

## Persian Gulf Tribute at The Highground

*Mission Statement: "To build with honor a tribute for all branches of America's Military who served around the world beginning with Desert Storm, through multiple Middle East conflicts, while marching forward in the Global War on Terrorism. May we establish a place of hope so that we do not walk past you but with you. Let this site be an anchor for education and solace while securing in memory sacrifices made. With hope and prayer the Persian Gulf Tribute will provide a safe haven for all to reflect and to heal."*

### *The Walk of Honor* Design Elements

- **Tribute landscape perimeter:** 90' x 90'
- **Tribute purpose:** To honor the Persian Gulf Veterans through design elements and educational materials.
- **Tribute interior/exterior contour:** The interior spherical form symbolizes the globe and Mother Earth. The paths leading into and out of the area can be incorporated into the existing trail system. The circular path encompassing other design elements represents the globe and encourages a healing, positive, tactile and interactive experience.
- **Center of globe:** A bald eagle landing with wings extended on the boulder symbolizing patriotism and freedom.
- **Center Boulder:** One large glacial boulder complimented with several smaller boulders, emerging from the earth, raised on washed rocks representing the desert.
- **Persian Gulf Tribute plaque:** Mounted on the center boulder, using contrasting colors and letters with suitable font size for a range of visual abilities.
- **Seating:** Within the interior of the sphere there will be durable low maintenance granite seating in three locations. Seating provides a place for reverent reflection and meditation. Here, the visitor can acknowledge the dedication and depth of the sacrifices made by those that have served. Personal privacy is offered in the seating arrangement.
- **Concrete Walls:** Five concrete walls encircle the central image. Each wall holds a bronze crest of a military branch. The opposing side will host the names

of fallen soldiers and Middle East conflict educational materials. Visitors with all physical abilities will be able to read the materials with ease. In recognition of the ongoing Persian Gulf conflict, the walls will accommodate new updated data.

Persian Gulf veterans are acquainted with the use of the concrete wall for protection and will relate to the symbolism in the tribute.

Attached is an image of an interlocking wall in Iraq used to protect our troops; forwarded by our daughter while serving as a Marine in Iraq in 2009. The walls provide safety, security and emotional comfort to soldiers in the Persian Gulf, past, present and continuing.

For the purpose of this design; the unlocked, separated walls symbolize open, receiving, trusting spaces to encourage the flow of communication, education, self-reliance and global peace.

**Life-size bronze figures:** Three men and two women will be represented. Each figure stands adjacent to their corresponding military branch wall. The life-size figures will have at ease walking postures with hands in a receiving gesture. The visitor is invited to touch, or hold the hand of the walking soldier. The faces of the soldiers look sideways, up and down engaging the visitors of various statures.

**Detail of figure placement:** Refer to the bird's eye view and conceptual drawing - starting at right entrance and rotating clock wise.

The figures recognize both genders, races (facial features), and that all soldiers are professionals.

1 – Male soldier reading letter (right entrance): Support from home; tired soldier with uniform more tired.

2 – Male soldier carrying a dog: Adopted pet dog and/or cat, troop's compassion for the job.

3 – Female soldier carrying helmet, boots and dog tag: fallen soldier – helmet/ weapon/boots/dog tag; comrade/trust in your buddies.

4 – Male soldier: Foot patrol; survival/alert; burden of carrying heavy loads (physical,

emotional, etc.); comrade/trust in your buddies.

5 – Female with children: A future of hope & peace for the Middle Eastern youth; just want to do our jobs, help the good guy and get home safe (training the Iraqi's), troops compassion for the job.

- **Motion sensor lighting:** At entrances, by benches and incorporated into landscape. Directed at center so that educational materials will be highlighted.
- **Perennials:** Blue Flag Iris or the American Blue Flag is a native Wisconsin perennial that blossoms from late May, June to July. Its green stalks are elegant after blossoming and nearly maintenance free.

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