On a campus where culture can’t be mentioned without tradition, the act of remembrance is a sacred commission in Aggieland.

Built on the excellence and sacrificial acts of the past, the current or former student of Texas A&M embodies 135 years of Aggie merit and core values. From the youngest to oldest, “Aggies remember,” said Jay Kimbrough, Texas state coordinator for The Education Center at the Wall.

Which is why Texas A&M was chosen to help establish a national project to help others remember, said Jason Cain, director of veterans outreach at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., is called the “wall that heals,” but the wall also educates, remembers and honors each of the fallen. And now this concept will be taken to a new level. Congress has approved plans to build an Education Center on the National Mall to tell the stories and show the pictures of those who died in service to America. Now, “we’re collecting photos for all of the 58,267 troops who died during the Vietnam War,” he said.

And they have turned to Texas A&M for help.

“Aggies had the highest number of casualties after the service academies, which puts them in a pretty unique place,” he said. The names of 112 Aggies are inscribed on the memorial in Washington, D.C. (You can read the list at AggieNetwork.com/RememberingTheFallen.) Yet, Mike Krivdo ’10, the historian in charge of A&M’s part in the program, thinks A&M’s number is probably greater.

“At the time of the Vietnam War, almost everyone in the student body was in the Corps of Cadets,” Krivdo said. That translates to almost everyone in the student body either serving themselves, or having a roommate, Classmate, or a fellow cadet who served. “Once we start looking—and, most importantly, once we start listening to former students—it’s likely that there are more Aggies on the Wall and the project will grow,” he said.

To Frank Muller, Class of ’65 Vietnam Veteran and Silver Star recipient, the effort to tell the story of the Aggies who gave their lives in Vietnam is of utmost importance. “For those of us who served in Vietnam, you are humbled by the names, the sacrifice, the greatest sacrifice. They are the true heroes.”

The idea is to have A&M be “the tip of the spear” to show other universities how it’s done, Kimbrough said.

Kimbrough lost many young friends in Vietnam, including Cloyde C. Pinsion Jr. Two days earlier, Kimbrough’s own life was almost lost on the battlefield, but he was carried to safety by Sgt. Jimmie West. He carries a photocopy of West’s Silver Star commendation wherever he goes. He remembers, and honors, West.

“It’s an Aggie tradition.

You can submit a photograph or other information about any Aggie who died in the Vietnam War at www.buildthecenter.org/get-involved/call-for-photos.html.