

# The Chapel Is Open Forever

By Steve and Gail Ault #41031

*These words are inscribed in the entrance door to the chapel located at the Vietnam National Memorial 40 miles north of Taos, New Mexico, between the little towns of Eagle Nest and Angel Fire on the Enchanted Circle Tour. During construction, Dr. Victor Westphall accidentally locked the doors and on returning found the touching note, “Why did you lock me out when I needed to come in?” The doors have remained open ever since.*



**D**r. Westphall built this first Vietnam memorial in the nation to honor the veterans of that war, including his son, Victor David Westphall III, one of the many who didn't come home. Each Memorial Day, thousands gather to honor fallen family members, friends, comrades and unknown victims of war. The memorial sits at the crest of a hill where the peacefulness of the setting contradicts the horrors of this war.

Next to the chapel is another building with displays depicting this misunderstood war through copies of letters written home, video interviews with soldiers in Vietnam, pictures, graphics and emblems.

There is plenty of parking, and the chapel is open forever. The visitors center is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Write PO Box 608, Angel Fire, Minnesota 87710, call 877-613-6900 or visit [www.angelfirememorial.com](http://www.angelfirememorial.com) for more information.

Steve and Gail have been RVing extensively each year since 1995, and they have seen much

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of the U.S.—each area with its own special offerings. This year they picked their favorite—Arizona—and purchased a home. After logging over 225,000 miles in their motorhome, they will try settling down but still keep a rig for short jaunts and group get-togethers.

