

MARCH 22, 1993

PAM

PEN OUR CONVERSATION OF THIS  
MORNING, I'M FORWARDING THE  
ENCLOSED INFO. PKG. AND LETTER  
REQUEST. I APPRECIATE YOUR  
HELP IN GETTING THIS TO MAGGIE  
AND, HOPEFULLY, THE FIRST LADY  
FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION. THANKS  
MUCH

SINCERELY

Tony Jackson



Women In Military Service For America  
Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Dept. 560  
Washington, D.C. 20042-0560  
(703) 533-1155 1-800-222-2294 (703) 931-4208 (FAX)

February 10, 1993

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

The Women in Military Service Memorial Foundation respectfully requests that you be the honorary chair for our final fundraising drive to build the memorial which will honor all of the women who have served our country in its armed forces. This is a project the President supported with funding while Governor of Arkansas.

It would always be a great honor to have the First Lady support a project. Because of the interest you have always taken in recognizing women of achievement, and helping women advance, it would be a particularly significant honor for our women veterans, who have given so much to our country and received so little in return, to have you lend your name to this endeavor.

Not many people realize that women have been serving our country since the days of the Revolutionary War. And not many people know of the sacrifices women have made, or of the roles they have played, from spy to ferry pilot to humvee driver. Women were actually in combat, and integral to the defense of our country, long before our present day arguments over the role of women in combat which have started again because of Desert Storm. In the Memorial, we are bringing together a history of American women that just doesn't exist anywhere today.

The memorial will be at the main gate of Arlington National Cemetery and includes the long-needed restoration of its existing structures. The design concept is fully approved and a picture is enclosed. Key features are an arc of glass tablets on the upper terrace with etched quotations from women through history and an educational center complete with a movie, exhibits, and a computer register, accessible to the public, with data about women who served, their stories, and photos, when available.

We look forward to hearing from you. You have our warmest best wishes in your new position.

Sincerely,

Wilma L. Vaught  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)  
President



**At Last — Lasting Recognition**

**PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION**

**WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

**5510 COLUMBIA PIKE, SUITE 302  
ARLINGTON, VA 22204  
(703) 533-1155 (800) 222-2294  
FAX: (703) 931-4208**

**PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION**

 WIMSA  
5510 Columbia Pike  
Arlington, VA 22204



STEWART BROS., INC.  
PHOTOGRAPHERS  
7605-D AIRPARK ROAD  
GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND 20879  
(301) 948-0722

DATE November 30, 1989

MADE BY M. G. Stewart

PLACE  
Arlington Cemetary

6.



WIMSA  
5510 Columbia Pike  
Arlington, VA 22204

# A LIVING MEMORIAL

**PURPOSE** of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial is to:

- Recognize all women who have served in the armed forces - past, present and future.
- Document the experiences of women and tell their stories of service, sacrifice and achievement.
- Make their contributions a visible part of our history.
- Illustrate their partnership with men in the defense of our nation.
- Inspire others as role models.

**LOCATION** of the Memorial is at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, the nation's most hallowed place for its military. The Memorial will restore the old facade at the entranceway and breathe life into its historic hemicycle wall with a fitting tribute to our servicewomen.

The **DESIGN** of the Memorial is stunning, with its reflecting pool, graceful stairways and arc of glass tablets on the upper terrace. The tablets will serve as a skylight to the Culture and Education Center and will bear quotations from women who have served. As the sun passes overhead, these historic words will be gently reflected on the wall of the center below.

The **STORY** of the nearly two million women who have served the nation will be brought to life through multimedia presentations and exhibits in the Memorial Theater and Education Center.

The **REGISTER** will be the heart of the Memorial. The computerized database with the name, photograph and individual story of each woman's service will be a permanent, visible place for servicewomen in America's history.

## THE MEMORIAL REGISTER



**Name:** Lori Ann Drake  
**Date of Birth:** July 30, 1960  
**Place of Birth:** Syracuse, New York  
**Hometown:** Central Square, N.Y.  
**Service:** U.S. Army, 8/83-3/87 and 2/88-2/92  
**Highest Rank:** Staff Sergeant  
**Military Decorations:** Four (4) ARCOMs, Southwest Asia Ribbon, Airborne Badge, Air Assault Badge

**Memorable Military Experiences:**  
"My eight years of service in the medical and military intelligence fields allowed me to experience the people and cultures of Germany, Italy, Turkey, Honduras and the Middle East. Of course I'll always remember being a part of the 1st Infantry Division's attack during the ground war of Desert Storm, but a more pleasant military memory would be the day in Germany that 'The Wall' came down."

Sponsored for Registration by: "Any Servicemember" Pen Pal

## PLEASE HELP US LOCATE THESE WOMEN...

so that their names, stories and photographs are not lost.

Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard servicewomen, and veterans living and deceased, are eligible to be registered in the Memorial. For a \$25, tax-deductible donation, servicewomen can register themselves or be registered by a friend or relative. Millions will go toward fund-raising for the Memorial, and all servicewomen who apply will be registered regardless of age. Those registered before the dedication of the Memorial will be listed as Charter Members.

# WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Dept. 560 Washington, D.C. 20042-0560 (703) 533-1155 (800) 222-2294

## CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## DONATIONS

☐ I am contributing to the Memorial Fund (circle one):

\$1000 \$500 \$100 \$25 Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am registering myself as a Charter Member: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$25 minimum)

☐ I am sponsoring for registration as Charter Members:

\_\_\_\_\_ name(s) at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per name \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$25 minimum each name)

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEDGES

I pledge another \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the next \_\_\_\_\_ years.

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ Check enclosed (make payable to WIMSA)

☐ Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_/Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on card (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to designate my contribution in honor/memory of the following individual or organization:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent the law allows. Your cancelled check serves as your receipt.

## MEMORIAL REGISTER DATA

For living or deceased women veterans and Active Duty, Reserve and Guard service members. Please type or print all information. You may update information at any time.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Include maiden name, if desired)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Indicate if deceased and date of death, if known)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Day Month Year

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

(City/State)

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_

(City/State)

Highest Rank or Rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Service: ☐ USA ☐ USMC ☐ USN ☐ USAF ☐ USCG

☐ Nurse Corps

☐ Retired from military service

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## SERVICE DATES

Including Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard.

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Month/Year Month/Year

From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Month/Year Month/Year

Highest Military Decoration: \_\_\_\_\_

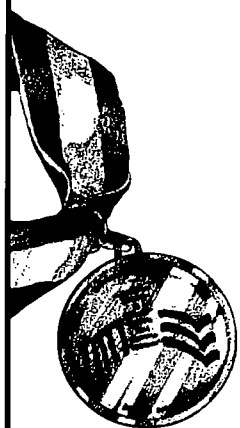
Memorable military experiences (additional pages may be attached): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Enclosed is photo taken in uniform.  
No copier prints please.

Woman registered is my: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Form may be copied for additional names.  
Please return entire page.

# A LONG OVERDUE TRIBUTE...



# THAT DEPENDS ON YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

**T**he Women in Military Service for America Memorial will be our country's first major national memorial to honor all women who have defended America throughout history. Their patriotism and bravery are a part of our collective heritage that has gone unrecognized for far too long.

The Memorial was authorized by Congress and is supported by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veteran Affairs. However, money must be raised through private donations. Federal funding is not authorized.

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation (WIMSA) is a non-profit organization authorized by Congress to raise money to build the Memorial. And we're asking for your help.

The urgency is real...The law says that the money needed to build the memorial must be raised by November 1993. We can do this only through the private donations of individuals, corporations, organizations, and state and local governments. For each \$25 donation, you can honor a servicewoman or sponsor a veteran who cannot afford to register.

Help support this worthwhile project now...before it's too late.

## A LIVING MEMORIAL

The **PURPOSE** of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial is to:

- Recognize all women who have served in the armed forces - past, present and future.
- Document the experiences of women and tell their stories of service, sacrifice and achievement.
- Make their contributions a visible part of our history.
- Illustrate their partnership with men in the defense of our nation.
- Inspire others as role models.

The **LOCATION** of the Memorial is at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, the nation's most hallowed resting place for its military. The Memorial will restore the existing facade at the entranceway and breathe life into its historic hemicycle wall with a fitting tribute to our servicewomen.

The **DESIGN** of the Memorial is stunning, with its reflecting pool, graceful stairways and arc of glass tablets on the upper terrace. The tablets will serve as a skylight to the Culture and Education Center and will bear quotations from women who have served. As the sun passes overhead, these historic words will be gently reflected on the wall of the center below.

The **STORY** of the nearly two million women who have served the nation will be brought to life through multimedia presentations and exhibits in the Memorial Theater and Education Center.

The **REGISTER** will be the heart of the Memorial. The computerized database with the name, photograph and individual story of each woman's service will be a permanent, visible place for servicewomen in America's history.

### THE MEMORIAL REGISTER



**Name:** Lori Ann Drake  
**Date of Birth:** July 30, 1960  
**Place of Birth:** Syracuse, New York  
**Hometown:** Central Square, N.Y.  
**Service:** U.S. Army, 8/83-3/87 and 2/88-2/92  
**Highest Rank:** Staff Sergeant  
**Military Decorations:** Four (4) ARCOMs, Southwest Asia Ribbon, Airborne Badge, Air Assault Badge

**Memorable Military Experiences:**  
 "My eight years of service in the medical and military intelligence fields allowed me to experience the people and cultures of Germany, Italy, Turkey, Honduras and the Middle East. Of course I'll always remember being a part of the 1st Infantry Division's attack during the ground war of Desert Storm, but a more pleasant military memory would be the day in Germany that 'The Wall' came down."

Sponsored for Registration by: "Any Servicemember" Pen Pal

### PLEASE HELP US LOCATE THESE WOMEN...

so that their names, stories and photographs are not lost.

All Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard servicewomen, and veterans living and deceased, are eligible to be registered in the Memorial. For a \$25, tax-deductible donation, servicewomen can register themselves or be registered by a friend or relative. All donations will go toward fund-raising for the Memorial, and all servicewomen who apply will be registered regardless of payment. Those registered before the dedication of the Memorial will be listed as Charter Members.

## WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE

Dept. 560 W

### CONTRIBUTOR INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### DONATIONS

☐ I am contributing to the Memorial Fund (circle \$1000 \$500 \$100 \$25) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I am registering myself as a Charter Member (\$25 minimum)

☐ I am sponsoring for registration as Charter Member \_\_\_\_\_ name(s) at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per name (\$25 minimum each name)

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEDGES

I pledge another \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the next \_\_\_\_\_ year

### MEMORIAL REGISTER DATA

For living or deceased women veterans and Active Reserve and Guard service members. Please type information. You may update information at any time.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Include maiden name, if desired)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Indicate if deceased and date of death)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Day Month

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

(City/State)

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_

(City/State)

Highest Rank or Rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Service: ☐ USA ☐ USMC ☐ USN ☐ USAF

☐ Nurse Corps ☐ Retired from military

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_





MAKING A DIFFERENCE  
FOR AMERICA'S  
SERVICEWOMEN.

Continental is the Official Airline of the  
Women in Military Service  
Memorial Foundation.



Upper Terrace, arc of tablets  
*Illustration by John Carr*



All contributions and requests for  
information should be sent to:

Women In Military Service For America  
Memorial Foundation, Dept. 560  
Washington, DC 20042-0560  
703-533-1155 or:

-800-222-2294

CHANGE  
THE FACE OF  
MONUMENTAL  
WASHINGTON.



HELP BUILD THE  
MEMORIAL TO  
AMERICA'S  
MILITARY WOMEN,  
PAST, PRESENT  
AND FUTURE.



A Monumental Tribute To  
Service, Sacrifice  
And Achievement

OVER 200  
YEARS OF PROUD  
AMERICAN  
HISTORY YOU  
WON'T FIND IN  
THE HISTORY  
BOOKS...



**M**ore than 200 years ago, Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man to join the Massachusetts Regiment of the Revolutionary Army. She treated her own combat wounds to keep her secret, but was discharged after her third injury when a doctor discovered she was a woman.

She married Benjamin Gannett, raised a family, managed their farm, and spent many years lecturing about her military service.

America's history is full of women like Deborah Sampson Gannett who served alongside men to gain and preserve liberty, but you may have difficulty finding them in the history books. Nearly two million women have served in military roles since America was founded, in peacetime and in conflict.

In the Civil War, many women, both black and white, served as nurses, saboteurs, scouts and couriers. They led troops into battle as color bearers, blew up bridges, cut telegraph wires, burned arsenals and warehouses, and helped prisoners and slaves escape.

WWI



Korea



WWII



Vietnam



Desert Storm



Today



Today



## NATIONAL SPONSORS COMMITTEE

### PRESIDENTS.

Ronald Reagan  
Jimmy Carter  
Gerald R. Ford  
Richard M. Nixon

### SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE.

Frank C. Carlucci III  
Casper W. Weinberger  
Dr. Harold Brown  
Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Dr. James R. Schlesinger  
Elliot L. Richardson  
Melvin R. Laird  
Clark M. Clifford  
Robert S. McNamara

### JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

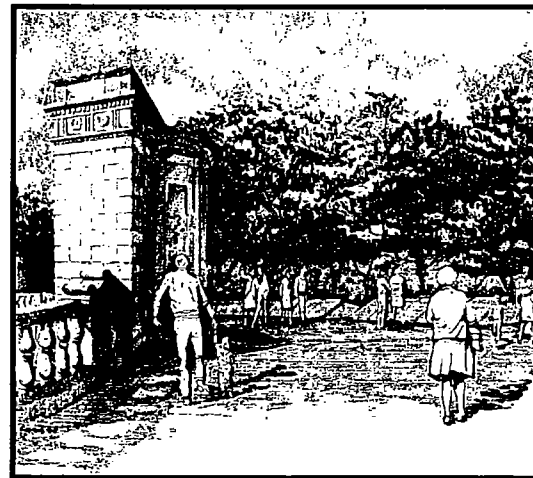
General John W. Vessey, Jr., USA, (Ret.)  
former Chairman

## Continental



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR AMERICA'S SERVICEWOMEN.

Continental is the Official Airline of the  
Women in Military Service  
Memorial Foundation.



Upper Terrace, arc of tablets  
*Illustration by John Carr*



All contributions and requests for  
information should be sent to:

Women In Military Service For America  
Memorial Foundation, Dept. 560  
Washington, DC 20042-0560  
703-533-1155 or:

# 1-800-222-2294

## CHANGE THE FACE OF MONUMENTAL WASHINGTON.



## HELP BUILD THE MEMORIAL TO AMERICA'S MILITARY WOMEN, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.



*A Monumental Tribute To  
Service, Sacrifice  
And Achievement*

## OVER 200 YEARS OF PROUD AMERICAN HISTORY YOU WON'T FIND IN THE HISTORY BOOKS...



WWI



Korea



WWII



**M**ore  
Del  
dis  
a n  
Massachusetts  
Revolutionary  
her own comb  
her secret, bu  
after her third  
doctor discove  
woman.

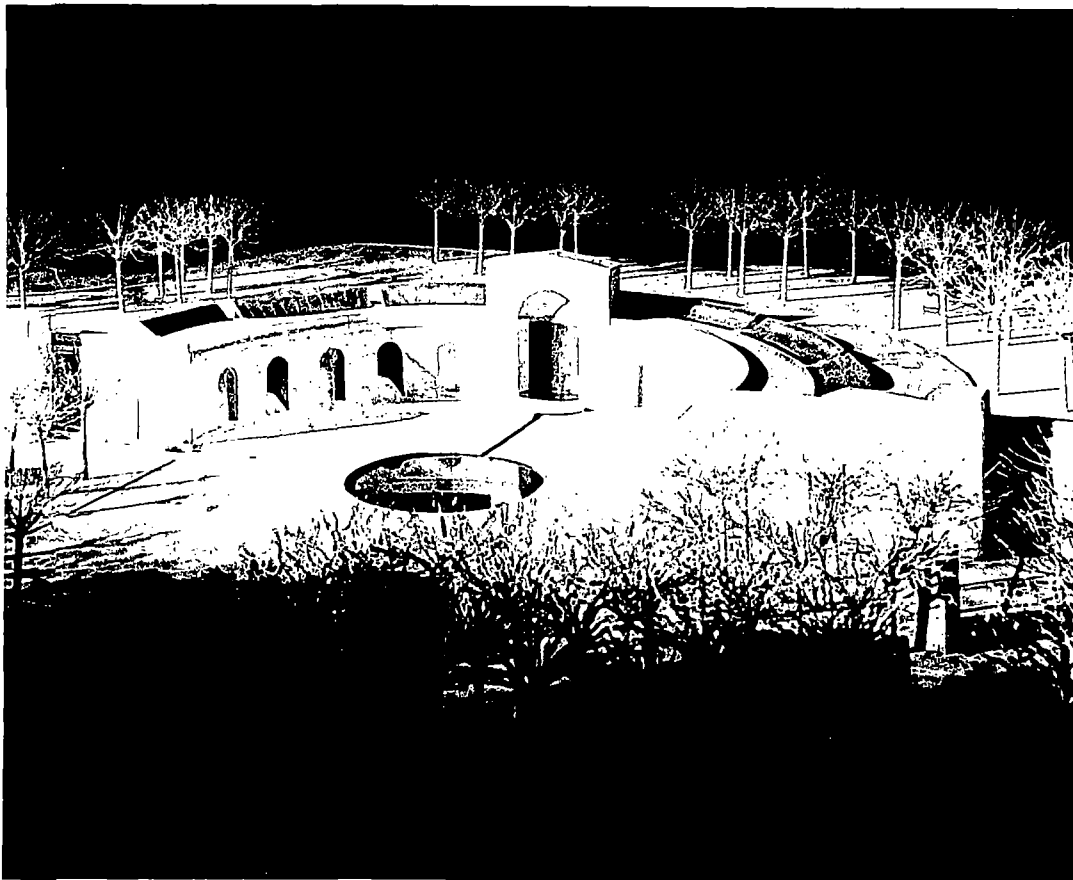
She married  
raised a family  
farm, and spe  
lecturing abou  
service.

America's h  
women like D  
Gannett who  
men to gain a  
but you may f  
finding them i  
Nearly two mi  
served in mili  
America was f  
peacetime and

In the Civil  
both black and  
nurses, sabote  
couriers. They  
battle as color  
up bridges, cu  
burned arsena  
and helped pr  
escape.

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE  
FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL

PROJECT OVERVIEW





# **WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL**

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Executive Summary**

## **Introduction**

## **The History of the Hemicycle**

## **The Memorial Design**

## **Documenting the History of Women in the Military**

## **Budget**

## **Fundraising**

## **The Foundation**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Executive Summary

The Women In Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc., has undertaken to build a memorial to honor the 1.8 million women who have served in our nation's military from the American Revolution through Desert Storm, and into the future.

The Memorial will be located at the historic gateway to the Arlington National Cemetery and involves restoration, preservation and new construction. The Memorial design creates an exciting new vista for visitors to Arlington National Cemetery to view the surrounding landscape and monumental Washington and maintains a balance between the new memorial, the Arlington House, and the Kennedy grave site.

The existing structure, designed by McKim, Mead and White in 1923, was dedicated in 1932 but never completed. The Great Entrance and Hemicycle was created according to the design tradition of Renaissance and Baroque Italian gardens and is currently eligible for listing as a National Historic Landmark.

In 1989, a national design competition was conducted for the proposed memorial. The winners of the design competition were Ms. Marion Weiss and Mr. Michael Manfredi, New York architects. The design concept has been unanimously approved by the Fine Arts Commission, National Capital Planning Commission and the National Capital Memorial Commission.

Restoration and preservation costs to the Hemicycle will require \$2,500,000 and will follow the guidelines recommended in the Standard for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

Other construction costs for the memorial are estimated at \$11,500,000. The memorial will be built behind the Hemicycle and below grade. The memorial will feature a cultural and education center, theater, exhibit areas, and a computer registration area.

## Introduction

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed public law 99-610 to build a memorial to honor the 1.8 million women who have served in our nation's armed forces from the American Revolution through Operation Desert Storm, and into the future.

In the spring of 1988, Brigadier General Wilma Vaught, President of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc. (WIMSA), met with National Park Service personnel to identify a site for the memorial. The chosen site, the historic Great Entrance and Hemicycle at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, was approved by the National Capital Memorial Commission, National Capital Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission on July 27, 1988.

The existing structure, designed by McKim, Mead and White in 1923, was dedicated in 1932 but never fully completed. The Hemicycle is eligible for listing as a National Historic Landmark. The Women in Military Service Memorial design, developed by the New York architectural team of Weiss/Manfredi, restores and renovates the Hemicycle to its intended beauty and gives it a new purpose and greater meaning. The design, which was approved unanimously by the National Capital Planning Commission and Fine Arts Commission on July 22 and 23, 1992, was described by Ben Forgey of the Washington Post as "a stunning surprise." He wrote:

Beautifully situated at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, the memorial will, if built, constitute a significant donation to the city's catalogue of special places....Aesthetically, the design is a gem. Encompassing the neoclassical semicircular wall to the entrance to the cemetery, the memorial as designed by architects Marion Gail Weiss and Michael Manfredi would positively transform the wall and the space around it.

As it now stands, the 60-year-old retaining wall admirably, if grandiloquently performs a single function: It is the end piece of the visual axis linking the Lincoln Memorial across Washington's prettiest bridge to the cemetery and the Arlington House (the Custis-Lee Mansion) up above. The beauty and symbolic resonance of this view rarely fail to impress. Connecting north and south of a once-divided republic, the vista embodies the nation's profound collective memories and its high aspirations.

It [the design] promises great improvement, changing a passive place to an active one, transforming a retaining wall into a handsome building facade, and resurrecting for public enjoyment an exhilarating view of monumental Washington, on the one side, and of the great cemetery on the other.



The cost of building the memorial is estimated at \$14 million, of which \$2.5 million is estimated for restoration and preservation of the existing historic structure and surrounding areas.

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, was founded to raise the money and take the necessary actions to build the memorial.

### The History of the Hemicycle

To preserve the intentions of the original designers, McKim, Mead and White, extensive research was undertaken to learn the history of the Hemicycle. Within the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission project, the Hemicycle was one of 17 packages of work planned, designed and accomplished over a period of 20 years. William Mitchell Kendall -- who had served on the Commission of Fine Arts from 1916-1921 -- was the firm's partner in charge of the cemetery gateway project.

The McKim, Mead & White plan called for a grand ceremonial approach and cemetery entrance at the terminus to the Memorial Bridge and monumental Washington. Description of the individual elements of the plan was prefaced with the statement that the designers had endeavored to keep the architecture "as simple and severe as possible, depending for its beauty upon its main proportions." It was described as follows:

After crossing the bridge over the waterway separating the island (Columbia Island) from the Virginia shore, a formal parkway is shown with two roadways and a "tapis vert" between, bounded by hedges and elms, and rising on a slight but even grade until after passing the Alexandria road it abuts the steep slope leading to the Mansion. This abrupt change of grade suggests the creating here of the chief memorial entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery. A plaza has been shown here in part excavated out of the hill, whence lead to the north and south roads respectively to and from the Mansion. The western end of the plaza is bounded by a semi-circular retaining wall 30 feet in height and 226 feet in diameter. This retaining wall will be decorated with niches, pilasters, and tablets bearing inscription. Access is provided to the terrace surmounting the retaining wall, whence an all-embracing view of the parkway may be obtained -- the columns of Columbia Island, the Memorial Bridge, the Potomac, the Lincoln Memorial, 5,808 feet distant, the Washington Monument, and far in the distance, the glistening white dome of the Capitol. Through the trees up to the westward a glimpse of the simple and dignified Arlington Mansion may also be obtained on top of the heights.

The Great Entrance was created according to the design tradition of Renaissance and Baroque Italian gardens whose formal, axial, and Classical architecture would become the basis for the L'Enfant Plaza of Washington, D.C. The McKim, Mead & White hemicycle was modeled upon the greatest of these gardens, the Villa Aldobrandini (1598-1603) at Frascati, specifically the semi-circular retaining wall which forms its central feature.

The work that McKim, Mead & White undertook for the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission was delayed by Congressional funding, was subject to disagreement among those having authority over the project, changed repeatedly in response to comments from reviewing agencies and by changes in personnel among reviewers, and ultimately was not finished according to the wishes of either Kendall or the Commission of Fine Arts because funding fell short.

How Kendall might have completed the Hemicycle can't be guessed. We know that carvings were intended for some of the panels, and an element of focus was planned for the center niche which varied from an equestrian statue, to a fountain, to a sculpture of a woman, back to a fountain, and finally to a statue of a soldier, never approved or completed. There were different plans for the center court, with grassy and paved panels.

Far greater changes of a type and magnitude not foreseen by the designer have affected the site since. The necessity of limiting general public vehicular traffic through the Great Entrance prompted the first important change: the Hemicycle became primarily a ceremonial entrance for funerals and state visitors. With the new Arlington National Cemetery Visitors Center being placed off-axis, the Hemicycle has lost its focus and is a mystery to many visitors who understand neither its function nor its placement relative to the other monuments of this vista or the axis. At night, it becomes a dark void at the end of the perspective of Memorial Avenue's lights, with the Custis-Lee Mansion inexplicably seeming to hang in space above. The power of the symbolic nature of the entrance, as well as the clarity of the axis, is seriously eroded.

William Kendall did not envision that Memorial Bridge would become a primarily utilitarian commuter thoroughfare and could not have envisioned the view across toward Virginia, as it is now bracketed on one side by a cluster of high-rise buildings, and on the other side by a very active airport, with low-flying jets shadowing the night sky.

The plan of monumental Washington -- much as we know it today -- was determined in the first quarter of this century, the same era also seeing the development of the formal reviewing bodies, among which were the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission. The Senate Park Commission (McMillan Commission) sought to 'rescue,' clarify and extend L'Enfant's plan for the city. In turn, Kendall sought to interpret and extend the Senate Park Commission Plan, which had been published twenty-five years earlier.

The importance of antecedent and historical form in the development of monumental Washington has been consistent. The Senate Park Commission's first order of business was to repair to Europe to study important capitals and public spaces. William Kendall's strength as a designer may have been his knowledge of historic architecture and his facility with classical detail. It is also felt to be important to understand the place of the proposed Weiss/Manfredi design in the context of architectural history, relative to the urban setting, the site, and the Hemicycle.

### **The Memorial Design**

In 1989, after the National Capital Memorial Commission approved the criteria for selection of a winning design, a national design competition was conducted. The design criteria articulated "the relationship to the existing historic structures on the site...(and a)...respectful balance between the new memorial, the Arlington House, and the Kennedy grave site." Consideration was also given to view lines from Memorial Avenue to the Hemicycle and maintaining the pastoral landscape character of the cemetery hillside. The design was to "respect and enhance the existing Hemicycle/Memorial Gate...(and)...reconcile the historical design features with the new memorial in a sensitive and imaginative way." In November of that year, the firm of Weiss and Manfredi Architects was named the winner of the competition. The winning design subsequently was altered slightly following initial review by the National Capital Memorial Commission.

The decision to create a memorial at the Great Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery to honor U.S. Military women meant that the site would be altered in some manner. The issue thus, was what alterations would be most appropriate to the existing hemicycle. The decision by Weiss/Manfredi Architects to build the memorial as part of McKim, Mead & White Hemicycle is a respectful approach. It eschews the addition of other buildings to the site which would have detracted from the majesty of the Beaux-Arts Hemicycle that terminates the axial approach across Memorial Bridge and serves as a base to Arlington National Cemetery, rising above and beyond it.

The proposed memorial will include restoration and completion of the historic gate area (Hemicycle and adjacent pylons and gate). A memorial center will be built behind the Hemicycle and below grade.

The Grand Plaza of the Hemicycle will be completed by a series of broad steps that border a central reflecting pool. The upper terrace of the Hemicycle is reached by passing and ascending through four niches in the wall. This ascension through the wall symbolizes the breaking down of barriers to women's roles and service, leading to their documented achievements. A key feature of the upper terrace is an arc of glass panels or "pages" that are inscribed with quotations to commemorate and give voice to the collective contributions of the women who have served throughout history. The panels will also serve as skylights into the Memorial's interior Visitors Center, with sunlight creating an ever changing shadow image of the quotations on the walls of the gallery below.

One of the essential design elements of the memorial is the creative and imaginative use of water, light and passage as symbols of women's military accomplishments. A thin sheet of water will cascade down the face of the glass panels, representing the individual voices of the women quoted. The water will collect at the base of the panels and flow to the central niche and cascade in a waterfall into the basin below, symbolic of the stories which now are being told. This "chorus of voices" will come together symbolically in the still waters of the central reflecting pool at the base of the Hemicycle, a place for contemplation and reflection.

The interior Visitors Center will be built behind the Hemicycle and will house the Hall of Valor; a theater-style auditorium seating approximately 250 visitors; and a computerized Register -- an extensive database where the public can access the photos, military history and individual stories of the women who have served. These rooms and exhibits would be connected by the Memorial Gallery, which will follow the curve of the Hemicycle wall.

At night, the glass panels will glow with a soft reflection of the light within, creating a horizon and sight line to mark the base of the hill that at present appears to have the Custis Lee Mansion and Kennedy grave site suspended above a black void at nighttime.

Landscaping will consist of a bosque of trees at each of the four corners of the north and south gates. Trees will also be placed at the upper terrace adjacent to the cemetery. Relatively unobstructed sight line views into the cemetery hillside are proposed at each of the stairway openings at the upper terrace.

The design contributes to the Hemicycle in three fundamental ways:

- \* creation of rooms behind the retaining wall;
- \* introduction of stairs that take visitors from the Court of Honor at ground level and into the new spaces behind the wall, where they have a view of the new Memorial Gallery, and then up to the Memorial Terrace for a closer view of the Arlington National Cemetery as well as a panoramic view of the great monuments of the Mall, the symbolic core of the American capital; and
- \* addition of cast-glass tablets -- or "pages" -- bearing etched inscriptions by and about servicewomen that serve as functional and symbolic skylights to the interior spaces of the proposed Memorial.

The interior spaces and the etched panels of the proposed Women in Military Service for America Memorial will alter the initial design for the Great Entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery in a manner fully consistent with the Classical architectural tradition from which it was originally conceived. The addition of the multiple staircases as an integral part of the hemicycle is likewise fully consonant with the use of stairs in these Italian Renaissance and Baroque gardens.

Historic preservation was a major goal of the new design. Arlington National Cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The proposed plans to restore the Hemicycle are a major element of the Cemetery and Washington's urban plan. Care will be taken to ensure that all repair and restoration work will follow the guidelines recommended in the Secretary of the Interior's Standard for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

In an opinion released in conjunction with the unanimous approval of the design on July 22, 1992, the National Capital Planning Commission noted:

In the review of design concepts for the memorial, the staff's overriding concern was for the preservation of the dignity and historical significance of the Arlington House, Cemetery slopes, and Gate Terminus Area vista. It is also the staff's belief that the Women In Military Service for America Memorial Foundation (WIMSA) and the National Park Service (NPS) share that same concern....Their sensitivity and respect in not only preserving but also enhancing the historic qualities of the Gate Terminus Area is admirable. The staff recommends that WIMSA and the NPS be commended for their effort. Moreover, it was a difficult design challenge to blend a new role for the Cemetery entry area and still maintain its

historic quality and vistas. The new Women in Military Service for America Memorial will commemorate women's contributions in the armed services and concurrently rehabilitate and restore the Hemicycle, and pylons and gates.

### **Documenting the History of Women in the Military**

One of the fundamental purposes of the memorial will be to document and preserve the individual histories of the 1.8 million women who have served in defense of our nation beginning with the American Revolution. Little has been written about women's contributions to the armed forces, even though they have served in a variety of capacities throughout the ages.

Located at the heart of the memorial, the computerized register will put the names, records of service, photographs, and memorable military experiences of each woman at the public's fingertips. The registration process will make it possible for all servicewomen -- past, present, and future -- to have a permanent, visible place in America's history.

In our search for these individuals and their stories, we have located women who participated in all phases of our military history. Some examples include:

- Deborah Sampson Gannett, who in order to serve in the Revolutionary Army, disguised herself as a man and enlisted as Robert Shurtleff and served for three years. When she was wounded, she avoided being discovered by the doctors by removing the shot from her own thigh.
- Clara Maas, who responded to a call for nurses during the Spanish American War at a time when Major Walter Reed was trying to prove that mosquitos were the cause of yellow fever. Clara Maas volunteered to be bitten by a mosquito and died at the age of 25 of yellow fever, proving that theory.
- Dr. Mary Walker, a medical school graduate who was turned down for a position as an Army doctor by the Army Surgeon General. She became a spy, was captured by the Confederate Army and later exchanged for a male prisoner. She was the first known American female prisoner of war, and the only woman in history to win the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- The "hello girls" of World War I, french-speaking telephone operators, sent to the front lines in France to assist in communications.
- The 88 women held prisoners of war during World War II - most held prisoner for more than three years.

- The four Navy nurses who were injured during a Viet Cong bombing raid in January, 1965. They became the first women in the Vietnam War to be awarded the Purple Heart.
- Major Marie Rossi, who was killed during Operation Desert Storm when the helicopter she piloted crashed into an unlit microwave tower in Saudi Arabia.

These stories and thousands more like them, as well as the records of hundreds of thousands of women who served in peacetime, should be an integral part of our history. The legacy of these stories for future generations of American women must be preserved. The Women In Military Service Memorial will be a place of education, reflection and commemoration for all women.

### **Budget**

Preservation and restoration costs were determined by data developed through the construction industry's Means Construction Cost Data catalogue and are estimates. The design of the Memorial is integral with the existing Hemicycle and it is impractical at this stage of the project design to separate restoration/preservation costs as single line items.

|                                             |                     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Restoration And Preservation Costs</b>   | <b>\$2,500,000</b>  |
| <b>Other Construction Costs</b>             |                     |
| Site work, Terraces, Court                  | \$3,500,000         |
| Memorial Center                             | 5,100,000           |
| Design Fees and Project contingencies       | 1,900,000           |
| Federal Mandatory Set Aside                 | <u>1,000,000</u>    |
|                                             | <b>\$11,500,000</b> |
| <b>Total Estimated Cost of Construction</b> | <b>\$14,000,000</b> |

### **Fundraising**

A formalized fundraising program has been in effect since 1991, raising more than \$1 million for the building fund. A major campaign is underway to solicit foundations, corporations, foreign governments, state governments, organizations and individuals. A direct mail program is also in effect, as well as other lesser fundraising activities, and a commemorative coin program is planned. Please note that federal laws passed in 1986 prohibit the use of federal funds for memorials.

## **The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation**

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc. (WIMSA) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1985 to build a Memorial to the women of the military.

The Board of Directors consists of former members of the military and citizens at large and is led by Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (Ret.).

The goals of the foundation are:

- Pay tribute to the estimated 1.8 million women who have served the military throughout history, and provide a living memorial for today's and future military women.
- Document servicewomen's experiences and stories of service, sacrifice and achievement through a computerized data base complete with photos, and in this way, make these contributions a visible part of our history as a nation.
- Generate the funds, an estimated \$14 million, for construction of the memorial at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery and for restoration and preservation of existing structures.

Women In Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
5510 Columbia Pike  
Suite 302  
Arlington, Virginia 22204  
Telephone: (800) 222-2294  
Fax: (703) 931-4208