FACTS ABOUT THE
KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL IN THE NATIONS CAPITAL

Purpose:
To honor members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Korean War, 1950-1953, particularly those who were killed in action, are still listed as missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war.

Authorization:
- Authorized the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia.
- Established a 12-member advisory board, appointed by the President, (1) to recommend the site and select the design, subject to ABMC approval and in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act; and (2) in tandem with ABMC, raise funds for the construction and maintenance of the memorial from the private sector.
- Authorized $1 million of federal funds to be applied against design and construction costs and must be returned to the government if extra funds are raised.

Site:
- On March 28, 1988, Congress approved the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior that the Memorial was of such prominent and lasting significance that it should be located on the Mall.
- On September 16, 1988, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior designated a 2.2 acre section of the Mall as the future site of the Memorial. Known as Ash Woods, it is directly across the Reflecting Pool from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Ground-Breaking:
- Flag Day, June 14, 1992, but is dependent on availability of necessary funds, all design approvals granted as required by the Commemorative Works Act, and a temporary construction permit in hand.

Dedication:
- Planned for July 27, 1992, (Not at all firm), 40th anniversary of the Armistice.

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Cost:

- Current estimate of overall costs (including those associated with design, construction, Army Corps of Engineers management services and perpetual maintenance) roughly $16 Million.

Fund Raising:

- Apart from $1 million of government funds, over $15 million from some 350,000 donors has been deposited in a special trust account with the US Treasury, earning interest. This includes nearly $6 million already received from US Mint surcharges. Nearly $3 million has been spent on architect engineer fees and administrative costs.

- According to law, all funds must be on hand by October, 1993. Ten percent of the Construction costs must be set aside for a perpetual maintenance fund.

- Major initiative: implementation of Congressional authorization for US Mint production and sale of one million silver dollars commemorating the 38th Anniversary of the Military Armistice ending hostilities on Korean peninsula. $7 for each coin sold will be deposited to the construction fund. Over 800,000 coins sold to date. None available after March 31, 1992.

- Coin bill provides that excess funds above amount required for construction and maintenance and repayment of appropriated funds will be used for dissemination of information about Memorial. This is the provision for accommodating recognition of the KIA/MIA's through the use of interactive video stations or other appropriate means, but is not now part of the current Memorial design nor is it part of the current cost estimate.

Maintenance:

- National Park Service administers the perpetual maintenance fund mentioned above.

- Additional monies raised will be used to establish fund to assist in perpetual maintenance of memorials on the Mall which commemorate conflicts during 20th Century.

Additional Information:

- Contact the Executive Office of the Advisory Board at 202-208-3561 in Washington, D.C. (FAX 202-208-3459)
DESIGN FACTS
KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL IN THE NATIONS CAPITAL

Design Concept:

- Open national competition held in first half of 1989 to select the design concept of the Memorial.

- Competition judged by 10 members of the Advisory Board.

- Competition won by team of Burns Lucas, Leon, Lucas, Pennypacker Oberholtzer of State College, PA. Winning team awarded first prize of $20,000.

- Basis for selection was powerful imagery: column of 38 heroic size statues, representative of those who fought the war on foot. Selection endorsed by ABMC.

- Design concept reviewed by National Capital Memorial Commission, National Capital Planning Commission, Commission of Fine Arts, National Park Service, and Historic Preservation Review Board. Noting substantial concerns to be accommodated in subsequent reviews, approval given to proceed to architectural-engineering phase.

- Design concept unveiled by President Bush in Rose Garden ceremony on Flag Day 1989.

- By rules of competition, ABMC retains ownership and all rights to design concept.

Evolution of Design:

- The column of troopers - the powerful, central feature of the winning design concept - constitutes a multi-service formation, arrayed for combat (with historical accuracy); their symbolic objective, the American flag, waves aloft at the highest point of the Memorial.

- The setting is dynamic, individual statues reflect the ethnic diversity of America and their faces resolutely convey the trauma and emotions generated by front line service in war.

- An etched mural recognizing, as Congress intended, the totality of the Armed Forces effort. A series of images, in operational mode - nurses, chaplains, crew chiefs, mechanics, cooks, helmsmen, among many others - symbolize the vast effort that sustained the foot troopers.

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Evolution of Design Continued:

- A reflecting pool, its surface still, offers solemn tribute to those who made the supreme sacrifice or endured captivity.

- A visitors' circulation plan, handicap-friendly, that ensures complete viewing of the three main elements of the Memorial (Column, Wall & Pool.)

- Reduction in size to conserve the magnificent stand of trees in Ash Woods.

- Achieving harmony with the open landscape concept for West Potomac Park by eliminating the containment hedge which among other things blocked the view between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.

- Recognition of the role played by the Republic of Korea's Armed Forces and the 20 other nations which rallied under the UN banner.

Architect of Record:

- Cooper-Lecky Architects, PC, of Washington, D.C. Firm that performed same role for Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Sculptor:

- Frank C. Gaylord, of Barre, Vermont, whose larger-than-life works are displayed throughout the nation. Saw action in WW II with 17th Airborne Div.

Muralist:

- Louis Nelson, of New York City, principal in a design and planning firm experienced in variety of media and environments. USA veteran.

Additional Information:

- Contact the Executive Office of the Advisory Board at 202-208-3561 in Washington, DC or fax 202-208-3459.
KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

The legislation authorizing the establishment of the Korean War Veterans Memorial established a twelve member Advisory Board of Korean War veterans appointed by the President. This Advisory Board is responsible for the following:

- Recommend the site and select the design for the Memorial, subject to the approval of the American Battle Monuments Commission;
- Promote the establishment of the Memorial;
- Encourage the donation of private funds.

General Raymond G. Davis, USMC, Ret., Medal of Honor in Korea, is Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board. Other Advisory Board members are:

- Colonel Rosemary T. McCarthy, USA, NC, Ret., Deputy Chairman
- The Honorable Edward R. Borcherdt
- Colonel Fred V. Cherry, USAF, Ret., POW
- The Honorable John P. (Jake) Comer
- The Honorable Thomas G. Dehne
- The Honorable James D. (Mike) McKevitt
- The Honorable William F. McSweeny
- The Honorable Carlos Rodriguez
- The Honorable John S. Staum
- Colonel William E. Weber, USA, Ret.
- Robert L. Hansen, Executive Director
CONCEPT

The Korean War Veterans Memorial has two interrelated purposes which constitute primary considerations for its design and siting. The first -- and fundamental -- purpose is to express the enduring gratitude of the American people for all who took part in that conflict under our flag, those who survived no less than those who gave their lives. The second -- and of equal importance -- is to project, in most positive fashion, the spirit of service, the willingness to sacrifice, and the dedication to the cause of freedom that characterized all participants. As these patriotic virtues have been common to those who served their country at other times of national crisis -- and must not be lacking in the instance of future emergencies -- the Memorial must radiate a message that is at once inspirational in content and timeless in meaning. Both purposes dictate that the Memorial be unique in concept, designed for public use, located on a prominent prospect, and present a renewable aspect of hope, honor, and service.