

[MEMORIALS]

'A FITTING TRIBUTE'**At last, a national memorial will honor America's disabled veterans.**

A two-acre site next to the National Mall in Washington has been chosen for the future American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, authorized by Congress in 2000. The first national memorial of its kind, it will honor the more than 3 million living veterans permanently disabled while serving in the U.S. military, including 53,000 in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

"More than 95 percent of the funds needed for groundbreaking have been raised so far, so we're very close to our goal," says Michael Corbett, veterans fundraising coordinator for the memorial and member of American Legion Post 164 in Boynton Beach, Fla.

"The entire amount required to build and maintain the memorial needs to be raised in order to break ground, so it is estimated that groundbreaking will occur in the spring of 2011. However, we are hopeful groundbreaking can occur before the end of the year if concerned Americans step up to the plate."

Designed by Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Ltd., the marble-and-glass monument will include a star-shaped

reflecting pool, its surface broken only by an eternal flame. A grove of trees will stand beside the pool.



Illustration by Michael McCann, courtesy Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation, Inc.

The American Legion passed a resolution of support for the memorial in 2009, calling it "a fitting tribute to the brave men and women who sustained severe injuries and lifelong disabilities in the course of defending the United States."

Other veterans service organizations supporting the project include Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Blinded Veterans Association.

Actor Gary Sinise, national spokesman for the memorial, said he hopes that his participation "will help draw attention to the cause and ensure its successful fruition as the nation's first and only such tribute, built specifically to these courageous men and women."

— Philip M. Callaghan

To read more about the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, or to donate:

www.avdlm.org

[IMMIGRATION]

Baby steps

"Baby tourism," traveling to the United States just to deliver a baby, is not only a controversial political topic. It's also a lucrative business. According to *ABC News*, an upscale hotel in Manhattan "markets birth-tourism packages to pregnant women abroad, luring more than a dozen expectant guests and their families to the United States last year."

For \$7,750, the expectant mother receives a full month in a one-bedroom suite, airport transfer, baby cradle and a "gift set," *ABC* reports. Some packages cost up to \$45,000.

Stories like this are fueling a debate over birthright citizenship and spurring some in Congress to re-examine the 14th Amendment.



[EDUCATION]

GI Bill benefits transferable by request

Q: I am currently on active duty and will be retiring in December. I have a son who is 16 and a daughter who is 14. How do I transfer my benefits to them? And since I am not sure what institution(s) they will attend, is it possible to transfer my benefits after I am discharged?

A: Since you are still in the military, use the Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) Web site to designate, modify and revoke a Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) request.

After leaving the military, you may provide a future effective date for use of the TOE, modify the number of months transferred, or revoke entitlement transferred by submitting a written request to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

After separating from the military, you cannot designate new dependents to receive transferred entitlement, or amend the effective date of the initial transfer of entitlement to an earlier date.

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