

Disabled veterans memorial has DC groundbreaking

For South Florida philanthropist Lois Pope, the journey to create a memorial for disabled veterans began more than 40 years ago when she sang for Vietnam War vets at a rehabilitation center. Pope made herself a promise that night, that if she could ever do something for disabled veterans, she would. On Wednesday, November 10, Pope hosted the groundbreaking of The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. It will be within view of the Capitol on a 2.4-acre plot, across from the U.S. Botanic Garden. Pope, a onetime Broadway actress and singer whose late husband owned the National Enquirer, said at the groundbreaking ceremony that she got the idea for the tribute when she learned—after performing for disabled veterans—that there was no permanent memorial in their honor.



WASHINGTON - NOVEMBER 10: U.S. Marine veteran Bobby Barerra, a veteran of the war in Vietnam, wipes his eyes after speaking during ceremonies for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial November 10, 2010 in Washington, DC. Hundreds of veterans attended the ceremony for the memorial, which when completed in 2012 will be the country's only permanent public memorial to disabled veterans. (Photo by Win McNamee/Getty Images)
