



PRESS RELEASE: The Names of Those (TNOT), a video that scrolls names alphabetically by State of every military service member who died due to their service during the Vietnam War.

WHAT: Vietnam Veteran J. Kimo Williams developed and created *The Names of Those (TNOT)*, a 20 hour video that scrolls names alphabetically by State of every military service member who died due to their service during the Vietnam War. Kimo states that "we should all be cognizant of those who lost their lives in service to country. I want to create a visual representation of those lives and by 2025 have presented TNOT as a physical art installation, in all 50 states allowing the viewer to emotionally connect to the names without any interruption of any kind."

WHO: J. Kimo Williams is the former founder and executive director of the **United States Veterans Arts Program (USVAP)**. USVAP provided art resources to VA Medical Centers from 2010 to 2016. He was also Executive Director of the **National Veterans Art Museum** in Chicago from 2003 to 2004, where he coordinated and implemented the construction of artwork for the **Chicago Vietnam Veterans Memorial**. Kimo co-founded the **Lt. Dan Band**, producing and performing music for military members around the world. As a founder of the band, he coordinated the first fundraiser for the **Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Fund** event in Chicago. Kimo understands the importance of engaging veteran's perspectives with community-based support. Specifically, for **The Names of Those** project, he is using art as a mechanism to highlight the importance of understanding the individuality of Vietnam military veterans as an integral part of the cultural community and reflecting on those service-members who lost their lives as a result of their service during the Vietnam War.

WHEN: This 20 Hour video memorial will premiere as a physical art installation over a three-day event, 10 am to 5 pm March 26th, 27th, and 11 am to 5 pm March 28th, 2021, at the War Memorial Building in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. It will also simultaneously premiere on **YouTube** in its full 20hour version (specifics are provided at www.thenamesofthose.com).

WHY: Public Law No: 115-15, *Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017* officially designated by Congress on March 29th as the official day to recognize Vietnam Veterans and their service to the country. In that spirit, **Faces of Vietnam**, a photography exhibit of images from Kimo's return visits to Vietnam (1998-2010), will be part of this installation and the official recognition weekend. For a description of the art installation, please visit www.thenamesofthose.com. After this initial launch, the goal is to raise funds to display **The Names of Those** in each of the 50 States by April 30th, 2025 (The 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War).

As an "eternal flame" is used to commemorate a person or event of national significance, and as Webster defines it, "a small fire that is kept burning as a symbol to show that something will never end." **The Names of Those** is an "eternal scroll" of names - a Memorial to those lives lost. The goal of this video is to provide a unique visual perspective of each service member's name who, according to the National Archives, is considered a casualty directly related to their service in the Vietnam War.

The names are presented alphabetically by State and the service member's name with the official date of death. Each name has an associated timestamp (visible on screen) that will forever be associated with that name and searchable (when virtually presented) utilizing the timeline scroll bar.

A published program is provided for download or viewing at www.thenamesofthose.com. The music for this film was composed by J. Kimo Williams and include his award-winning compositions, **Symphony For The Sons of Nam**, **Fanfare For Life**, and **American Soldier**. It is looped continuously as all 58,220 names are presented. For the music associated with **American Soldier**, actor **Gary Sinise** narrates an oratory written by Army Veteran and textile artist **Carol Williams**.

For more information about J. Kimo Williams: www.kimowilliams.com
For Information about TNOT: www.thenamesofthose.com.

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The Trailer can be viewed at <http://www.thenameofthose.com> or on **YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/5oZP5gw5c-0>