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NEW MEMORIAL IN NATION'S CAPITAL TO HONOR SOLDIERS WOUNDED ON BATTLEFIELD

THE AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL WILL BECOME PERMANENT TRIBUTE TO LIVES FOREVER CHANGED

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Throughout this nation's history, service men and women have gone bravely into battle, risking their lives and livelihoods, and sacrificing their safety to defend America. When their duty is completed, many return home to life as it was. Sadly, for more than three million veterans seriously injured in the line of duty, leaving the battlefield does not mark the end of conflict. These permanently disabled heroes often carry home life-altering disabilities, stern reminders of the price of freedom.

Soon, thanks to efforts led by the Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation, Inc., and supported by veterans as well as concerned and generous citizens and corporations, these soldiers will have a permanent memorial in the nation's capital that will pay tribute to their sacrifices -- the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.

Commanding an impressive two-acre site between Washington Avenue SW (Canal Street), C Street SW and Second Street SW, the Memorial will be within full view of the United States Capitol, adjacent to the National Mall, and across from Independence Avenue and the United States Botanic Garden. The focal point of the Memorial will be a star-shaped reflecting pool, its surface broken by a single ceremonial flame. A grove of trees will stand sentry beside the pool, signifying the persistence of hope.

Following an invitational design competition in 2003, the Foundation selected Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Ltd., of Alexandria, Virginia, to design the Memorial, with the graphics, text and bronze components of the Memorial created by artist Larry Kirkland in collaboration with Cloud Gehshan Associates. Washington D.C.-based architectural firm Shalom Baranes Associates has been retained as project architect. As the project architect, Shalom Baranes Associates will complete the final design and produce the construction drawings for the Memorial, ensure design compliance during construction, and interact with the army of contractors and consultants involved in bringing the vision of the Memorial to life.

Congress approved the Memorial and President Bill Clinton signed the federal legislation into law in October 2000. The law authorized the Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation, Inc. to establish the Memorial, to be dedicated to both living and deceased disabled veterans, and to raise the entire \$81.2 million for construction, maintenance and preservation.

"As an American citizen, it's important to give recognition to the people who have kept and continue to keep our nation free," says actor, director and musician Gary Sinise, national spokesperson for the Memorial. "It's because of them that we are able to enjoy everything we do today."

Since becoming the Memorial's spokesperson, Sinise has been traveling the country, supporting the Memorial's cause at events and conferences from coast to coast. Sinise spends much of his time raising awareness for the Memorial and appearing frequently with disabled veterans in fundraising forums, radio and television talk shows, and national meetings, including an appearance at the National Press Club.

For more information, please visit www.avdlm.org.

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About the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation:

The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc. was created in 1998 through the combined efforts of philanthropist Lois Pope, foundation chairman; Arthur Wilson, national adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans; and the late Jesse Brown, former secretary of Veteran Affairs. Formed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, the Foundation's sole objective is to raise the estimated \$81.2 million in private funds needed to design, build and permanently maintain the nation's first memorial dedicated to living and deceased disabled veterans – **The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.** Commanding an impressive two-acre site between Washington Avenue SW (Canal Street), C Street SW and Second Street SW, the Memorial will be within full view of the United States Capitol, adjacent to the National Mall, and across from Independence Avenue and the United States Botanic Garden.