

# Traveling memorial arrives next Saturday

## *Memorial honors fallen heroes, victims of conflicts and terror attacks*

BY JOSH JONES

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Area residents will be given a chance to remember and honor those fallen in previous conflicts when the Global War on Terror Wall of Remembrance arrives here.

The traveling memorial will be featured from Sept. 9-11 at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport as Steven England, the event's coordinator, talked about the coming memorial.

"It is going to be here at 9 o'clock Saturday [Sept.] 9. We are going to start out at the Mt. Vernon Conven-

tion and Visitors Bureau and we are going to transport that to the Mt. Vernon Airport," England said. "The Patriot Guard, the city, the county, fire departments and police departments, along with Litton [Ambulance Services], that is going to be doing that."

According to information provided, the memorial is 120 feet long by six feet high and carries the names of more than 10,570 fallen heroes and victims, from Beirut to the current day, who were killed in combat or in an act of terrorism.

A program will be held Sept. 10 at 2 p.m. at the airport featuring several speakers, including Tom Gaither of HOOAH Deer Hunt For Heroes, who will be giving the announcement.

The benediction will be done

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by Tracy Thomas of Lincoln Christian College, and the opening ceremony will be by the American Legion Honor Guard. The national anthem will be performed by Samantha Schrum and Lucy Rains, and a presentation of the wall will be by Derek Hendershott. Remarks will come from Mayor John Lewis.

Gold Star Family Roses will be given by Boy Scout Troop 102 and 103 Young Marines. Other participants include the first and only government official bagpiper for Pearl Harbor, Maj. Steve Pace and the Honor Guard from the Washington County Fire Departments.

"The main thing is the Gold Star Families. Getting them some roses and recognizing them," England said. "This is only the second time this wall has been presented in the state of Illinois, so a lot of these people haven't seen it."

The term "Gold Star" describes family members who have lost a loved one in military service.

There will be various local family and friends of some of those whose names appear on the wall, including family of Kyle Price.

According to Sentinel archives, Price, of Woodlawn, was serving in the Marine Corps when he was killed in Iraq on Jan. 13, 2006. While he made the ultimate sacrifice in service with the mili-

tary, Price found ways to give back to his community at an early age. He was a member of the Boy Scouts, the Young Marines, and the Mt. Vernon High School soccer team.

"I do know that Kyle Price's mother and father will be out there to actually take his section off and place it into the monument itself," England said. "So we do have that being done by Kyle's mom and dad."

According to England, on that Monday, Sept. 11, Mike Bullard, Buford's village president, has arranged for a few students to come and see the wall.

"Mike Bullard has got, at this point, 331 kids coming through there. I do know Waltonville, Woodlawn, Bluford — different schools are coming through that day," England said. "What we are doing is, when they come through, not only are they visiting the wall, but they are also going to go through the Jefferson County Memorial that [airport director] Chris Collins has at the airport."

Schools can still contact the Regional Superintendent of Schools office to secure a time slot at the airport.

England said they had received all the required funds for the traveling memorial, and talked about the reception they have received from the community on the event.

"Every person I have come in contact with will say, 'I have got a cousin or I have got a guy I went to school with that is on this wall.' It is going to be tremendous," England said. "Gold Star Families have a parade down in Marion on Saturday. They are going to be there and coming here on Sunday, so we are looking for a lot of the Gold Star people to come in here."

### The weekend's schedule is:

Sept. 9

- Sometime in the morning the wall arrives and will be on display until 5 p.m.

Sept. 10

- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the wall is on display;

- 2 p.m., a special program featuring a presentation of Gold Star Family Roses.

Sept. 11

- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the memorial is on display.

Sept. 12

- The memorial departs

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jjones@morningsentinel.com