SOARING TO GLORY

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MEMORIAL
The United States Air Force Memorial Project

Big Dreams Require Big Faith

The Air Force Memorial is an example of what is possible when you believe!
The United States Air Force Memorial Project

The following presentation takes you on a journey of discovery, detailing the long path from concept to commemoration in the creation of the majestic tribute.

A Path from Vision to Reality!
• 1990 - 1991
  – A small group of Air Force Association executives, led by Oliver R. “Ollie” Crawford, saw the victory in the 1991 Gulf War as an irrefutable affirmation of air power philosophy, one worthy of being memorialized.
  – Crawford appointed chairman and first trustees were John Alison, George Douglas, Marty Harris, Tom McKee and Jack Price. Maj Gen John Alison appointed secretary/treasurer.
  – Air Force Sergeant’s Association commits to supporting this significant project.
AFM PROJECT, 1990-2006

• 1992
  – JANUARY—Air Force Memorial Foundation is incorporated to pursue the development of an AF Memorial designed to honor the men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the United States Air Force and its predecessors, such as the Army Air Corps.
  – MARCH—Lt Gen (Ret) Bob Springer accepts executive director position.
  – AUGUST—AFMF is granted 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit, tax exempt foundation.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• **1993**
  – FEBRUARY—Joseph Coors, Jr. agrees to become chairman of the AFMF.
    • H. Ross Perot, Jr. accepts chairmanship of Site & Design Committee

-- SEPTEMBER—Board Board of Trustees Meeting
• **1993**
  – **NOVEMBER**—Enabling legislation passed by both houses of Congress to authorize construction of an AF Memorial (AFM) on federal land.
  – **DECEMBER**—Public Law 103-163 authorizing the AFM is signed by President Bill Clinton. This started a 7-year process, which requires adequate funds and building permits to be secured by December 2000.
• **1994**
  
  – **JANUARY-MARCH**—AFMF Site & Design Committee survey 18 possible sites with the assistance of the National Park Service.
  
  – **MARCH**—The National Capital Memorial Commission granted site approval for the Arlington Ridge Site.
  
  – **SEPTEMBER**—The Commission of Fine Arts grants site approval for the Arlington Ridge Site.
  
  – **OCTOBER**—The National Capital Planning Commission initially votes **no** on site
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 1994 (cont.)-1995
  – OCTOBER-MAY—The AFMF working with the National Park Service and the national Capital Planning Commission, developed specific parameter for a memorial design on the proposed Arlington Ridge site.
  – MAY—The National Capital Planning Commission voted to reconsider its October 1994 disapproval and unanimously approved the site, based on agreed-to parameters.
  • AFMF consulted with its design firm, Pie Cobb Freed Architects, on site-specific design for the AFM.
• **1996**
  
  — **FEBRUARY**—AFM design unanimously approved by the Commission of Fine Arts.
  
  — **MARCH**—AFM design unanimously approved by the National Capital Planning Commission.
    
    • Fund raising campaign initiate and design work proceeds.
• **1997**
  – JULY 9—Briefed Friends of Iwo Jima group on AFM project.
  – JULY 30—Congressman Solomon (R-NY) introduced bill to prohibit the construction of any monument, memorial, or other structure at the site of the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, VA, and for other purposes.
  – SEPTEMBER 4—AFM consulted with EDAW, Inc., on design services of the Arlington Ridge sub area plan.
1997 (cont.)

- SEPTEMBER 11—AFMF testified before Senate Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation.

- SEPTEMBER 16—Friends of Iwo Jima & the Honorable Gerald B.H. Solomon filed a Temporary Restraining Order as well as declaratory and injunctive relief to prohibit the location, construction or erecting an AFM in Iwo Jima Park.
• 1997 (cont.)
  — September 18—Results of Temporary Restraining Order were...

AFM Site Dedication Ceremony
• 1997 (cont.)
  – SEPTEMBER 18—AFMF consulted with Ralph Appelbaum Associates, Inc. on design services for the Memorial interior.
  – OCTOBER 7—AFMF testified before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on National Parks & Public Lands.
  – OCTOBER 9—Senator Roberts (R-KS) introduced a bill to prohibit the construction of any monument, memorial, or other structure at the site of the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, VA, and for other purposes.
• **1997 (cont.)**
  – SEPTEMBER 18—Initial Memorial interior design concept presented to AFMF Site & Design Committee.
  – The National Park Service hosted a Public Comment Meeting on the initial AFM Sub Area Plan for Arlington Ridge Area.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 1998
  – FEBRUARY 11—Congressman Solomon introduced a second bill to prohibit AFM construction but adding authorization of appropriation up to $1.5 million for site specific design expenses.
  – June 15—The civil suite filed against the AFMF was dismissed in a summary judgment. In the ruling, U.S. District Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr., dismissed the civil action, which as filed by the Friends of Iwo Jima and Rep. Gerald B.H. Solomon (R-NY) against the AFMF and several government agencies.
1998 (cont.)

- OCTOBER—with the adjournment of the 105th Congress, the proposed bills submitted by Senator Roberts and Congressman Solomon expired.
  - Senator Warner proposed possible alternate site for AFM at the Navy Annex.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• **1999**
  – FEBRUARY 17—Public Comment Meeting held by NPS regarding EA.
  – MARH 3—Second public comment meeting held.
• 1999

– MARCH 4—The Friends of Iwo Jima, et al, appeal against the June 15, 1998 summary judgment was heard in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, VA. A formal decision may be rendered with seven weeks.

– MAY 7—The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit which had been filed by a group known as the “Friends of Iwo Jima.” In an opinion written by Chief Judge Wilkinson, the Court of Appeals affirmed the District Court Judge’s conclusion that the law was followed in approving the Arlington Ridge site.
2000

– SEPTEMBER 14—The House approves a five-year extension to the AFM’s enabling legislation (House Resolution 4583) with a unanimous vote 393 – 0.

– OCTOBER 3—The Senate joins the House and votes unanimously to extend the AFM enabling legislation.

– OCTOBER 13—President Clinton signs HR 4583. AFM enabling legislation officially extended into December 2005.

– OCTOBER—DoD proposes (in coordination with the AFMF) congressional language offering an alternate site at the Navy Annex to AFMF.
2001

- JUNE—AFMF Board of Trustees votes to delete the interior Memorial Center for the Arlington Ridge site. Board decision based primarily on difficulty to maintain currency of technology being proposed, safety, and security concerns and the long-term upkeep responsibility.
- JULY—Ross Perot, Jr. succeeds Coors as foundation chairman.
• 2001 (cont.)
  – OCTOBER—AFMF Board acknowledges realization for relocation of the AFM. Factors considered by the Board: 1) cost of additional litigation, 2) the lengthy time required to build at Arlington Ridge, and 3) the realization that the total project may be in jeopardy if another five-year extension were necessary.
• 2001 (cont.)
  – OCTOBER—AFMF Board acknowledges realization for relocation of the AFM. Factors considered by the Board: 1) cost of additional litigation, 2) the lengthy time required to build at Arlington Ridge, and 3) the realization that the total project may be in jeopardy if another five-year extension were necessary.

• 2001 (cont.)
  – DECEMBER 28—President Bush signs Defense Authorization Bill, which in part directs DoD to make available to the AFMF up to three acres of the Navy Annex property for use as the location for the AFM.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 2002
  – MARCH 12—The five architectural firms of Moore Ruble Yudell of Santa Monica, CA; Morphosis of Santa Monica, CA; Pei Cobb Freed & Partners of New York, NY; Urban Instruments of Newton, MA; and the Washington-Alexandria Center for Architecture of Alexandria, VA selected to compete for AFM design.
  – APRIL 3—AFMF selects Pei Cobb Freed and Partners to design the new AFM.
  – SEPTEMBER 18—AFMF Board approved 60% Design Review.
• **2002**
  
  – September 18—AFMF Board approved decision to notify DoD the Foundation now has sufficient funds to commence construction of the AFM.
  
  – SEPTEMBER 24—AFMF formally notifies DoD that the Foundation now has sufficient funds to commence construction of the AFM.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• **2003**
  
  – FEBRUARY 17—FAA officially determined that the AFM would not be a “hazard to air navigation.”
  
  – MARCH 5—AFMF officially unveiled the new AFM design.
• **2003 (cont.)**
  – MARCH 12—National Capital Planning Commission unanimously approves the new conceptual design of the AFM at the Navy Annex, Arlington VA.
  – MARCH 20—Comission of Fine Arts approves the new design of the AFM at the Navy Annex, Arlington VA.
2003 (cont.)

- MARCH 28—The DoD Washington Headquarters Squadron announces that an Environmental Assessment for the AFM is available for public review and comment until May 5, 2003.

- APRIL 8—District of Columbia Historic Preservation office concurs with the, with respect to District of Columbia properties.

- JUNE 9—AFMF Board approved Memorial 100% Design Review.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

2003 (cont.)


- JULY 15—Inscription Committee, formal to develop ideas for and to recommend what inscriptions, images, etc. would be reflected on the AFM, meets for the first time. Call goes out to general public for input.

- JULY 16—Pre-proposal Meeting held with the six construction firms interested in building the AFM.
2003 (cont.)

- August 14—The list of six construction firms narrowed to three that will interview for the opportunity to build the AFM.
- SEPTEMBER 12—Centex Construction Company selected to provide pre-construction services to the AFM project.
- OCTOBER—Request for Qualifications to compete for the construction of the Memorial’s stainless steel spires sent to nine firms.
– AFMF President Edward F. Grillo, Jr. (on the right) and Centex Mid-Atlantic President John Tarpey sign contract to build the AFM.
2004

- JANUARY 14—Construction Request for Proposal and invitation to the Pre-bid/Site Inspection Conference on January 23 released to four firms competing to fabricate and erect the stainless steel spires.

- MARCH 12—Interviews conducted with three company project teams competing to construct the Memorial’s stainless steel spire.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 2004 (cont.)
  – APRIL 11—USAF Honor Guard personnel review sculpture early in development process.
2004 (cont.)

- **APRIL 15**—Commission of Fine Arts enthusiastically and unanimously approves the overall final plan for the AFM. Recommendations are made concerning the honor guard statue.

- **MAY 18**—DoD awards AFM Site Preparation contract to Forrester Construction Company. Current plans call for complete turnover of site to AFMF by end of December 2004.

- **JUNE 9**—Contract signed with Centex Construction Company to build the AFM.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 2004 (cont.)
  – JUNE 10—Centex signs contract with Mariani Metal Fabricators of Toronto to fabricate and with Cianbro Corporation of Baltimore to erect the AFM stainless steel spires.
  – AUGUST 5—National Capital Planning Commission approves the preliminary and final site and building plans for the AFM.
• 2004 (cont.)

– SEPTEMBER 15—Formal Groundbreaking and Site Dedication of the AFM held on the future site of the United States AFM.
• 2004 (cont.)

– OCTOBER 8—USAF Honor Guard personnel review sculpture progress.

– OCTOBER 18—Demolition of overhead walkways between Navy Annex Wings 7 & 8 signifies beginning of Wing 8 demolition to make way for the AFM.
• **2004 (cont.)**
  – OCTOBER 21—Demolition of Wing 8 building begins.
  – DECEMBER—Major excavation of the site and grading begins.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 2005

  – JANUARY—Site utility installation begins. Centex Construction begins mobilization activities on site.
  – JANUARY 24—Excavation for spire foundation begins.
  – MARCH 11—Excavation for spire foundation complete.
• 2005 (cont.)
  – MARCH 16—DoD turns over site to AFMF and Centex.
  – APRIL 18—Centex finishes mobilization and continues process of pouring concrete foundation caissons for the three spires.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 2005 (cont.)
  – MAY 2—Site utility installation begins.
  – MAY 31—AFMF Trustees Springer and Kuchera review Honor Guard sculpture.
  – JUNE 6—Site concrete retaining wall foundation begins.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 2005 (cont.)
  – JUNE 22—AFMF President Grillo reviews the Honor Guard sculpture.
  – JUNE 24—Spire foundation pile caps completed.
  – JULY 21—CMSAF Gerald R. Murray reviews Honor Guard sculpture
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 2005 (cont.)
  – AUGUST 8—Support Building steel frame begins.
  – AUGUST 18—Memorial steps retaining wall complete.
  – SEPTEMBER 6—East entrance retaining wall complete.
  – SEPTEMBER 13—Spire foundations complete (grade beams and spire pedestals complete)
  – SEPTEMBER 22—Memorial steps concrete foundation completed.
2005 (cont.)

- OCTOBER—Honor Guard personnel review flags & streamers sculpted in clay.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 2005 (cont.)
  – OCTOBER 19—Architectural concrete retaining walls begin.
  – OCTOBER 28—Promontory slab complete.
  – NOVEMBER 4—Concrete footings for inscription walls, contemplation chamber and Honor Guard statue complete.
• **2005 (cont.)**
  – NOVEMBER 10—Landscape infrastructure work begins in driveway area.
  – NOVEMBER 18—Granite stone fabrication (cutting/polishing) begins.
  – DECEMBER 6—Spire damper box tested completed.
  – DECEMBER 21—First granite paving concrete sub base placed.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

- **2006**
  - JANUARY—Architectural retaining walls complete.
  - Honor Guard sculpture rubber molds created.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 2006 (cont.)

• FEBRUARY 18—First section of the AFM spires erected—base piece Spire #2. This is the first of 15 separate sections that will form the three stainless steel spires—the central focus of the Memorial.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• **2006 (cont.)**
  
  – MARCH 11—First permanent trees planted on the 3-acre site. These London Plane trees will eventually line the entire access driveway named Air Force Memorial Drive.
  
  – MARCH 17—Second section of the spires erected—base piece Spire #3.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 2006 (cont.)
  – APRIL 17—Sixth section (Spire #3 second piece) of the spires erected. This spire now reaches ~80’ above the ground. When finished with its four pieces, it will rise 201’ into the sky.
  – MAY 12—Seventh section (Spire #1 third piece) of the spires erected.
• 2006 (cont.)

– MAY 26—Eighth section (Spire #2 third piece) of the spires erected.

– JUNE 19—Ninth section of the spires erected. The tallest of the three spires is currently at a height of 170’, and already clearly visible on the Northern Virginia skyline.

– JULY 1—Tenth section (Spire #3 third piece) of the spires erected.
2006 (cont.)

- JULY 21—Eleventh section of the spires erected—fifth piece of Spire #1. This spire now stands ~200’ in the air. Only one remaining piece to be erected to Spire #1.

- Honor Guard Sculpture in bronze.
2006 (cont.)

- JULY 26—North Inscription Wall complete. This 57’ long x 11’ high x 1’ thick granite wall contains seven granite panels that reflect a Valor, Courage & Sacrifice theme. In addition, Airmen Medal of Honor recipients are listed on this wall.
2006 (cont.)

- JULY 28—Twelfth section of the spires erected—fourth piece Spire #2. Only one remaining piece to be erected to Spire #2.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

- 2006 (cont.)
  - AUGUST 3—Chief of Staff General T. Michael Moseley and CMSAF Rod McKinley tour AFM site with AFMF President MG (Ret) Ed Grillo.
  - AUGUST 4—The last segment of Spire #3 lifted into place. This completes Spire #3 as it now stands 201’ above the ground.
• **2006 (cont.)**
  
  – **SEPTEMBER 7**—South Inscription Wall compete. Honor Guard sculpture installed.
  
  – **SEPTEMBER 9**—Sod finished on central lawn/parade grounds area.
2006 (cont.)

SEPTEMBER 15—Spire #2 completed at a height of 230’.

SEPTEMBER 21—Final section of the spires lifted into place onto Spire #1. This spire now soars 270’ into our Nation’s Capital sky.
AFM PROJECT, 1990 - 2006

• 2006 (cont.)
  – SEPTEMBER 29—The glass contemplation wall erected.
CELEBRATION...
Memorial Dedication
October 14 2006
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Memorial Dedication
EPILOGUE

• THE POEM...

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A VISION REALIZED!!!