

**Volume 16**

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**Dedication of the Vietnam War**  
**Memorial**

**Lead: In 1982, the nation dedicated the Vietnam War memorial in Washington. It became one of the ways healing over the war came to America.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: The war in Vietnam divided the United States, politically, philosophically, and socially. Yet many, indeed 58,000 warriors, paid the ultimate sacrifice in support of America's fight for the independence of South Vietnam. In the late 1970s,**

**the nation moved to recognize their sacrifice. Even as the war, the memorial was a source of controversy. Out of 1420 submissions, that of Yale student Maya Lin was selected. It was strikingly different from other memorials. A v-shaped wall of black stone with the names of the dead carved in chronological order, it lacked the heroic sculpture of other monuments. This choice aroused powerful opposition which argued that it was an inappropriate honor. The sometimes vicious and personal criticism of Lin was so intense that her name was ignored when the memorial was dedicated on November 13, 1982.**

**Seeking compromise, the**

**Memorial authorities commissioned a flag and a traditional statue of three servicemen at the entrance to the grounds. Eleven years later, not far from the Wall, the Vietnam Women's Memorial honored the 10,000 women who served in the conflict. It shows three women helping an injured soldier.**

**Despite the controversy, which each year fades in memory, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial attracts huge crowds of tourists and remains one of the most admired and heart-rending destinations in Washington. Loved ones and friends of the slain leave objects of remembrance at the Wall in touching and lasting tribute to their sacrifice, all embraced by**

**Lin's simple, gripping design.**

**In Richmond, Virginia this is Dan Roberts.**

**Resources**

**<http://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-veterans-memorial>**

**[www.achievement.org/autodoc/printmember/lin0bio-1](http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/printmember/lin0bio-1)**

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