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AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL RECEIVES FINAL DESIGN APPROVAL

Commission of Fine Arts Gives Go-Ahead for Newest Washington D.C. Memorial

WASHINGTON D.C. August 11, 2009 – The Disabled Veterans’ LIFE Memorial Foundation is proud to announce that the Commission of Fine Arts has granted final approval of the site design for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial adjacent to the National Mall in Washington D.C.

“We have reached an important milestone in our journey to bring the memorial to fruition,” said actor and veterans advocate Gary Sinise, national spokesperson for the Memorial. “The Memorial will soon hold a special place in the hearts of all Americans, and will serve as a never-ending reminder of the cost of human conflict. At this sacred Memorial, we will learn the important lessons of courage, sacrifice and honor by bearing witness to the experiences of our military heroes who are disabled in the line of duty,” said the star of the hit TV series CSI: NY.

The approved Memorial design juxtaposes marble and glass to convey an interaction of strength and vulnerability, of loss and renewal. The focal point of the Memorial will be a star-shaped reflecting pool, its surface broken by a single eternal flame. A grove of trees will stand sentry beside the pool, signifying the persistence of hope. The glass walls will contain quotations and imagery that represent personal journeys of courage and extraordinary sacrifice made in service to our country. The Foundation anticipates breaking ground on the Memorial in 2010.

The Memorial will command an impressive two-acre site between Washington Avenue SW, C Street SW and Second Street SW, and will be within full view of the United States Capitol, across from Independence Avenue and the United States Botanic Garden. The Memorial is the creation of Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Ltd., Alexandria, Virginia. The image, text and bronze components of the Memorial are designed by artist Larry Kirkland and design collaborators Cloud Gehshan.

Congress approved the Memorial and President Bill Clinton signed the federal legislation into law. This law authorized the Disabled Veterans’ LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc. to establish the Memorial in dedication to both living and deceased disabled veterans, regardless of the conflict in which they served. In addition, the Foundation was charged with raising \$81.2 million in public funding for the design, construction and on-going maintenance of the Memorial. With the announcement of the design approval, the Foundation is within the final \$5 million needed for groundbreaking.

The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit and donations are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. To make a donation, or for more information, visit www.avdlm.org.

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Editor's note: High res jpgs of the Memorial design are available by contacting The Murry Agency at (305) 531-5720 or www.tma-pr.com.