SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL
IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

BACKGROUND:


1. Authorized the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to erect a Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on Federal land with funds obtained primarily from private contributions.

2. Directed the President to appoint a twelve member Advisory Board of Korean War veterans to work in concert with ABMC to a) select the site; b) select the design; & c) to assist in promotion and to encourage donations. The Board members serve without pay.

3. Directed that the Memorial be established in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act, Public Law 99-652.

CHRONOLOGY:


31 Mar 87 Letter from ABMC to the Secretary of the Interior requesting that he petition the Congress to enact legislation authorizing placement of the KWVM in Area 1, the mall area of the Nation's Capital.

23 Apr 87 National Capital Memorial Commission (NCMC) approved the Mall as an appropriate location for Korean War Veterans Memorial.

20 Jul 87 President Reagan appointed twelve Korean War Veterans to the Advisory Board in accordance with PL 99-572.

23 Sep 87 Initial meeting with and briefing of the KWVMAB by staff of ABMC.

1 Oct 87 Fiscal 1988 appropriation language authorized not more than $125,000 of the Memorial contributions to be used for the administrative support of the Presidential Advisory Board on an annual basis. These funds to come from the interest earned on the investments. Fiscal 1988 appropriation language also authorized contributions to the Memorial to be invested in Federal notes and bonds.

10 Nov 87 Secretary of Interior, Hodel, petitioned Congress to authorize placement of the Memorial on the Mall. PL 99-652 requires such legislation must be enacted within 180 days of submission or it is disapproved.
28 Mar 88 Legislation (PL 100-267) enacted authorizing placement of the Memorial on the Mall.

26 May 88 NCMC approved Ash Woods (near the Lincoln Memorial) on the Mall, as the Site for the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

8 Sep 88 National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved Ash Woods as the site for the Memorial and requested it be furnished the guidelines for the planned design competition.

16 Sep 88 Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) approved Ash Woods as the site for the Memorial.

26 Sep 88 Department of the Interior, Secretary Hodel approved Ash Woods as the site for the Memorial.

26 Sep 88 Open design competition announced to the public.

1 Jun 89 Design Competition winners announced. There were first, second, and third place winners and 20 honorable mentions, each receiving appropriate prize money. The members of the winning design team from State College, PA were Veronica Burns-Lucas, Don Leon, John Lucas, Eliza Oberholtzer-Pennypacker.

14 Jun 89 ABMC approved the winning design concept as recommended by the Advisory Board which included several modifications to the concept as submitted.

14 Jun 89 President Bush unveiled a model of the winning design concept in a Flag Day ceremony at the Rose Garden of the White House.

20 Jun 89 NCMC approved the design concept with many reservations, requesting a resubmission addressing those reservations.

26 Jul 89 CFA approved the design concept with many reservations, requesting a resubmission addressing those reservations.

27 Jul 89 NCPC approved the design concept with many reservations, requesting a resubmission addressing those reservations.

11 Apr 90 Army Corps of Engineers selected an Architect of Record, Cooper-Lecky Architects and signed a contract therewith.

29 Jun 90 Cooper Lecky Architects signed a contract with Frank C. Gaylord to be the sculptor for the 38 heroic size figures.

31 Oct 90 Public Law 101-495, Korean War 38th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act authorized the US Mint to issue one million legal tender silver dollars. A
surcharge of $7 from the sale of each coin would go to the Memorial Fund.

8 Nov 90   NCMC reviewed and approved the design concept now amended to reflect resolution of the earlier reservations held by the approving authorities.

29 Nov 90   Louis Nelson selected as muralist for the wall.

13 Dec 90   CFA reviewed the design concept now amended to reflect resolution of the earlier reservations held by the approving authorities. They withheld action until they could see the design staked out at the site.


10 Jan 91   NCPC reviewed the design concept now amended to reflect resolution of the earlier reservations held by the approving authorities. They withheld action until they could see the design staked out at the site. They also gave further guidance.


17 Jan 91   CFA and NCPC visited the site for the Memorial which was staked out with the amended design concept and issued additional guidance to be addressed.

17 Jan 91   CFA voted to disapprove the amended design concept as submitted but directed it be resubmitted with specific revisions to be made.

21 Jan 91   ABMC requested permission from Office of Management and Budget to proceed with legislation to extend the time authorized to obtain a building permit for the Memorial by two years, in the event that all conditions were not met in time.

12 Feb 91   NCPC staff gave guidance to ABMC directing additional considerations be addressed in the design concept and asked that they have another opportunity to see it staked out at the site.
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19 Feb 91 ABMC approved the design concept as amended to address all issues raised by the approving authorities in the preceding months.

21 Feb 91 CFA approved the design concept as amended to address all issues raised by the approving authorities. They requested the opportunity to further review the design development of the wall and of each statue as it progresses.

1 Mar 91 NCPC visited the site for another stake out of the design concept as it had been developed to that date.

7 Mar 91 NCPC deferred decision on the design concept as submitted by appointing a task force to work with ABMC, the Advisory Board and the Architect of Record concerning various elements of the concept.

15 Mar 91 Legislation drafted to provide for 2 year extension of time required to obtain a building permit.

22 Mar 91 NCPC task force approved amended design concept and agreed to convey a favorable report to the full NCPC commission at their next meeting 4 Apr 91.

25 Mar 91 Presentation of existing design concept made to US Advisory Council for Historic Preservation.

3 Apr 91 Presentation of existing design concept made to DC Historic Preservation Review Board. They found that the Memorial as designed had no adverse impact on the site.

4 Apr 91 NCPC heard task force report and approved it. They requested they be kept advised as the project progresses.

11 Apr 91 H.R. 1744 introduced by Congressmen Montgomery & Solomon extended deadline to obtain a building for KWVM until 28 Oct 93.

17 Apr 91 ABMC regular Commissioners meeting had a full briefing of the design concept as it is now stands, approved by all the appropriate authorities, but still needing further development of the wall and individual statues.

22 Apr 91 ABMC, Advisory Board and Cooper Lecky meet to assess progress and discuss the future plan of action.
6 May 91  US Mint holds First Strike Ceremony in Philadelphia for the Korean War Commemorative Silver Dollar. One million coins will be minted. $7 for each sold will be deposited into the Memorial fund.

17 May 91  Louis Nelson, wall artist, presents design concepts of the wall for review by ABMC, Advisory Board and Cooper Lecky.

31 May 91  Louis Nelson and Frank Gaylord make integrated presentation of Memorial as it is developing to ABMC, Advisory Board and Cooper Lecky in preparation for another major review by Fine Arts Commission on June 26, 1991.

20 Jun 91  Senate subcommittee held hearings on S. 855, the bill to authorize a two year extension to obtain a building permit. The bill will be referred to full committee soon.

26 Jun 91  Commission of Fine Arts disapproved the second amended design. Indications were given that the basic concept approved with reservations in 1989 was now disapproved.

10 Jul 91  US Mint transferred $437,767 as surcharges from the sale of the Commemorative Coin. Total received to date from Mint is $4,778,767.

11 Jul 91  General Kelley and General Stilwell met with J. Carter Brown of the Commission of Fine Arts to discuss what options were available that would make the proposed design acceptable to the CFA. It was agreed to meet again on 17 Jul 91 for further discussions.

17 Jul 91  There was discussion about reducing the number of free standing statues from 38 to perhaps 13 and to portray portions of some of the others emerging from the wall.

25 Jul 91  Commission of Fine Arts informally reviewed Cooper Lecky's progress on amending the design further. There was no agreement reached.

1 Aug 91  H.R. 3169 amending the Commemorative Works Act to authorize 7 years to obtain a building permit for a memorial introduced by Mr Clay and referred to the Committee of Interior and Insular Affairs.
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2 Aug 91 Senate passed S. 855 by unanimous consent with minor editorial changes, and forwarded to the House.

12 Aug 91 3rd Increment of funds from the sale of the Korean War commemorative coin of $132,853 transferred from the U.S. Mint to ABMC. Total received to date is $4,991,620.

14 Aug 91 ABMC Commissioners met with the Advisory Board and agreed to support the Board’s recommendation of reducing the number of free standing statues from 38 to 19, with a wall depicting the support troops to include three images of nurses (Army, Air Force, & Navy) engaged in performing their duties with at least one of them in full stature.

27 Aug 91 Letter from General Kelley to Chairman J. Carter Brown, CFA, reaffirming that ABMC unanimously endorses a column of troops as the central theme of the memorial and in a spirit of compromise requesting the CFA consider at an early hearing a column of nineteen troops which was suggested by the KWVMAB in an effort to find middle ground.

5 Sep 91 Letter from J. Carter Brown, CFA, acknowledging Gen Kelley’s letter of 27 Aug but deferring a detailed reply until the revised concept is presented at a scheduled CFA meeting.

11 Sep 91 4th increment of funds from the sale of the Korean War Commemorative Coin of $184,730 from the US Mint. Total received to date $5,096,350.

7 Oct 91 ABMC requested the KWVM be placed on Fine Arts agenda for its 24 Oct 91 meeting.

15 Oct 91 $330,981 received from the US Mint making the total from the coin $5,427,331.

20 Oct 91 House passes H.R.3169 by unanimous consent to extend the time frame allowed to obtain a construction permit in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act PL 99-652 from five years to seven years. This is the House’s action in lieu of passing S.855 which addresses the same issue just for the Korean War Veterans Memorial in the Nation’s Capital while H.R.3169 deals with all Memorials currently under consideration.
24 Oct 91  Commission of Fine Arts votes a 2-2 tie to disapprove the Memorial design modifications as presented.

24 Oct 91  US District Judge Charles R. Richey issued a memorandum opinion dismissing all charges against the Federal defendants and concluding "there is nothing in the plain language of the statute with which the defendants' actions conflict."

31 Oct 91  Letter from J. Carter Brown, CFA, documenting the tie vote and expressing indecision if this design could be developed satisfactorily.

13 Nov 91  H.R. 3169 placed on Senate calendar and laid on the table.

14 Nov 91  ABMC and KWVMAB met to decide future course of action in view of CFA 24 Oct meeting. Generals Kelley and Stilwell will meet with CFA in executive session to determine how best to proceed.

15 Nov 91  $102,641 from the US Mint. Total $5,529,972.

21 Nov 91  Informal meeting with CFA resulted in desire to reach an acceptable compromise.

25 Nov 91  Senate passed H.R. 3169 extending the period authorized for obtaining a building permit from 5 to 7 years.

4 Dec 91  KWVMAB approved the suggested amendments to the design with 19 statues.

4 Dec 91  Cooper-Lecky made the same presentation of the suggested design amendments to members of the CFA.

11 Dec 91  President Bush signed 102-216 amending the Commemorative Works Act providing two additional years to obtain a construction permit.

12 Dec 91  $75,495 from the Mint. Total $5,605,467.

18 Dec 91  Cooper-Lecky met informally with the National Park Service to discuss latest design amendments.
19 Dec 91  Cooper-Lecky met with NCPC staff in preparation for their February meeting.

25 Dec 91  General Richard G. Stilwell passed as the result of a cerebral hemorrhage on 18 Dec 91. Memorial service was at Ft. Myer, Arlington, VA, 28 Dec 91 and burial was at West Point on 30 Dec 91.

8 Jan 92  ABMC approved latest design amendments.

15 Jan 92  General Raymond G. Davis, USMC Ret. and Medal of Honor recipient from the Korean War was elected to be the new Chairman of the Advisory Board and Col. Rosemary T. McCarthy, ANC Ret. was elected as the new Vice Chairman, at a regular Advisory Board meeting held on this date.

16 Jan 92  The Commission of Fine Arts voted 3-1 to approve the design modifications presented by Cooper-Lecky in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act. There was one vote noted from an absent Commissioner who agreed with the modifications and would have made it a 4-1 vote had he been present. His views were expressed in a letter which was read into the record.

6 Feb 92  The National Capital Planning Commission approved the design with one exception. They appointed a task force to review the possibility of reducing the number of troops to approximate a squad size. Discussion at the meeting established that a reinforced squad could have 19 men.

12 Feb 92  First meeting of the task force brought no definitive result. No vote was taken.

14 Feb 92  United States Claims Court Senior Judge Thomas J. Lydon grants Federal Defendant's motion for summary judgment, thus denying the Plaintiff's (BL3) action for breach of contract and recovering damages. In other words the Lawsuit filed against the Federal Agencies has been totally dismissed in favor of the Federal Agencies.

20 Feb 92  Next meeting of Fine Arts Commission. No action was taken because no presentation was necessary at this meeting. If needed, a presentation will be made after the March 5, 1992 meeting of NCPC.
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5 Mar 92  NCPC voted 10-2 to approve the design concept. They made several recommendations which will be properly evaluated. No further presentations before Fine Arts or NCPC are needed now until completion of design development.

21 May 92  CFA heard progress report based on NCPC suggested design amendments. No vote necessary.

28 May 92  NCPC approved preliminary drawings for the KWVM design. (11-1 abstention.)

Ground Breaking is Flag Day, June 14, 1992. This is the third anniversary of the Rose Garden ceremony unveiling the winning model. There must be a 6-month period where the site is pre-loaded with a weight greater than that of the solid metal statues so the ground will consolidate and settle before the actual construction can begin. This pre-loading must start as soon as possible. Dedication is on track for July 27, 1994, the 41st anniversary of the Armistice. It is conceivable it will move to July, 1995.

Notes: In between major events as they are noted in this chronology were numerous planning meetings by all parties involved to move the project to the next step. These meetings are too numerous to mention here. Even though the process seems protracted it is following the dictates of the laws governing the Memorial's establishment and the procedure is working well.

Revised 6/01/92