



Memorials, New and Planned

Vietnam Women's Memorial

Groundbreaking for the Vietnam Women's Memorial took place on July 29, 1993. Vice President Al Gore was the principal speaker at the dedication of the completed memorial on Veterans Day, November 11, 1993.

Authorized in November 1988, the memorial was to be included within the area of the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial, and was intended to honor the more than 10,000 women who served in the Vietnam conflict.

The memorial features an heroic-size, bronze sculpture depicting three Vietnam Era women and a wounded soldier. It was sculpted by Glenna Goodacre. The statue is situated in a grove of trees overlooking The Wall. Landscape architect George Dicky designed the site. Diane Carlson Evans, RN, founder of the sponsoring organization, was an Army nurse during the Vietnam War.

States J. Carter Brown, Chairman, Washington, D.C. Commission of Fine Arts and former Director of the National Gallery of Art in July 13, 1993: "Glenna Goodacre has created a dramatic and moving work. Rather than drawing on a single moment in time, her sculpture provides a metaphor for war as experienced by those whose heroic contributions have been so often ignored. This bronze brings to life the urgency and pathos of the fields, as well

as the searing introspection that continues long, long after.

When the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial was dedicated in 1982, it had been several decades since any new monuments had been added to what can arguably be called the heart of the nation's capital. Since then new memorials have been added and others are planned. New memorials are both large scale as well as intimate projects. New memorials have been authorized by Congress and constructed or are in the planning stages to be financed privately. While recognizing the value and need for memorials on a national scale, Congress has also recognized the need to place limits on what can be added to a finite amount of public space in the city.

Commemorative Works Act

Public Law 99-652, the Commemorative Works Act, approved November 1986, recognized the limits of open space in the monumental core area and environs of Washington, D.C., and provided standards for placement of new works on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service and the General Services Administration. The Act ensures that the contributions of persons and events of lasting or pre-eminent historical significance to the Nation are appropriately honored.

The Act delegated review and approval authority to the Commission of Fine Arts, National Capital Planning Commission and the Secretary of the Interior on new memorial locations and designs. The Act stipulated that legislation must be enacted to authorize placement of a monument on lands identified within the Act. In 1991, the time limit for establishing a memorial under a single authorization was extended by amendment to the Act from 5 years to 7 years.

Glenna Goodacre Comments on her Sculpture:

--- “Beyond the purpose of honoring the women who served during the Vietnam War, the bronze is designed to be true sculpture in the round,” writes Goodacre. “The triangular composition of four figures is interesting from all sides, with the standing woman at the apex, visually uplifting the entire piece.

--- “I strived to join the figures into a mass creating a solid statement without the interruption of negative spaces. Too, the women who served worked closely together. In this memorial their closeness is exemplified by the proximity of the figures themselves. Sandbags provided the ‘furniture’ of war, and I’ve included them to form a natural base, connect the figures and add volume to the sculpture.

---“The surface is textured and details of uniforms minimized to direct the viewer’s eye to the expressive hands and faces. References as to who the figures are and what their roles were are intentionally vague, creating opportunities for interpretation for each viewer.”

New Memorials Update

The following memorials have been authorized by Congress and the President, but have not been completed:

- African American Civil War Memorial
- Air Force Memorial
- Benjamin Banneker Memorial
- Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial
- Martin Luther King Memorial
- Memorial to Japanese American Patriotism in World War II
- Memorial to Thomas Paine
- National Peace Garden
- World War II Memorial

The following memorials have been completed and dedicated:

- Vietnam Women’s Memorial
- Francis Scott Key Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
- Women in Military Service for America

More information on new national memorials can be found on the internet at:
<http://www.nps.gov/ncro/PublicAffairs>

