

Persian Gulf Tribute Committee  
The Highground  
W7031 Ridge Road  
PO Box 457  
Neillsville, WI 54456

Dear Persian Gulf Tribute Committee Members,

1/27/10

I am honored to submit the enclosed materials for your Persian Gulf Tribute sculpture design consideration. My personal vision for The Highground is titled "The Walk of Honor".

My interest in this veteran's tribute was rooted in my first visit to The Highground in December. A long time friend and The Highground advocate, Joan Cervenka, had urged me to visit Neillsville where I viewed the moving veteran's tributes. Having my daughter, Corporal Melissa Crandall, who is currently serving in the United States Marine Corp, in my heart and mind, made the visit even more personal and thought provoking.

It was during Melissa's recent holiday leave, that she and I were able to discuss in depth her 2009 Iraq deployment. The stories she told and the photographs she shared have been my inspiration for "The Walk of Honor" sculpture design. Parental concern and personal pride for my daughter's service are the driving force in the creation of this educational sculpture design that expresses admiration and respect for the armed forces. Combining her experiences and photography with my artistry provides a personal opportunity to process feelings and thoughts into a three dimensional form for others to share.

One of her shared images, that of an interlocking cement security wall that bore carefully painted unit emblems, was utilized for a key design element in "The Walk of Honor". This symbol of protection and security will be familiar to those who have served in the Persian Gulf.

The five bronze soldiers, representing the Military branches, are placed between the wall segments in walking postures providing a tactile interactive experience. Wisconsin's Motto is "Forward"; walking with the soldiers, we are moving forward with reverence and patriotism.

The sculpture and landscape design elements will provide a place for visitors to reflect and remember not only their loved ones but all veterans; never to be forgotten, as every soldier is someone's child.

"The Walk of Honor" sculpture heralds Wisconsin, its veteran's and our Nation's gratitude. The enclosed description will detail the sculpture elements that address the Persian Gulf Tribute requirements.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sara Balbin