

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JUNE 2008

HEAD: Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans Memorial receives grant

The Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the statewide tribute to those who served and rendered the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War, has received a \$4,028.40 grant from the Nathaniel Wheeler Trust in Boston. The purpose of the grant is to complete landscaping and beautification plans for the memorial's 4.1-acre site in Worcester's Green Hill Park.

"We are extremely pleased and honored to receive this award," says Philip Madaio, president of the Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, the entity that administers the memorial and supervises its perpetual care. "Thanks to the Wheeler Trust, we will now be able to continue with the work we began more than a decade ago," Madaio says. He adds: "Ever since the memorial was dedicated four years ago [in June, 2002], we have been unable, due to financial constraints, to fully complete this beautiful and appropriate tribute to those 1,551 servicemen who gave their lives in the service of this Commonwealth and their country. Ours is the most beautiful Vietnam memorial in the nation, next to 'The Wall' in Washington, D.C. This grant will ensure that it will continue to be so."

The Wheeler Trust is named for Nathaniel Wheeler, who had a great affinity for Worcester and was very interested in preserving the city's natural beauty. Grant applications are considered by the Bank of America Philanthropic Division, which administers the Wheeler Trust, in consultation with the Worcester Horticultural Society and the Worcester Garden Club.

Detailed plans for landscaping at the memorial site include the installation of several varieties of trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses. Annual floral plantings and ongoing maintenance of the memorial will continue to be the responsibility of the MVVM Committee, in conjunction with the city of Worcester's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery.

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