

**For Immediate Release
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Media Advisory
**VVMF THANKS INTERNATIONAL MACHINISTS UNION FOR SUPPORTING
LAWN CARE AT THE WALL IN 2010**

Press Event to be held Tuesday, May 11, at 1 p.m., rain or shine

Washington, D.C. — The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) has pledged \$50,000 to pay for the upkeep of the lawn at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and some of the surrounding areas on the National Mall, totaling 13.5 acres, announced Jan C. Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF).

A press event, being held on the East Knoll near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on May 11 at 1 p.m., will feature remarks by IAM, VVMF and National Park Service dignitaries, who will also discuss improvements that have already been made to the lawn at and around the Memorial since VVMF undertook this initiative last fall.

Who: **Thomas Buffenbarger**, IAM's international president, will talk about his organization's commitment to helping maintain the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site and its long history of partnership with VVMF.

John Piltzecker, superintendent for the National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service, will discuss the maintenance needs for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site.

Jan Scruggs, founder and president of VVMF, will discuss why the organization began taking responsibility for lawn maintenance at the Memorial and what projects are next.

What: Shrinking budgets and growing needs have caused some maintenance projects to be put off, and critics have voiced their disapproval of the state of our National Mall in Washington, D.C. In response, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund embarked on a program last fall to repair the sprinkler system at The Wall, care for the lawn at and around the Memorial and refinish the flagpole and five directory stands. The next project is to restore the original patina on the Three Servicemen statue, which will begin next month.

When: Tuesday, May 11, at 1 p.m. The ceremony will take place rain or shine.

Where: The East Knoll near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Constitution Ave. and 21st St. NW, Washington, D.C.

Why: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund wishes to pay tribute to IAM for recognizing the value of our nation's memorials and stepping forward with a pledge to ensure that the lawn at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site is kept up in a manner befitting a place that pays tribute to so many brave Americans we lost during the Vietnam War.

Established in 1979, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., promoting healing and educating about the impact of the Vietnam War. Authorized by Congress, its most recent initiative is building The Education Center at The Wall, an underground facility near the Memorial that is designed to add faces to all the names on The Wall and tell their stories. Other Memorial Fund initiatives include educational programs for students and teachers, a traveling Wall replica that honors our nation's veterans and a humanitarian and mine-action program in Vietnam.