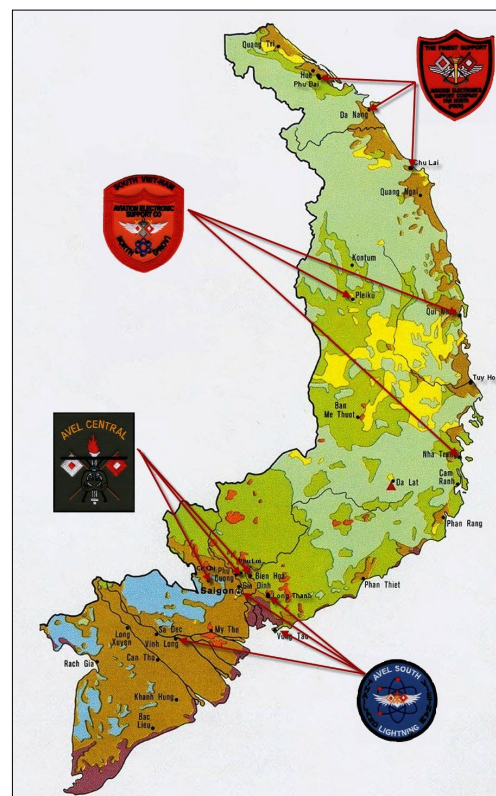
One statistic Tellerino cited suggests about 22 veterans commit suicide each day, but that's just based on veterans who have registered for benefits. He said the real number is between 28 and 32 a day.

"That's not acceptable," he said. "We wanted to acknowledge that sons, daughters, brothers and sisters have not died in vain. We hope this will give some healing to their families and raise public awareness."

The memorial, which will cost more than \$80,000, will be constructed in an existing circular turnaround area of the park and be comprised largely of granite. Tellerino initially wanted to etch the names of each veteran lost to PTSD into the memorial, but said it would be an exhaustive process to get every name from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

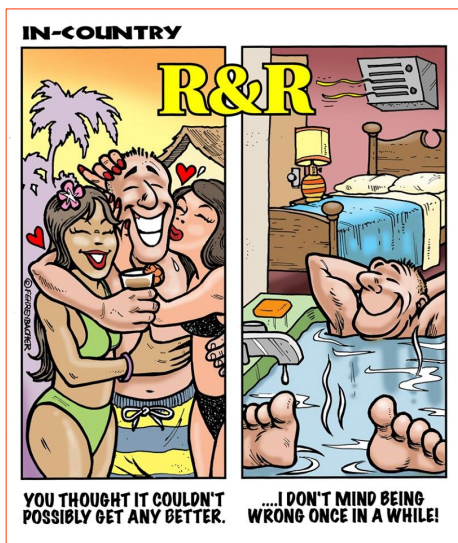
Instead, families will have individual bricks etched with their loved ones' names on a volunteer basis. He said that since announcing the memorial last week, he received a call from a woman in tears. "She was so excited about doing this," he said. "It's so long overdue for these guys."

The organization chose Channahon because it has easy access from the Chicago metropolitan area and the specific spot in the park is perfect for what the architects of the project have designed.



The nonprofit also wanted the memorial to be relatively close to Marseilles, which is home to the Middle East Conflicts Wall Memorial along the Illinois River.

Illinois State Parks and Recreation and state legislators have already signed off on the project, he said. "This one-of-a-kind memorial will provide a place for family members, other veterans, and the public to honor those service men and women whose injuries, while perhaps not physically apparent, were no less devastating," Channahon Mayor Missey Moorman Schumacher said in a news release.



## NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED

### Kammerer, Norb (SGT)

11480 Gilbert rd.  
Riley, MI 48041  
263rd Maintenance Co. (LEM), Red Beach: Dec. 1970 to Jan. 1972

[nkam48041@yahoo.com](mailto:nkam48041@yahoo.com)

MOS: 52B30

**AGENT ORANGE**

### Parr, Russell (SP/5)

4608 168th Court NE  
Redmond, WA 98052  
425-652-9178  
263rd Maint., Red Beach: Aug. 1970-Dec. 1971

[RUSS.PARR@FRONTIER.COM](mailto:RUSS.PARR@FRONTIER.COM)

MOS: 35M20

Comments: I was surprised to find a picture of myself on the page for Marble Mountain GCA. (I transferred to GCA platoon after ~10 months @ Red Beach.)

### Morkert, Dennis (SP/5)

9591 Ladyslipper Lane  
Missoula, MT 59808  
255th Sig Det, 3rd/17th Air Cav, Tan Son Nhut, Di An, Tay Ninh, Soui Da: Jul 1966 - May 1967 and Oct 1967 - Aug 1968

[DrHug@outlook.com](mailto:DrHug@outlook.com)

MOS: 35K20

**AGENT ORANGE**

70% Service Connected IHD, PTSD

### Ringle, Jim (SP/4)

5459 Algarrobo Unit P  
Laguna Woods, CA 92637  
949-342-4932  
Avel Central, Cu Chi: 1970-1971

[j.ringle@ringanizer.com](mailto:j.ringle@ringanizer.com)

MOS: 35L20

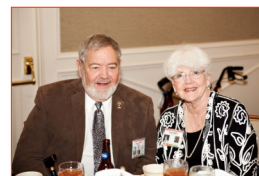
Other units you were assigned to in Vietnam: 25th Infantry Division

**AGENT ORANGE**

## TAPS

### Jane Shiley

Roger Shiley (CO Avel Central) lost his wife Jane to cancer on 6 July 2016. She was a great supporter of the Avel vets and attended many of our reunions.



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## PHOTOS

Photos of Avel Far North, Red Beach and Marble Mountain were submitted by Russ Parr and were posted in the Red Beach and Marble Mountain pages

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## AVEL REUNION, CHICAGO 2016

We have the following update on Reunion activities. We hope you can make it!

***Tuesday, 27 September:***

Early arrivals will get together for dinner at a local restaurant

***Wednesday, 28 September:***

Explore Chicago on your own

Carpool to Jack McCabe's house for hamburgers and hot dogs

***Thursday, 29 September:***

Registration in the Hospitality Room. Refreshments will be served

Ladies carpool to Rosemont Fashion Outlet Mall

Explore Chicago on your own

Carpool to Rosemont for an evening of fun. Possibilities include many great restaurants, Zanies Comedy Club, Bub City, Five Roses Pub, Hofbrauhaus, Joe's Live, Ram Brewery, Rivers Casino and Indoor Skydiving to name a few.

***Friday, 30 September:***

Busses will take us into Chicago at approximately 09:30 (*No charge*)

Wendella Signature Lake and River Tour (*No charge*)

Busses will take us back at about 14:30 (*No charge*)

You can stay in Chicago and explore. Take the train or "L" back to the hotel

Chicago Pizza night! Avel will supply Lou Malnatti's deep dish and thin crust pizza's in the Hospitality Room

***Saturday, 1 October:***

John Veers Martini Golf Outing - details to follow

Avel Banquet - details to follow

***PLEASE REGISTER ON THE WEBSITE NOW!*** We need a count of all those attending. An email will be sent out to all attendees confirming which activities you wish to attend. Go to the [www.avelvietnam](http://www.avelvietnam) website to register. The cost of the Reunion is \$70/person

***RESERVE YOUR ROOM!*** The rooms are filling up. Call the Chicago Marriott Hotel. Our room rate is \$139.00 per night. We have blocked out rooms at our discounted rate for 3 days prior to the event and 3 days after. Parking is free for those staying at the hotel. Parking is free.

To reserve your room call the hotel at **773-693-4444** and ask make your reservation. Tell them you are with the Avel Vietnam Veterans Reunion. If you run into any problems call **Amy** at **773-714-4209**.



**AVEL  
VIETNAM**



**July 2016 Newsletter**