ESSAY



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial has always required response. Since its 1982 dedication, Maya Lin's controversial granite wall, listing 58,256 Americans killed or missing in Vietnam, has moved visitors to leave behind photographs, toys, Zippo lighters, graduation tassels. Now mementos, like these pictured, will have a home, part of an underground museum that will contain a wall of pictures of the fallen. The Memorial Fund is raising up to \$100 million for the project, including \$10 million from Time Warner, publisher of TIME. "There will be no statement about whether the war was right or wrong or whether they died in vain," says former Joint Chiefs Chairman Colin Powell, who is leading the fund raising. "All we know is they died in valor." —BY MARK THOMPSON