



September 17, 2023

Hamburg Township Board of Trustees  
P O Box 157  
Hamburg, MI 48139

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is the H.E.R.O. Application for Park Use for the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall Visit to Hamburg for September 2024. H.E.R.O. was granted the honor and privilege of hosting this special tribute to our Veterans in 2010, 2014, 2019 and now again in 2024.

The Moving Wall is a ½-size replica of the memorial in Washington, D.C. It will be five years since the last visit. Everything this Wall represents – sacrifices, freedoms and honor are the reasons that inspire us to host this event again. The Wall is more than just an opportunity for visitors to pay their respects and honor those who gave their lives for our freedoms. It is also a history lesson to the generations that follow the Vietnam era. A “living history” is planned with Able Company (associated with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Alumni Association of Michigan), and the Wolfhounds (sponsored by the Grand Haven Vietnam Veterans Association). These groups will invite visitors to Take a Walk through History with the opportunity to witness the environment experienced by many servicemen during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The displays and exchanges are included to help educate those who were not involved and to bond with those who were. Perimeter patrols, scout dog patrols, inspections and chow will be witnessed. Local US Army National Guardsmen/women will also participate, representing our armed forces in the Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan.

This park use application also includes a static display of a restored Vietnam Veteran “Huey” helicopter with flights to be offered over the Wall to our guests that wish to be a part of this experience. For the past two events in 2014 and 2019, H.E.R.O. has hosted the Huey off-site on private property without incident. This part of the Moving Wall experience was far removed from the Wall location and it is our desire to bring it to Bennett Park. We could utilize the Manly Bennett Air Strip located at East Park that is used and managed by the Hamburg Flyers RC Club. The experience of the Huey can be just as heart wrenching as visiting the Wall memorial. During the Vietnam war, the vast majority of mobility was provided by these helicopters. The experience of sitting on the Huey, feeling the vibrations of flight and hearing the ‘whop, whop, whop’ sound of the blades is not simply a flight in a helicopter. It is a flight into history.

We respectfully request consideration for approval of the submitted park use application for the Moving Wall and Huey event scheduled for September 2024.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanna G Hardesty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a stylized 'G'.

Joanna G Hardesty, President  
H.E.R.O.