

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS • ENSURING RIGHTS, RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE

VFW

VFW Disaster Relief

A season of natural calamities found VFW members helping victims at every turn

VFW POST AND LADIES
AUXILIARY MEMBERS
AMONG THE RUBBLE FROM
THE JOPLIN, MO., TORNADO

OCTOBER 2011

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Disabled Vet Memorial on Target

The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial is moving along as scheduled with a completion date scheduled for November 2013.

BY THE EDITORS

A monumental milestone was achieved for the nation's wounded and otherwise disabled veterans on Nov. 10, 2010: ground was broken for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Since then, memorial backers have made steady strides in completing the one-of-a-kind memorial. The National Capital Memorial Commission, National

Capital Planning Commission and U.S. Commission on Fine Arts have all granted final approvals for building the long-awaited permanent tribute.

Tompkins Builders, the memorial's general contractor, is on the job. And quarry operations and fabrication of stone are under way. Larry Kirkland, the sculptor, is moving ahead with the bronze sculptures.

Actual site infrastructure began this fall. Phase I entails relocating communication lines to the Capitol. During Phase II, utilities will be relocated along with the realignment of C Street and traffic signaling. Then comes the actual construction of the memorial, scheduled for completion in November 2013.

Fundraising—the Capital Campaign—is nearly complete. Less than \$250,000

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remains to be raised. It is hoped that much of this amount will be derived from the limited number of special silver dollar commemorative coins still to be sold (see ad).

"The memorial foundation is most grateful for the generous contributions of the VFW and its members," said Rick Fenstermacher, chief operating officer for the Memorial Foundation. "Besides the early [December 2005] \$100,000 donation made by VFW national, Posts and individual members have chipped

in another \$25,000."

To be located on two acres of land across from the U.S. Botanic Garden, the memorial will honor the millions of American service personnel who have been wounded in war or injured on active duty—the physically disabled who live with the consequences of their service daily.

"It is a privilege to be part of the effort to finally recognize with a permanent tribute the sacrifices made by so many fellow citizens in defense of our nation," said VFW Adjutant General

Allen "Gunner" Kent. "Erection of this memorial is in keeping with the organization's long tradition of honoring those who serve our country."

This effort has been long in the making. Conceived in 1997, federal legislation approving the memorial was signed in 2000 and a designer was selected in 2003. As the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq began to produce new wounded each year, the reason behind a reminder in stone became publicly obvious.

Official memorial spokesman and actor Gary Sinise echoed VFW sentiments. "They have to live with the scars of battle. Building the memorial is the least we can do." Sinise is best known in veteran circles for his portrayal of amputee Lt. Dan Taylor in the 1994 movie *Forrest Gump*. He has long been a strong supporter of veterans.

For more information of the memorial, contact or visit any of the following: *Disabled Veteran's LIFE Memorial Foundation*, 6274 Linton Blvd., Suite 105, Delray Beach, FL 33484; Tel. 1-800-331-7590; www.dvlmf.org; www.twitter.com/avdlm; www.facebook.com/avdlm. ★

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