

Knights honor Vietnam veterans in ceremony at moving wall

By TAMI QUIGLEY
Staff writer

Heroes who lost their lives in the Vietnam War were remembered in a special way Aug. 15 as Knights of Columbus Pope Pius XII Assembly 941, Easton placed a wreath at the moving Vietnam Veterans Wall during a morning ceremony at the Moorestown Recreation Center, Bath.

The moving wall is a miniature replica of the wall in Washington, D.C. It is 493 feet long, and comprised of 142 panels. The wall was at the center Aug. 13-17.

"It is a great privilege and honor to be here today," Edward Rossner, faithful navigator, told those gathered. "There is a saying, 'All gave some, some gave all.'"

"More than 58,200 men and women, Vietnam veterans, gave their all. Their names are inscribed on this, the greatest of walls, as either being killed or missing in action. These men and women represent the very best America had to offer, her youth. Of the 58,200 almost 40,000 were 21 years old or younger. They reflect all of our great nation's different races, religions and social classes."



Members of Knights of Columbus Pope Pius XII Assembly 941, Easton stand at attention during an Aug. 15 ceremony during which knights placed a wreath at the moving Vietnam Veterans Wall at the Moorestown Recreation Center, Bath. (Photos by John Simitz)

Rossner was in the Army from August 1967 to August 1969. He was an infantryman and was in Vietnam all of 1968 and the first few weeks of 1969. He was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi north of Saigon. During Rossner's year in the field, he was awarded the Purple Heart three times. He received the Bronze Star

and left Vietnam as a Sergeant E-5.

In the United States he was assigned as an instructor at Fort Collins, Colo. He got married in September 1969 and has two children and one granddaughter.

Rossner just completed two years as grand knight of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Council 4282, Nazareth. He began his term as faithful navigator of Pope Pius XII Assembly 941 July 1.

"The Vietnam veterans represented on the Memorial Wall, and those at this gathering, chose to serve and answer the call to duty, honor and country. These were hard choices and hard decisions during the 1960s and '70s for our nation's Vietnam veterans," Rossner said.

Rossner said the Vietnam Veterans memorial wall is dedicated to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in

Southeast Asia.

"It is also dedicated to each and every Vietnam veteran here today, especially those who were wounded in action," he said.

"We often ask ourselves why all of these men and women gave their lives for the United States of America, when it became apparent the military would not be allowed to win the war. I believe the answer is, in part, that we fought and died for each other. To quote William Shakespeare, 'But we shall be remembered; we few, we happy few, we band of brothers. For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother.'"

"To the Vietnam Veterans here today and to all whose names appear on the wall, I say you are all heroes — heroes who faced the issues of this war including your own possible death, and after weighing those concerns against your obligation to your country you decided to serve with honor."

Deacon Kevin Wasielewski of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton and a member of the Knights Fourth Degree, offered the opening and closing prayer at the ceremony.

The event included the Pledge of Allegiance, placement of the wreath, firing squad salute by American Legion Post 415, the playing of Taps by a bugler from American Legion Post 415 and the singing of "America, the Beautiful" led by Andrew Serovitz.

"To the Vietnam Veterans here today and to all whose names appear on the wall, I say you are all heroes."



Faithful Navigator Edward Rossner, left, and Deacon Kevin Wasielewski welcome those gathered.



The knights gather during the morning ceremony.



Edward Rossner and Deacon Kevin Wasielewski lay the wreath at the wall.

Mary's Shelter plans 20th anniversary

Mary's Shelter, Reading will host its 20th Anniversary Banquet Thursday, Sept. 17 at Stokesay Castle, Reading.

Everyone is invited to join the shelter this year as it honors "Friends in Faith" from multiple community churches for their dedication and support of Mary's Shelter and the expectant mothers and babies in its care.

Special guest this year is Bishop of

Allentown John Barres.

Dinner, award presentation, resident testimonials and raffle will be part of this special evening.

Dinner price is \$65 per person or \$480 for a table of eight.

For more information, call Laura, 610-603-8010 or e-mail office@marysshelter.org. To learn more about Mary's Shelter, visit www.marysshelter.org.