

July 19

OHSWEKEN — Along the 260 feet of jet black aluminum and 58,191 names etched into The Moving Wall, four — Greg Bomberry, Thomas Fraser, Leslie General and Larry Green — are the names of men from Six Nations.

All the names on the wall are of people who killed while fighting for the United States during the Vietnam War between 1959 and 1975.

The portable replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington — with all the names — was opened at Chiefswood Park north of Ohsweken, Monday.

At least 20 Six Nations residents who volunteered to fight in Vietnam, with about 250 other people were on hand for the ceremony

This is the first time that the wall — which has been to Canada four times — has been displayed on native land, said Bob Johnson, who fought in Vietnam and has been a driving force behind the wall's stop in Six Nations.

The wall was brought to the area by the local Vietnam veterans' association.

"It's nice to see it here," Johnson said, adding that its arrival at Six Nations allows special acknowledgment of native veterans of Vietnam.

Ron Curley, a veteran who spent his tour of duty on a tanker in the Mediterranean, said even for those who don't know someone on the wall, the monument can be moving.

"It's not to hard to find a

name like yours or the same as yours and to think about who that person was," he said after the ceremony.

As much a ceremony honoring the fallen, the arrival of the wall was a gathering point for veterans. Many — dressed in U.S. military battle fatigues — exchanged memories, pictures and jokes, while others searched for the names of comrades.

Displaying the portable wall will cost less than \$20,000, said Johnson, who added that a major part of the cost is the landscaping, which includes lights and plants added to the park for the wall's arrival.

The monument will remain open at the park, at Highway 54 and Chiefswood Road, 24-hours-a-day through the weekend.

Dignitaries from as far as Arizona and Ottawa attended the dedication ceremony which included a color guard from the United States Marine Corp Reserve and officials from the head office of the American organization Veterans of Foreign Wars and a fly-over by a DC-3 from Hamilton's Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.

The original wall, in Washington D.C., is twice as big. It has been landscaped into a the side of a small hill.

After the wall leaves the park, Six Nations will have a lasting memorial. All Brothers, a life-sized metal sculpture outlining three soldiers including one native, has been commissioned by the veterans' association. It will be placed permanently in the community.

PAYING RESPECTS

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Christopher Smith, Expositor Staff

Jim Wellheiser of Ayr places a medicine shield by The Moving Wall, a replica of the Washington Vietnam Veterans Memorial, during a dedication ceremony Monday evening at Chiefswood Park north of Ohsweken. The medicine shield created by Wellheiser, who served in Vietnam during 1964, contains the yellow and red colors of the Vietnam campaign ribbon as well as an eagle with a heart of stone.