

Persian Gulf Tribute at the Highground

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As a tribute to the men and women of our armed forces I envision a square concrete base 60' by 60' with a map of the Mideast etched on the surface, with the names of the countries Afghanistan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iran. The neighboring countries would be identified also.

At the entrance would be a large bronze plaque showing the chronology of the three events; Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

I would like to see 5 separate groups of bronze sculptures at various locations on the map.

1. On the map of Saudi Arabia would be a female and 2 males army soldiers (one Caucasian and one Black) in full battle gear, carrying gas masks. One male is holding a rifle at the ready watching in the distance. The female soldier is handing a water canteen to the second male, both with rifles ready.
2. On the map of Afghanistan would be a Marine in full battle gear and cold weather clothing, holding a clip board, teaching 2 Mideast soldiers.
3. On the map on the Gulf of Oman would be an Air Force pilot kneeling down, talking to a young child with a dog. The pilot is pointing up in the air and the child is looking to where he is pointing.
4. On the map of Iraq would be 2 females (one Caucasian, one Black) in naval uniforms talking to 3 young adult women, two in traditional garb and the other more westernized.
5. On the map on the Arabian Sea would be a male in a Coast Guard uniform, standing amid sandbags, boxes and large water bottles, a rifle slung over his back and night vision glasses on his helmet.

Artists would submit their ideas for the various sculptures following the guidelines above. I would like to see fine detail in the pieces similar to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial and Vietnam Women's Memorial statues in Washington D.C.

My idea for the Persian Gulf Tribute shows the hardships of extreme temperature as well as the strains of war but it also emphasizes other important aspects of the missions like teaching others to defend themselves and showing by example what freedom means. It reflects the influence we have on young people in foreign lands.

Thank you for everything you have done to honor Veterans.

Ken Anderson

