



## Our Mission

The Spirit of America's Story is a volunteer, non-profit organization whose mission is to capture and preserve the spirit, the sacrifices, and rich history of the American people. We do this by honoring those men and women in uniformed service who have and are currently serving and protecting our way of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness both here and abroad. We will continue these efforts in order to educate and inspire future generations of Americans to learn and understand how important the preservation of our history and inspiration of the hearts and minds is to the American people.

## Our Pledge

We strive to recognize and honor the men and women who serve our country in uniform. We will never allow ourselves to forget that the success of our country, as our nation, depends on them. We will show our commitment by never underestimating the importance of these brave men and women who have and are currently serving; and to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of a grateful nation. We encourage and challenge ourselves to move forward and do whatever we can to help pay America's debt to honor these individuals. We strongly believe and support these objectives because there is a special nobility, a special grace, to those who support and defend our way of life for future generation of Americans.

# About Us

**Ronald L. Smith**, founder of The Spirit of America's Story, The Wall was born in Ruislip, England during his father's service in the US Air Force. He is a 13 1/2 year Marine Corps veteran with tours in the Persian Gulf and Desert Storm. He grew up in Shelby, Ohio and now lives in Sandusky, Ohio.

**Patricia A. Sexton**, co-founder, is the wife of US Army Sgt. David M. Sexton, who was killed in Vietnam on March 15th, 1971. David's remains have yet to come home to his son and wife. We still pray that he will someday come home. Patricia was born and still lives in Sandusky, Ohio.



Patricia Sexton and Ron Smith met because both, at different times, had joined Rolling Thunder as members of Chapter 5 Ohio. The chapter had a Vietnam Ohio POW/MIA traveling wall that listed the names of the men and women from Ohio. The two volunteered their time for more than ten years to travel with the wall throughout the summer months and performing programs honoring those brave men and women who served. They also participated in a few programs involving the Vietnam Traveling Wall which honors all who served: "All Gave Some, but Some Gave All."

During those years, Sexton and Smith talked with thousands of people. The one question they always received: "Why is this only about Vietnam? Why don't you mention the other wars?" With that question in mind, the two thought about a traveling wall depicting the years from 1775 to the present day War on Terrorism. That wall would honor all men and women in uniformed service.

Patricia Sexton and Ron Smith left Rolling Thunder in September of 2013 with their vision of creating a full color mural traveling wall showing some of our country's history. They knew they needed an artist, and Patricia knew one, so in October of 2013 the pair met with Ray Simon (from Youngstown, Ohio). After the meeting, Simon was on board and The Spirit of America's Story, The Wall was born.

Sexton and Smith knew what they wanted the wall to look like, but they needed some other assistance. They found it in graphic designer, Fred Mozzy of Frederick Mozzy, Inc. of Canfield, Ohio. Together they began building the puzzle pieces of the wall one image, one story, and one panel at a time. They began with images of an American Indian and from 1775. The images were carefully researched so as to ensure an appropriate representation of the time period as well as to avoid any copyright infringement.

After the rendering of the first panel images in the timeline were completed by Fred Mozzy and approved, it was decided to take the project one step further by having the artist paint each grouping of images. Artist Ray Simon subsequently introduced the pair to Ryan Keller of Captured Moments Art. It was Keller who lighted and transferred the digitally designed images from Fred Mozzy.

Once the ghosted images were printed on a small canvas, Keller delivered the canvases to the artist who used the digital images as a guideline for painting and color enhancement. As each panel was completed by the artist, they were returned to Keller for high resolution scanning.

The high resolution digital scans completed by Captured Moments Art were sent back to graphic designer Fred Mozzy for color correction and digital enhancements. With final approval from Sexton and Smith, the images were then forwarded to Brian Walters of Communication Exhibit, Inc. of Canal Fulton, Ohio.

Again, the founders knew exactly what they had visualized for The Spirit of America's Story, The Wall: Everything from the overall look to the sizes and types of frames for display had to be taken into account! After several other companies were considered, it was Communication Exhibit, Inc. and Brian Walters who assured everyone involved that they could produce the final product just as envisioned. In fact, Walters proved all but indispensable.

Walters and his company were involved in finding the "flex canvas" to which the panels would be adhered. They located the right printer to enlarge, print, and heat-set the digitized images onto the flex canvas (Moss, Inc., out of Chicago, Illinois, the only participating vendor outside the state of Ohio). They also found the 30 frames into which the panels would be locked and made the crates to protect everything for traveling.

From the original vision in 2013 to the final completion of Panel 10 in July of 2017, all of these individuals and companies were instrumental in achieving the display, and cannot be thanked enough for their creative input and considerable efforts.

A special "thank you" is extended to Karen Wright, CEO of Ariel Corporation. In 2014, project information was sent to her. She designated Jody Purcell to meet with the founders (she was out of the country herself). At that time, the founders could only describe their vision and speak from their hearts of their dreams and hopes for The Wall.

Within a month of that meeting, Ms. Wright contacted Patricia Sexton and Ron Smith to let them know she believed in them and their dreams enough to extend a donation that changed everything forever. The funding allowed enough start-up money to move the project forward. Without that precious donation, The Spirit of America's Story, The Wall, would not be where it is today. God bless Karen Wright and her company!

To date, there are no sponsors assisting with the expenses involved in maintaining and transporting The Spirit of America's Story, The Wall. That's why your donations are so important. Your donations help with expenses for fuel, insurance, vehicles and vehicle maintenance, upkeep on The Wall, hand-outs and flyers, mailings, and more. Every donation goes directly to The Spirit of America's Story, The Wall, and your donations are tax-deductible.

Our history is still being written. You can help to remember it, teach it, and honor it!



## About The Artist

**Raymond A. Simon** is an artist not merely by his ability to paint the images that surround us in our everyday life, but with an ability to capture a moment in time, blend it together, and illustrate the stories of life. Simon is nationally known for his works with The Pro Football Hall of Fame, The National Hockey League, The National Football League, The Department of Defense and many more.

Raymond Simon's works have been featured in Newsweek, Time, AP, ABC, CNN, CBS, NBC and A&E , and are on display in venues including The White House, The Pentagon, Ft. Knox, Ft. Benning, Ft. Bragg, Ft. Hood, and The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

# Project Outline

We have created a stunning full-color mural traveling wall that is 92" tall by 100 feet in length. The Spirit of America's Story, The Wall travels to various locales across the country. The wall depicts the years from 1775 to the present day, and represents the lives of our service men and women as well as police officers and fire fighters. We believe that those who view the wall will find a strong emotional connection.

There is an historic opportunity at this time to have a strong impact on the lives of those men and women who have distinguished themselves above all others. With the support of the American people, these men and women will come to know that their service and sacrifice, as well as that of their families, has not been forgotten. A country that forgets is a country that has been lost.

Plans are to travel with The Wall throughout the country, honoring those who serve and who have served. The Wall can be set up for indoor or outdoor events, and can be separated into 10-foot sections to fit into smaller venues (outdoor setup requires protection from the sun and weather).

Please contact us for additional information and to arrange a display date in your area!

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You may also want to visit us on Facebook.



*An artist rendering of how the wall may appear outdoors.*