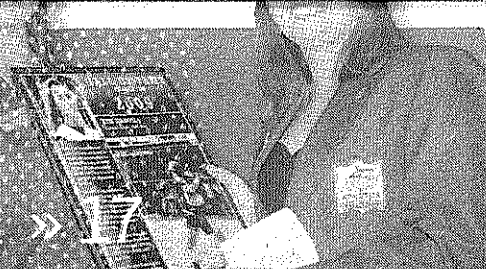


HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES  
KEEP TRADITION ALIVE » 17



## Community

REAL ESTATE: See recent local transactions » 5

SECTION EDITOR RUBEN CUETO, 954-574-5330, rcueto@tribune.com

# Vets closer to D.C. memorial

## Delray Beach-based foundation working on \$86M project

By David DiPino  
STAFF WRITER

Delray Beach-based Disabled Veterans' Life Memorial Foundation is in the final phase of establishing a memorial for disabled veterans in Washington, D.C. The project's cost, from its inception in 2001 to a projected 2010 dedication, is almost \$86 million.

The project is scheduled to break ground in 2010 next to the Bartholdi Fountain at the base of the U.S. Capitol.

Planned for the site are a Voices of Veterans outside exhibit, benches, free-flowing landscape design, military flagpoles, a Wall of Gratitude and a bus lane to get large groups in and out of the memorial. A large granite five-point star, with one point for each military branch, will sit elevated two feet off the ground with water spilling from above the star down into a reflection pool.

Rick Fenstermacher, the foundation's chief operating officer, said his staff will complete

the steps of a construction permit, maintenance/preservation plans and a dedication in 2010. They also must raise about \$4.9 million for implementation. He hopes the money will be raised through the national Disabled Veterans Commemorative Silver Dollar drive.

"The disabled veterans are an unbelievable and amazing group of people," Fenstermacher said. "From day one of this project, we wanted to be in the footprint of the U.S. Capitol so legislators see the importance

of supporting disabled veterans."

Boynton Beach resident and retired war veteran Norton Morgenthal, senior vice commander of Jewish War Veterans Post 819, said the endeavor is a wonderful idea. "Disabled veterans should be honored for the service they've committed," Morgenthal said.

Delray Beach is home to the executive offices of the foundation, 6290 Linton Blvd.

"We're working hard on these final steps," Fenstermacher said. "This memorial is for ordinary people that made extraordinary sacrifices, and

it's the only memorial in Washington, D.C., for the living."

Victor Biggs, the foundation's executive director, has been coordinating fundraising trips around the United States.

Biggs said he spoke to about 6,000 veterans at a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Phoenix about the memorial.

"I'm out here generating support. One by one, these veteran organizations are giving their endorsement," he said.

To donate, call 561-637-1525 or visit [www.avdlm.org](http://www.avdlm.org).

David DiPino can be reached at [dddipi-no@tribune.com](mailto:dddipi-no@tribune.com).

## Spooky casting

Actors needed

## LIBRARY ON SCHEDULE

New Royal Palm  
Beach branch to  
open by early

