



To Whom It May Concern:

A core belief of Boot Campaign's founders, board of directors and staff is this: When veterans come back, we give back. Some of the most important ways to give back are to recognize, remember and revere the service of those who have served us all; to that end, this letter is to express Boot Campaign's support of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act.

Freedom is not a concept. It's a commitment. And for the brave men and women that are serving and have served our great country in the Global War on Terrorism, their commitment is clear for all to see. Building a national memorial in America's capital will make *our commitment* to giving back to them clear for the world to see.

For generations to come, the Global War on Terrorism Memorial will provide a place of community; a place of convening; and a place of celebrating those who have donned a uniform in defense of our freedoms. While the military conflict's end date is unclear, the service and sacrifice of the most recent all-volunteer force who have laced up their boots and bid families and friends farewell is undeniable.

It is our duty to ensure that the sacrifices of these veterans and their families do not go underappreciated.

With purpose,



Shelly Kirkland
CEO
Boot Campaign

G. KURT PIEHLER, PhD, DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE ON WORLD WAR II
AND THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY,
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY TESTIMONIAL IN SUPPORT OF
POTENTIAL SITE 1 (CONSTITUTION GARDENS) FOR THE FUTURE
NATIONAL GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL

To the Members of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee:

As a historian who has studied questions of war and memory, I feel privileged by your invitation to offer an assessment of current efforts to build a memorial to the Global War on Terrorism in Washington, DC. This multi-generational war has already claimed the lives of over 6,900 servicemen and servicewoman and it has left another 52,802 wounded. As America's longest war, a proposed memorial should be accorded a site of prominence in the nation's capital, and I support placing it in Constitution Gardens, with alternative locations at either West Potomac Park or the JFK Hockey Field.

Historically, memorials serve many functions for Americans. Over the course of our nation's history, veterans have frequently taken the lead in initiating them to ensure their sacrifices, especially those of their fallen comrades, are not forgotten. In the nineteenth century, women played a vital role in providing funds to build memorials. Memorials represented an important outlet for women to participate in civic life in an era in which they were denied most rights of citizenship. For the families of the fallen and for the entire nation, memorials frequently serve as sites of mourning, especially the cemeteries and monuments maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission and the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial in Washington, DC.

The Global War on Terrorism is a moment in time that forged great national unity in the initial response to the attack by Al Qaeda terrorists against the Pentagon and World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Americans expressed shock and resolve when faced with the costliest loss of life by a single terrorist attack in U.S. history. After the American Civil War, the continental United States had been fortunate to avoid any significant attack by a foreign adversary during war-time. The attacks of September 11 represented a sharp break in American history, and it is one of the compelling reasons for building a memorial to the Global War on Terrorism at a prominent location in Washington, DC.

National unity did fracture over time and there is no question that Americans had profound differences over how the Global War on Terror should be executed, especially concerning the decision to invade Iraq in 2003. But the fact that the Global War on Terror is a controversial war should not be used as an excuse to forestall building a memorial. My work and that of other scholars who study war and memory have documented the profound divisions caused by every armed conflict since the founding of the United States. The Revolutionary War divided the

nascent nation with many Americans remaining loyal to the British Crown, and in several instances, even taking up arms against the Continental Army. Both the War of 1812 and Mexican American War provoked significant anti-war movements. The refusal of New Englanders to buy federal bonds almost bankrupted the country in the War of 1812. As a young Congressman from Illinois, Abraham Lincoln publicly protested against fighting in Mexico. The American Civil War pitted region against region, even dividing many families. In my book, *Remembering War the American Way*, I make the case that World War I is the most controversial armed conflict of the twentieth century. Not only did Americans fiercely debate the wisdom of entering this overseas war, but also even after Congress declared war in 1917, significant anti-war opposition led to the deployment of National Guard units to parts of the rural south to quell violent resistance to the draft. Until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Americans fiercely contested whether the United States should intervene in another overseas war. Two future presidents, John F. Kennedy and Gerald R. Ford were members of the American First Movement which sought to keep the United States out of war.

Efforts to create memorials can contribute to fostering national reconciliation. Generally, the most successful memorials stress the service and sacrifice of those who serve in uniform in the American armed services. Arguably, the most admired national memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, is successful because of its location and its aesthetic design, which focuses the attention of those visiting the monument on the names of the war dead. Although largely forgotten today, Maya Lin's design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial initially provoked significant public opposition.

Should a national memorial to the Global War on Terror wait until the conflict has concluded? Not necessarily. The way Americans have remembered their past wars has undergone significant change over time, and there is no uniformity in when memorials are built and for what reasons. For instance, Americans built relatively few war memorials in the first hundred years of the republics' existence. During the Early National Period, Jeffersonian Republicans argued that monuments, even those to George Washington, should be avoided because of their association with authoritarian regimes of Europe. In sharp contrast, Americans built hundreds of memorials soon after the Civil War and World War I to commemorate these conflicts. Relatively few monuments were built to the Korean War, in part because many Americans saw this conflict as part of an on-going Cold War that in the 1950s and 1960s was perceived to have no end in sight.

During war, some memorials are built even before a conflict's conclusion. Throughout both world wars, American soldiers in several instances created *ad hoc* monuments after a battle to commemorate their victories without waiting for the conflict's conclusion. During World War II, honor rolls that listed the names of those serving in the armed forces were erected in prominent locations within many communities. Many of these memorials were never taken down after V-J Day, and in

some places, over seventy-five years after the conflict, they still continue to acknowledge and preserve the memory of those who served.

It is my understanding that the Global War on Terrorism Foundation, after determining a site for a memorial, will then hold an open competition for an appropriate design. In my view, any design must be cognizant of the ethnic, racial, gender, religious, and regional diversity of those who served in the armed forces during the Global War on Terror. This war broke significant ground in this area, most notably in the large number of military women engaged in combat. Although I defer to the judgment of the Foundation, especially veteran members of this organization, the final memorial should be one that can be expanded and completed when this conflict comes to an end. Like the Cold War, there appears to be no immediate end in sight, but I am confident we are not doomed to an endless conflict.

This proposed memorial would recognize those that fought with an all-volunteer force that constitutes less than one percentage of the nation's population and bore a disproportionate burden. Private support in the form of financial contributions will be essential if there is to be a national Global War on Terrorism memorial. In my view, this memorial will afford an opportunity to educate the wider public regarding the service and sacrifice of those who fought in the Global War on Terrorism. It will also provide an opportunity for average Americans, through their financial contributions, to express, in a small way, their gratitude to those who sacrificed so much.

In closing, I recognize in supporting the placement of a Global War on Terrorism Memorial in Constitution Gardens with alternative locations at either West Potomac Park or the JFK Hockey Field, there has been opposition in the past over placing additional monuments on the National Mall and surrounding environs. At the same time, the precedents established by recent memorialization efforts have served to make this part of Washington America's version of Westminster Abbey, a preeminent place to honor great national leaders and commemorate past wars. Location does matter in terms of garnering recognition and this makes the case for locating the Global War on Terrorism Memorial in close proximity to the national memorials to World War II, Korea, and Vietnam compelling.

Thank you for this opportunity to write in support of the efforts by the Global War on Terrorism Foundation to situate a memorial in Constitution Gardens with alternative locations in West Potomac Park or the JFK Hockey Fields.

Respectfully,

G. Kurt Piehler, PhD
6 February 2020

The views expressed in this statement represent only those of G. Kurt Piehler and do not necessarily reflect those of Florida State University.

G. Kurt Piehler, Director of the Institute of World War II and the Human Experience and Associate Professor of History at Florida State University, is author of *Remembering War the American Way* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995, reprint ed., 2004) and *World War II* (Greenwood Press, 2007) in the *American Soldiers' Lives* series. Piehler is the editor of *Encyclopedia of Military Science* (2013), *The United States in World War II: A Documentary Reader* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013) and also co-edited *The United States and the Second World War: New Perspectives on Diplomacy, War, and the Home Front* (Fordham University Press, 2010), *The Atomic Bomb and American Society: New Perspectives* (University of Tennessee Press, 2009) and *Major Problems in American Military History* (Houghton Mifflin, 1999). Piehler edits two book series: *World War II: The Global, Human, Ethical Dimension* (Fordham University Press) and *Legacies of War* (University of Tennessee Press). He is also a member of the editorial board of the *Service Newspapers of World War II* digital publication (Adam Mathews) and on the advisory board of the NEH funded American Soldier Project at Virginia Tech University.

Piehler has held academic positions at the City University of New York, Drew University, Rutgers University, and the University of Tennessee. In 2008, he served as Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies at Kobe University and Kyoto University. He served as National Historical Publications and Records Commission Fellow in Historical Editing at the Peale Family Papers, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, 1988-1989. As founding director (1994-1998) of the Rutgers Oral History Archives, he conducted more than 200 interviews with veterans of World War II. His televised lecture, "The War That Transformed a Generation," which drew on the Rutgers Oral History Archives, appeared on the History Channel in 1997. In 2017, Piehler served as coordinator of the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History that brought over 600 military historians from 12 foreign countries and 42 states to Jacksonville, Florida.

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G. KURT PIEHLER, PhD, DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE ON WORLD WAR II AND THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY TESTIMONIAL IN SUPPORT OF POTENTIAL SITE 1 (CONSTITUTION GARDENS) FOR THE FUTURE NATIONAL GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL

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nascent nation with many Americans remaining loyal to the British Crown, and in several instances, even taking up arms against the Continental Army. Both the War of 1812 and Mexican American War provoked significant anti-war movements. The refusal of New Englanders to buy federal bonds almost bankrupted the country in the War of 1812. As a young Congressman from Illinois, Abraham Lincoln publicly protested against fighting in Mexico. The American Civil War pitted region against region, even dividing many families. In my book, *Remembering War the American Way*, I make the case that World War I is the most controversial armed conflict of the twentieth century. Not only did Americans fiercely debate the wisdom of entering this overseas war, but also even after Congress declared war in 1917, significant anti-war opposition led to the deployment of National Guard units to parts of the rural south to quell violent resistance to the draft. Until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Americans fiercely contested whether the United States should intervene in another overseas war. Two future presidents, John F. Kennedy and Gerald R. Ford were members of the American First Movement which sought to keep the United States out of war.

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SUSAN L. EASTMAN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AT DALTON STATE COLLEGE
TESTIMONIAL IN SUPPORT OF THE RESERVE SECTION OF THE NATIONAL MALL
FOR THE FUTURE NATIONAL GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL

To the Members of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee:

As a scholar of contemporary war memorials and cultural memory, I am honored by the National Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation's invitation to provide support for the placement of the National Global War on Terror Memorial within the Reserve section of the National Mall (H.R. 5046). In 2017 Congress acknowledged and established a need for this memorial when it unanimously passed H.R. 873 in 2017, exempting the memorial from the Commemorative Works Act of 1986 that prohibits approval of new memorials until at least ten years after a conflict ends. Indeed, this very exception demonstrates that the memorial is of significant and lasting historical, cultural, and public import to the Nation.

In addition to Congressional support, the public civilian desire to memorialize the War on Terror (WOT) is evident in the proliferation of WOT memorials across the U.S. My research on the immediacy and proliferation of WOT memorials indicates that since 2004 *at least* 100 public WOT memorials were dedicated across the United States. This remarkable number does not include 9/11 memorials. It also excludes temporary memorials, virtual memorials, and memorials at military installations, such as those on bases and at the academies. Around a dozen of these public memorials were dedicated between 2004-2006. Thus, communities and state governments began memorializing the WOT 15 years ago. Memorials serve many purposes. Some emphasize healing, peace, reconciliation, or education. Others are places of mourning, recognition, honor, or commemoration. Within the context of the WOT, these early memorials may demonstrate resistance to civilian war fatigue or early-onset cultural amnesia in the United States. They may also be symptomatic of a desire to provide closure to these forever wars.

Undoubtedly, the proliferation of WOT memorials across the country attests to the need for a national symbolic narrative of commemoration. These local and state memorials consist of a variety of purposes and types: some are WOT memorials, several focus on solely on the War Afghanistan or the Iraq War, a few are veterans' memorials, and others are dedicated to individuals. There are memorials named after individuals that also include the names of others from that community—listing either those who died or those who served, and often both. Still, others attempt to provide an unofficial all-encompassing national memorial as evidenced by their names—the Middle East Conflicts Wall Memorial in Marseilles, Illinois (2004) and the War on Terror Memorial at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Hermitage, PA (2004)—and by their missions to list the names of *all* U.S. military personnel who have fallen in these wars. Such memorials can create a perplexing narrative for the American public. They may believe that we are unwilling to dedicate an official national memorial in the most honored location—the Reserve on the National Mall—and that others have taken on the charge of filling this void.

While many service members continue to face yet another deployment and others will be deployed for the first time, many completed their service over a decade ago. Nearly twenty years since the start of the War on Terror, it is now time to reflect: how will we commemorate these

wars? What do we want current and future generations to know and remember? The process of creating a National Global War on Terrorism Memorial and locating it within the Reserve will serve as a response to these concerns. Such placement will recognize the duration of the war, in addition to the loss of life among military and civilians. Consider data compiled by the Department of Labor listing the number of “civilian employees under contract with the U.S. government for public works or national defense” that have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq in the years since 9/11 at 3,413.¹ While the casualties among servicemen and women are relatively low (approximately 6,967) compared with other wars, if we consider that an additional 52,802 have been wounded, then we can acknowledge an impact on over 60,000 families *and* communities in the United States alone.² The physical and psychological wounds of war affect not only military service members, their families, and their local communities, but have a lasting influence on our society as well. So, too, do the positive experiences of war-time service.

While we do not yet know what the design for the Global War on Terror Memorial will be, its location will certainly influence the design. Many of the principles the National Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation lists on their website as essential to the memorial’s design are common among war memorials—strength, resilience, sacrifice, and service. We could identify many of these elements in the Korean War memorial or the World War II memorial, for example. However, it is uncommon to attempt to represent multigenerational, multi-cultural principles, despite evidence of these in previous twentieth-century wars. For example, we only see these reflected in the Vietnam Veterans memorials.

The most striking principle is the primary challenge of all WOT memorials—to represent an ongoing, “Forever War.” Yet, the inclusion of this very principle demonstrates that the National Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation seeks to avoid a false or premature sense of closure. Like the Vietnam War, the duration of the WOT results in a social, cultural, political, military, and historical multigenerational impact—not just militarily, but also among civilians, including civilians with no military connections. Consider, for example, that most college students and their contemporaries have never lived in an American not engaged in the War on Terror.

Locating the memorial within the Reserve section of the National Mall, is key to representing these key principles. Memory theorist and historian, Pierre Nora, describes a site of memory—a *lieu de mémoire*—as a principal place or site in which collective memory is rooted and where one can study “national feeling.”³ That site of memory for the National Global War on Terror Memorial should be located within the Reserve. Not only does the War on Terror compare in magnitude, human impact, and historical significance to other wars in the Reserve, approving its location in this monumental core will avoid contributing to an increased scattering effect of war memorials across the National Mall and Washington D.C. Concerning the potential sites proposed by the National Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation, I can provide opinions regarding how visitors *may* interpret location.

¹ Congressional Research Service, In Focus, “U.S. War Costs, Casualties, and Personnel Levels Since 9/11.” April 2019. IF11182.

² Ibid.

³ Pierre Nora, “Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Mémoire,” *Representations* 26 (1989).

Site 1 Constitution Gardens: Visitors touring the National Mall do not typically take this route from the World War II Memorial to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, but it is a lovely location for relaxation and reflection. Due to its proximity to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and particularly the Vietnam Women's Memorial, placing the National Global War on Terror Memorial here, could very well create a foot traffic flow that would also benefit visitors who too easily overlook the Vietnam Women's Memorial; they often do not realize it is there. Yet this site is also nicely removed and creates a distinct memorial space for the National Global War on Terror Memorial.

Site 2 West Potomac Park: This potential site seems fairly detached from the other war memorials within the Reserve and may be too far removed. However, compared with Site 3, it holds the potential for creating a clearly distinct memorial space. Interestingly, the urban skyline and bridge may remind visitors of the urban warfare that exemplifies much of the WOT. Yet it remains peacefully removed from urban and traffic clamor. In addition, the water connection to Arlington Metro makes this a fitting site for a memorial that is unlikely to list the names of the fallen due to the nature of the ongoing war. The water taxi provides easy access to Arlington and would create a great deal of foot traffic near the memorial.

Site 3 (A and B) the JFK Hockey Fields: For these locations, I would prefer to defer to any testimony provided by the National Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation, particularly opinions of affected demographics. I am, however, concerned that visitors will move from the World War II Memorial, to this location, and then on to the Lincoln Memorial, passing by the Korean War Memorial from a distance and overlooking the Vietnam Veterans Memorials altogether. This could leave visitors with an impression that the twentieth-century is defined by World War II and the twenty-first-century by the WOT. However, proximity to the World War II Memorial is fitting if we consider the global impact these two wars share.

My only reservation about locating the memorial in the Reserve is that the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission holds authority over the design. I therefore hope, in keeping with the best memorialization principles evident in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, that the Commission will uphold the sentiment of a people's memorial. However, as the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation will attest, this preference is a result of interviews and multi-day roundtable events with affected demographics; it is fitting to honor their wishes.

To these ends, I encourage the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission to support locating the memorial in Reserve section of the National Mall.

Respectfully,

Susan L. Eastman, PhD
7 February 2020

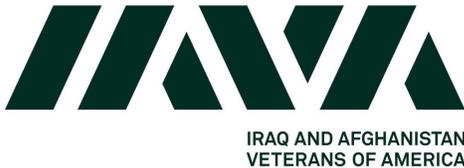
The views expressed in this statement represent only those of Susan L. Eastman and do not necessarily reflect those of Dalton State College or the University System of Georgia.

Susan L. Eastman is an Assistant Professor of English at Dalton State College, in Georgia and is the author of *The American War in Viet Nam: Cultural Memories at the Turn of the Century* (University of Tennessee Press, 2017). Her scholarship addresses memory and war of the twentieth and twenty-first-century found in memorials, literature, film, and culture. In her book, Eastman analyzes veteran, civilian, American, Vietnamese, and Vietnamese American memorial, literary and cinematic representations of the war produced from the Persian Gulf War (1990–91) through the post-9/11 War on Terror. The experiences of women figure prominently in the book: two chapters address women’s experiences—one about the Vietnam Women’s Memorial, and the other about representations of American and Vietnamese women married to Vietnam veterans.

Her other publications include journal articles on Mark Twain and Tim O’Brien include “How to Tell a [True War] Story”: Tim O’Brien, Mark Twain and Metafiction” (*Midwestern Miscellany*, 2018) and another on Mark Twain’s posthumously published story, “The War Prayer” in *Contemporary Film and Social Media (The Mark Twain Annual, 2016)*. Her chapters in edited collections include: “The ‘Nam Comics: Remembering the American War in Viet Nam” in *Beyond the Quagmire: New Interpretations of the Vietnam Conflict* (UNT Press, 2019); “Randall Wallace’s *We Were Soldiers*: Forgetting the American War in Viet Nam” in *The Martial Imagination: Essays on the Cultural History of American Warfare* (Texas A&M UP, 2013); and “Aesthetic Limbo: Memory Making at the Vietnam Women’s Memorial” in *Thirty Years After: New Essays on Vietnam War Literature, Film, and Art* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2009).

She has held academic positions at Potomac State College of West Virginia University and the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga (UTC). At UTC she co-founded and directed Sword and Pen, a writing group for student veterans and their families. In 2016, she participated in an NEH Summer Institute, “Veterans in Society,” at Virginia Tech where she began conducting research on War on Terror memorials, scholarship that she presented at three venues including the *War, Literature, and the Arts* Conference at the USAF Academy (2018). She is currently writing an article about the immediacy and proliferation of War on Terror Memorials dedicated across the Nation.

Born and raised in rural New Hampshire, the daughter of an enlisted Vietnam Veteran, she earned her BA at Berea College in Kentucky and her PhD and MA at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She currently resides in Chattanooga, TN.



February 7, 2020

The Honorable Jason Crow
1229 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Crow:

On behalf of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America's (IAVA) more than 425,000 members, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the *Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Location Act* (H.R. 5046).

As of February 3, 2020, more than 7,000 service members have given their lives for our nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other post-9/11 theaters of conflict. The time has come for our nation to honor servicemembers and families who have served, especially those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, with a memorial on the National Mall. A monument will give the nation an enduring reminder of the heroism of our military and the sacrifices made.

Furthermore, as the longest running conflict in United States history, it is paramount to include the Global War on Terror Memorial alongside the memorials of other major previous conflicts on the National Mall. H.R. 5046 is a meaningful and necessary step to achieve this goal, and we thank you for your leadership and advocacy on this matter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Jeremy@iava.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Butler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Butler
CEO
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America



GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.

Testimonial Letter

National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission

February 11, 2020

Greetings,

My name is Isaia Vimoto. I am a US Army Veteran, a Gold Star, and Blue Star father. I was eight years old when I told my mother that I wanted to be a Soldier when I grow up. I joined the Army from the small islands of Samoa after graduating from high school. I've had my shares of combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, serving alongside some of the most patriotic and fearless Warriors who willingly sacrificed for America. I've met some great people and made lifelong friends along the way. Sadly, we bid farewell to some who made the ultimate sacrifice and later to those who succumb to their combat injuries. I've been blessed with the opportunity to serve and lead our nation's precious resources both in peacetime and in combat during my 34+ years wearing the uniform of the greatest country on earth.

My wife and I have five (5) children. Our oldest son Tim had just graduated High School when I returned from my first deployment to Iraq in 2005. He was groomed in his youth to serve a two-year mission for our church, followed by attending college to play football. Tim surprised his mother and me when he told us that he decided to join the Army. I asked why? His humbled response was, "Dad, I've been watching the news, and I saw many of our troops killed in action. I feel it's my turn to serve." I was touched and worried that my son was willing to put his life on the line knowing full well the outcome of war. After Basic, Advance Training, and Airborne school, he was assigned to the 173rd ABN BDE Combat Team in Vicenza, Italy. I was his BDE CSM during our 15 months deployment to Afghanistan in 2007. His platoon was based out of the Korengal Valley, as highlighted by Sebastian Junger in his documentary, "Restrepo." It

was there fighting alongside his brothers when he was Killed In Action during a firefight with the enemy forces.

Our oldest daughter was a senior in college when she came home for the holidays after her 1st semester. We were surprised when she told us that she decided to join the Army. Despite our efforts to persuade her otherwise, she was set on becoming a Soldier. She added, “dad, I know that your next deployment will be your last hoorah before you retire. I want Ft. Bragg to be my first assignment after my Basic, AIT, and Airborne school. I want to deploy with you to Afghanistan.” It was an honor to deploy with her to Afghanistan in 2013-2014 where she was assigned to the ISAF Joint Command HQ. She participated in the Afghan Election ballot security mission. She contributed to the success of the communication infrastructures both in the ISAF and IJC HQ. She is currently serving on JBLM with America’s First Corps and will be PCSing to Kuwait in April 2020.

Our youngest daughter, who was a sophomore in college, decided to sit out her junior year to join the Army. After Basic, AIT and Airborne school, her first assignment was with the 1st Special Forces Group on Joint Base Lewis-McChord as an Intel Analyst. She deployed with her unit to Afghanistan in the spring of 2018, where she traveled throughout her unit footprint to provide needed intel capability and support to the Operators.

Our fourth oldest was the first of our children to graduate from college with a double major. He coached High School Football and taught High School Physical Education during his first year after graduating college. He dreamed of an opportunity to go to Afghanistan, where his brother was Killed in Action. He was hired by a contracting organization to be an Aerostat Operator in Afghanistan. He was assigned to the US Embassy in Kabul to provide aerial coverage of the Embassy and its surrounding points of interest. He witnessed and reported on several enemy IED, VBIED, and suicidal attacks during his tenure there.



Five members of my family willingly volunteered to go where others failed to go. Like all our men and women in uniform, they ran towards the sound of the guns even though others were running the opposite direction. They knew full well the outcome of war but chose to sign up anyway.

To quote a line from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, **"The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."**

A monument is a powerful visible reminder of the great service and sacrifice by those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who served. Each generation has erected monuments that speak to their era, which becomes a place of Honor, of Healing, and of Educating the next generation. These powerful edifices serve as a testament to their bravery, commitment, selfless service, and Patriotism. It's a way we connect to and learn from our past and appreciate their contributions to the freedom we enjoy.

The location of the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial within the reserve is just as important as building the Memorial itself. We need to show that their service is equal to those of Vietnam, Korea, and WWII. It needs to be in a place where Kings, Queens, Presidents, Rulers, Magistrates, and citizens will visit coming away in awe of the spirit they felt there and inspired by their acts of valor.

Let us not Forget...let us Remember them.

Respectfully,

Isaia Vimoto
Board of Advisors
GWOT Memorial Foundation





GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.

Testimonial Letter

National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission

February 11, 2020

Kent family statement -

The post 9/11 wars shaped a generation of volunteer warriors that I am proud to call my family. My wife, SCPO Shannon Kent and I made these wars our lives' work and eagerly volunteered to serve as much as we could. Between my wife and I, we have 36 years of combined service and over 96 months of combat deployments. This may seem like a large number, but we are far from unique. This is our nation's longest war and the only war fought entirely by an all-volunteer force. This long war has largely been fought by the same people and families for its entirety.

This eagerness to serve is a tribute to the American experiment. Young men and women know America is something worth fighting and dying for. However, the danger in one small segment of the population serving is the disconnect that develops between the American people and the wars fought in our name.

Supporting H.R. 5046 and placing a lasting memorial on the reserve adjacent to the seats of our national power and the monuments to the leaders who built this country will motivate all Americans to take an interest in our nation's longest war and hopefully take an interest in why we fight wars in the future.

Respectfully,

Joe Kent
Ambassador
GWOT Memorial Foundation



GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.

Testimonial Letter

National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission

February 11, 2020

Hello, my name is Maggie Duskin. In October of 2012, I received the knock on the door that no one wants ever to answer. My husband, Chief Warrant Officer II Michael S Duskin “Big Mike” had been killed in Afghanistan while on his 7th combat deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This came as a massive shock to our entire community as he was the epitome of a Green Beret. He was 6’7” and was 280ish lbs. He lived and breathed to defend our country. His dad once asked him why he continued to deploy when he could have easily taken an instructor’s job. His reply was: “I will continue to take the fight to the enemy’s door so that my country and family doesn’t have to fight on their homeland.” His father served three tours in Vietnam as a Navy fighter pilot, and 2 of his uncles fought in Vietnam so he understood; he didn’t like it but understood.

Our oldest son, Nathan was stationed in Germany at the time of Michael’s death. He was able to get on the Angel Flight and escort his father home. Nathan will be medically retiring from the Army in a few months after serving 15 years and going on five combat deployments. During one of those deployments, his unit came under sniper fire, and he was shot in the ear. He lost most of the hearing in that ear after too many surgeries to count and he is still picking shrapnel out of his neck and face. Eight months after my husband’s death, our youngest son graduated high school and was sworn into the Army to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming an Army Ranger. He is currently stationed with the First Ranger Battalion at Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia and has been on four combat deployments. He is only 24 years old. I also have a daughter at home who is only 18 years old, and together we have sent our boys off on 16 deployments. There has never been a time in her life when a family member or someone she knows has not been deployed in direct support of the GWOT. I recently participated in the wreath-laying ceremony at the 3rd Special Forces Group Memorial walk, where 60 wreaths were laid. I

personally know 30 of the families of those who have fallen in support of GWOT. They say that 1% of the US population serves in the military and of that only 2 % serve in Special Operations; in my community it is more like 97%. My family, like so many others in our community, are multigenerational service members. Most of America not only doesn't know anyone serving but they are, for the most part, untouched by the sense of loss that military families feel.

I feel strongly that the National Global War on Terrorism War memorial should be built on one of the sites found in House Resolution 5046. This would allow all of our citizens who have served, are serving and will serve to be honored in a way that is fitting of people like my husband, sons and all that live in my community. It needs to have a presence and location fitting of people that have names like "Big Mike". It needs to be located here because of the so many men and women that serve, their fathers served in Vietnam and their Grandfathers fought in WWII. The millions of visitors to our nation's beautiful Capital City, as well as the people being honored can do this while they walk, talk and remember loved ones that have also fought in other battles. This is the first time in our country's history that we have whole generations of kids that don't remember what life was like before 9/11. We have kids that are being raised that haven't even met their parent because they were killed in action before they were born. These sacrifices need to be honored. The men and women that fought and are still fighting, like my son, need to know that their country appreciates them. The first men and women that left for the very beginning of the GWOT are now reaching retirement age if they haven't retired due to medical issues already. They need to know that their country loves and honors them, and they need to be able to take their children and grandchildren to that place so that stories can be told and the scars of surviving, when so many haven't, can heal.

I ask that you please help us get this memorial built within the reserve where it belongs. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Maggie Duskin
Ambassador
GWOT Memorial Foundation





GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.

Citizen Testimonial Letter

National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission

February 6, 2020

I am Colonel (Retired) Miguel Howe. I am a Global War on Terrorism veteran. I served for 24 years in the Army as an Infantry and Special Forces officer deployed throughout Latin America, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Military service has been my family legacy. My grandfather, father, and father-in-law served in World War II and Vietnam. My niece just redeployed from Iraq, my nephew is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan, and my son is a Cadet at West Point. He will no doubt find himself deployed during his own military service, perhaps to the same locations as me, and my niece and nephew in support of the Global War on Terror. Six years ago, I retired from the Army and was honored to be asked by President Bush to lead his Military Service Initiative. I also served as the April and Jay Graham Fellow for the Military Service Initiative at the George. W. Bush Institute in Dallas Texas. Today I am partner with the Cicero Group where we work to drive impact for those who served our nation.

I strongly endorse House Resolution 5046 and urge our national leadership to support and authorize that the Global War on Terrorism Memorial to be located on the National Mall and within the area designated as the Reserve. While such an act from Congress is extremely rare, the nature of this war, the level of service and sacrifice, and the impact to the American people merit this exception.

Since September 11, 2001 we have been a nation at war. During that time over four million Americans have volunteered to serve in the Armed Forces, three million of whom have deployed in support of the GWOT. Over one million have deployed multiple times. The typical GWOT veteran has spent one of every three years deployed. Never in our

nation's history has an all-volunteer force been asked to bear the burden of war for such an extended period. These two-time volunteers, to serve, and to serve during a time of great danger, have borne the sacrifices to preserve our security, freedom, and prosperity, and that of our friends and allies across the globe. Over 52,000 of our service members have been visibly wounded, over 400,000 have sustained a mild, moderate or severe traumatic brain injury. While no one knows for certain, best estimates are that at any given time, 10-20% of GWOT veterans bear the symptoms for a clinical diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder. Most significantly 6,967 of our military service members have made the ultimate sacrifice and died during these Overseas Contingency Operations. It is not just our military, as 3,413 civilian government contractors have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, and another 39,000 have sustained work related injuries.

These are not just numbers to me. As a Soldier, Commander, and a representative for President and Mrs. Bush at the Bush Institute, I have spent the past eighteen years with literally hundreds and hundreds of wounded warriors, their families and caregivers, Goldstar families, and countless GWOT veterans. Not a one has asked for pity. But we do have an obligation to honor, heal, empower and unite all of them, and all of our nation's people, by siting the GWOT Memorial in the Reserve.

We are fortunate, to live in a period whereby our warriors enjoy great pride and support from their country. Our civilian citizens, however, don't really know or understand them. A Pew research poll in 2011, and revalidated with a George W. Bush Institute poll in 2015, found that over 84% of GWOT veterans say that the America public has little awareness of the challenges facing they and their families. Most Americans agree with over 71% saying they don't understand the problems facing our veterans. This phenomenon has come to be known as the "Civilian-Military Divide." It has many causes. One is the all-volunteer force, which allows Americans who choose not to serve to put the military out of their minds. Another cause is the high-tech nature of modern warfare, which enables smaller forces to accomplish their missions without major mobilizations at home. Family tradition also plays a role. Many veterans are second- or third-generation warriors, and more than eleven percent of those who get married in



uniform exchange vows with another service member. Those are good things. But as military service grows more concentrated in the same families and communities, most other Americans – even those with the best of intentions – get further out of touch.

This divide underscores President Lincoln’s mandate to the nation not only “to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan,” but to also “bind the nation’s wounds.” It also underscores some of the important factors as to why the GWOT Memorial must be placed in the national Reserve with the other significant war memorials – World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Like all war memorials, the GWOT Memorial fulfills the duty of a nation to honor all those who step forward in her defense, paying special attention to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. By recognizing those who have selflessly served this memorial we will not only honor the service and sacrifice of all who have served in the Global War on Terror but ensure that future generations will know that their nation will always be indebted to their service in securing freedom and liberty.

But locating the GWOT Memorial in the Reserve is essential to provide healing as Lincoln highlighted for the warrior, warrior families, and the nation. War affects everyone, not only those who fight, but the families and loved ones who wait, worry, postpone careers, or become caregivers, or bear that terrible badge of honor – the Goldstar. Every war impacts all nations who send her sons and daughters forth to serve, even more so those conflicts with which we wrestle in our national conscious. While this war has been in response to direct attacks on our nation, like the Vietnam war before, it has shared significant controversies with some decisions about its execution. I remember visiting the Vietnam memorial with my father after it first opened. He spoke then, and often over the years since, as to the importance and impact of healing, for him, his fellow veterans and the nation. The prominence of the Vietnam Memorial’s location in the Reserve, and in proximity to Lincoln, Washington, and other nationally significant memorials – sacred ground – has been essential to that healing at all levels. This



memorial and its location will provide a central place of healing and reflection – for my fellow veterans and their families, and for our nation.

Siting the memorial in the Reserve will empower our GWOT veterans, and our current and future citizens by bringing a greater understanding of the war and provide advocacy through engagement and education. This memorial will bring the civilian and military communities closer together by decreasing the misunderstanding between them both and reminding us all that we are all Americans first. Americans will see and understand the paramount importance of this conflict in response to the attacks on our nation, and the long-term engagement and containment of terrorism by the all-volunteer force who fought on our behalf. It is critical for not only our GWOT veterans and families, but all citizens to see its proximity to the other memorials that this era of conflict was of equal importance to our nation as other major wars. It critical they understand the arc of American military service and sacrifice in defense of our values and principles over the course of our history.

Finally, in locating the GWOT Memorial in the Reserve, as was Lincoln’s purpose, we unite the nation. We all know exactly where we were and what we were doing on September 11, 2001. We will forever remember the loss we felt as a people the day the world changed for all of us. But for all our collective mourning and grief, we also came together, united as one people and one nation. This is a memorial to our nation’s response to that attack and those who answered that call to serve. The GWOT Memorial will also stand in the Reserve as a reminder not only to our nation, but the entire world – allies, friends and foes alike – of the strength and unity of the American people.

I urge you to support placement of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial on the National Mall and within the area designated as the Reserve. Doing so will meet our nation’s obligation to not only the military and civilian veterans of this war, but to all our citizens to honor, hear, empower and unit our nation. I would be honored to answer any questions and elaborate on my letter in person or as needed. I can be reached at the contact information below.



Thank you for your consideration.

De Oppresso Liber,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miguel D. Howe', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border. The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Miguel D. Howe

Board of Advisors

GWOT Memorial Foundation





GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.

Foundation Testimonial Letter

National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission

February 11, 2020

I would like to begin by saying I am humbled to be sitting here before the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission. My name is Michael Rodriguez, and I have the undeserved honor of leading the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation. I was blessed to serve this great nation of ours in the United States Army for over 21 years. I am proud of my service and had the injuries I received in combat not forced my medical retirement, I would still be in uniform today. I am even more proud to be the son of a Vietnam Veteran, Grandson to WWII Veterans as well as being married to a woman who served for 21 years and father to a son who is currently serving today in the 82nd Airborne Division. Between the three of us, we have served a total of 46 years in uniform and deployed a total of 16 times and counting. I can honestly say that the most challenging deployments for me were not the nine I participated in, but the deployments where I watched my loved ones go into harm's way. Today, I come before this commission as a Veteran who served in the GWOT, a spouse who served in the GWOT and father whose son is preparing for his second deployment in support of the GWOT.

When we received the invitation to appear before this commission on January 22, it was met with enthusiasm throughout the entire Foundation. We are excited to begin this first conversation with each of you, as well as the commissions and offices you represent, so that together we may honor the brave men and women who have stepped forward to serve in our nation's longest War. We felt it would be best to take a chronological approach to address how the GWOT Memorial Foundation got here today following the passage of the Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act in August of 2017.

Fully recognizing the immense responsibility and duty taken on by the Foundation following the signing of that Act, even with the credible team that exists within the Foundation, we felt it would be unwise to plan in a bubble and determine where the

Memorial should be built solely with our voices and opinions. The Foundation understood that this Memorial belongs to all Americans in order to capture the American voice, we needed to speak with the American People.

Based on our vision and guiding principles, the Foundation developed a program of requirements for the Memorial following an extensive, inclusive, and interactive outreach to a variety of stakeholders. These groups included the Foundation Leadership Board and Advisory Board, Foundation ambassadors, veterans, various ranks of active-duty military, friends & family of the military, including Gold Star & Blue Star families as well as a sampling of the national community including faith leaders. Allow me to provide a glimpse into the population of Americans who participated, during the discussion groups held at Ft Bragg in early 2019 we spoke with 66 active duty service members of various ranks and years of service. This small group represented almost 800 years of active duty service and nearly 200 deployments amongst them alone. In this group, we had 3 foreign-born servicemembers as well as several dual military and multi-generational GWOT Veteran families.

A twenty-question survey, with both qualitative and quantitative queries, was submitted to each of these participating individuals in order to generate responses, to be held in confidence. Those not familiar with the Foundation's memorial initiative participated in group work sessions that were facilitated by the use of a precedent workbook highlighting existing memorial sites on and adjacent to the National Mall as well as synopses of other relevant memorials.

The responses to the survey questionnaire were thoughtful and heartfelt. Many respondents were highly appreciative of the effort to create a GWOT memorial and to solicit opinions on how it should be conceived. When a sufficient number of participants speaking for the varied stakeholders was achieved, the data gathering was determined to be complete. The Memorial program was extracted from the data collected.

While opinions did vary in emphasis, there was a great deal of commonality and shared sentiment. In particular, there was significant agreement that the extent and duration of



the sacrifices related to the GWOT needed to be prominently memorialized in The Reserve alongside other major conflicts. There was also major agreement that the Memorial should be highly accessible, a place conducive to contemplation & remembrance, appropriately lit at night; and preferably, including interpretive content and available support facilities. These base criteria would require a site area of approximately 2.5 acres.

After an extensive analysis of eight potential sites (including daytime and nighttime site visits) within the Reserve and adjacent to it, three sites were chosen as best meeting the program criteria. These site recommendations as well as the extensive site studies are in the “Potential Site Books” we provided to this committee for review. These site recommendations are also the basis of the current legislation H.R. 5046 and have been put before the 535 elected officials who represent the people of America.

It is important to note that every single participant in our discussion groups was educated on the topography and process of building a Memorial within our nation's capital. They thoroughly understood that for this Memorial to be built within the Reserve that the Foundation would require Congressional approval. However, we were adamant about not letting that fact determine their responses to the questionnaire and subsequent discussion groups. We assured them that it was the Foundation's responsibility to take whatever steps were necessary for the voice of the American People to be heard.

Following the completion of our executive summary and unanimous approval by our Board of Directors, the Foundation plotted a course to build the National GWOT Memorial within the Reserve. Our first step was to sit down with the Chairman of the NCMAC (Peter May, Associate Regional Director, Land and Planning, NPS) to make him aware of our course of action as well as seek his guidance. He advised us that we can only receive authorization to be on the Reserve from Congress, and absent that, they can only assign us to Area 1 or 2. Since it takes an act of Congress to be allowed on the Reserve, it is rare indeed, but it *has* happened. This includes the MLK Memorial, the Museum of African American History and Culture, the Korean War Memorial Wall of



Remembrance, and a single plaque on the WWII Memorial honoring Sen. Bob Dole. We also sat down with the Energy and Natural Resources staff in the Senate, and they informed us the same. Following those conversations, the Foundation began our strategic planning, which led us to the introduction of H.R., 5046.

The case for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial in The Reserve

For nearly two decades, service members, civilians, and their families and supporters have courageously waged a global war on terror that has no end in sight. Consider this: Today's War is fought by a smaller percentage of Americans than ever before, with just 0.6% of our population currently serving in uniform. But total deployment times per service member are equal to or greater than those of previous generations. Since 9/11:

- As of April 2019, about 22,000 troops were serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, with an additional 65,622 U.S. military and civilian personnel supporting broader contingency operations.*
- From 9/11 to April 2019, about 6,967 service members died in GWOT and Overseas Contingency Operations, and 52,902 were wounded.*
- According to the U.S. Department of Labor, from 9/11 to April 2019, about 3,413 civilian government contractors were killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, and 38,953 sustained work-related injuries.*
- More than 3.9 million Americans volunteered for military service since 9/11/01.
- From 9/11 to September 2015, 2.77 million service members served on more than 5.4 million deployments.**
- On average Post 9/11 Veterans have spent one out of every three years of their military life away from their family and loved ones.

**Source:* Congressional Research Service, U.S. War Costs, Casualties, and Personnel Levels Since 9/11. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/IF11182.pdf>

***Source:* Rand Corporation, Examination of Recent Deployment Experience Across the Services and Components.



https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR1900/RR1928/RAND_RR1928.pdf

We believe the selfless service by all-volunteer Armed Forces and civilians to defend our nation is the most compelling reason this generation has earned recognition alongside the nation's other major war memorials. The yardstick utilized to measure service and sacrifice should not be defined solely on lives lost in this conflict.

This Memorial will be the first for the men and women who have died fighting, those who continue to fight, and those who are still joining the fight against terrorism. We have children who were born into a time of war that has spanned enough time for them to enlist and fight in that very same war. According to Dr. Piehler, Director Department of History at FSU, "During both world wars American soldiers in many instances created *ad hoc* monuments after battle to commemorate their victories and did not wait until the conflict's conclusion. During World War II, honor rolls that listed the names of those serving in the armed forces were erected in prominent locations within many communities. Many of these memorials were never taken down, and in some places over seventy-five years after the conflict, they continue to acknowledge and preserve the memory of those who served." We continue to fulfill this sacred duty today by naming firebases, locations, and travel routes after those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. As a country, we have yet to honor this duty nationally in a manner and location befitting of the historical significance this war has earned, but this is a multi-generational war unlike any we have ever seen. We have the opportunity to do so now.

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial will be a lasting tribute to the courage and sacrifice of all who have served in the nation's longest War to protect our country while inspiring all Americans to stand united behind those who continue to serve. The Memorial will:

- **Honor:** Salute all who served in this conflict: service members, civilians, and their families.



- **Heal:** Provide a focal point for healing and reflection on a complex multi-generational war.
- **Empower:** Engage and educate civilian and military communities to build mutual understanding.
- **Unite:** Foster and sustain the same sense of patriotism that brought all Americans together in the wake of September 11, 2001.

Upon completion, this Memorial will be the most inclusive, broad, and diverse war memorial ever built. This functional piece of art, which will adorn our nation's capital, will serve as a focal point defining a conflict spanning multiple generations honoring the brave men and women who stepped forward to serve. It will capture who we represent as a nation as well as our combined strength and willingness to stand firm in the face of terror and threats to our very way of life. The Global War on Terrorism Memorial should rest on the same solemn ground as the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War memorials. By doing so we can show the generations of Americans who have served, and will serve, in this war that their service is equally valued by our country. In the words of one of our the lead sponsors for H.R. 5046 Congressman Mike Gallagher: "If we're going to continue passing the torch of democracy from one generation to the next, then we need to build this memorial so that future generations never forget their duty to do the same." If we don't rightfully honor the brave men and women who fight for our country today, by building this memorial within the reserve as per the wishes of the American People, who will fight for it tomorrow?

Respectfully,



Michael "Rod" Rodriguez
President and Chief Executive Officer
GWOT Memorial Foundation



STEPHEN G. HARLAN, HISTORIAN, 99TH READINESS DIVISION, UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE
TESTIMONIAL IN SUPPORT OF POTENTIAL SITE 1 (CONSTITUTION GARDENS)
FOR THE FUTURE NATIONAL GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL

4 February 2020

Members of the National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee,

Greetings. As a Department of the Army Civilian Historian and Colonel in the Army Reserve, I strongly support Potential Site 1 (knoll overlooking Constitution Gardens pond) as the future home of the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial. While other subject matter experts will provide you context the historical significance of the event and the symbolism of the memorial, my perspective is of history and memory linked to the proposed site: the constitutional questions emanating from this long war and the value of alliances in the fight against terroristic ideology.

First, the proposed site is very appropriate due to the initial and ongoing constitutional questions involving this conflict. From the initial attacks of September 11, 2001, to the enduring operations of today, the American public and our representative government officials have wrestled with the legitimacy of expending blood and treasure against both non-state and state enemies. The questions not only stemmed from the war powers of the legislative and executive branches, but also how our government gathered intelligence and countered terroristic ideation within the homeland. The cost and limitations of troops and material were debated at all levels of government and civil society. Questions regarding civil liberties and individual freedoms in the post-9/11 world also surfaced. The Patriot Act is one such example of our Constitution being challenged and functioning simultaneous within the context of the war on terrorism. Surveillance measures within the homeland, regardless of whether they were at the municipal or national level, also reminded us of the debates argued by the framers. This national war on terrorism has resulted in an informed and engaged citizenry focused on constitutional questions the like that may not have been witnessed since the 1850s. The selection of Constitution Gardens is a fitting site within this context.

Second, the attacks of September 11, 2001, also required our whole of government approach to building strong alliances, either with the exercise of Article V of the NATO Charter for ongoing efforts in Afghanistan or with regional partners to support forward stationing along the Persian Gulf. The proximity of Constitution Gardens to the embassy rows within the District of Columbia also proves for an appropriate site of this memorial. The Department of State is also within a short walk from that location. As General Washington diligently pursued an alliance to bring victory during our War for Independence, the three administrations that have spanned this war also required global partners to aid our personnel within the combat theaters. The Washington Monument also within view and walking distance from the site pays homage to the value of alliances within a global construct. The terrorist attacks on our homeland, along with those that followed in Europe and elsewhere, marked a seismic shift away from unilateralism, invoking a partnered response to threats against liberty. The proximity of the Constitution Gardens site positions the monument within a visual narrative.

Finally, I offer a note regarding the purpose of this monument as a place for remembrance and honor to those service members and civilians who fought and sacrificed to secure liberty and freedom both home and abroad. The proposed location within line of sight of other memorials remembering our

veterans and fallen fits within our national narrative. The memory of those who answered the call to defend the homeland against terroristic ideology will be best preserved on the knoll overlooking the gardens named after the Constitution they vow to defend. Thank you for considering my testimonial supporting Potential Site 1 for the National Global War on Terrorism Memorial.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen G. Harlan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'S'.

Stephen G. Harlan
Historian, 99th Readiness Division

Colonel, US Army Reserve
Commander (Select), 210th Regional Support Group

Mr. Stephen G. Harlan is the Historian for the 99th Readiness Division at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, a Department of the Army Civilian position he has held since August 2009. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History & Political Science from McDaniel College (Maryland), a Master of Arts in History from Rutgers University-Newark & the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and a Master in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. Prior to federal government employment, he held an operational planning and analysis position with Citigroup Global Capital Markets, Inc., in Manhattan, where he was an eyewitness to the attacks on the World Trade Center ten blocks south of his place of employment. As a Colonel in the United States Army Reserve, he has 28 years of service in, serving in leadership positions from platoon to brigade and primary staff from battalion to division level, and is the incumbent commander-select of the 210th Regional Support Group, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.



January 28, 2020

The Honorable Jason Crow
1229 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Crow:

As the President & CEO of Student Veterans of America (SVA), and on behalf of over 1,500 chapters located at colleges and universities nationwide, I wanted to express our support for H.R.5046, *the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act*. This legislation will allow for a necessary and critical step in the process to develop and build a Global War on Terrorism Memorial in Washington, DC.

Specifically, this legislation would authorize the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial within the Reserve section of the National Mall. Allowing such a memorial to be built on the National Mall alongside the existing memorials of previous conflicts would be keeping with tradition in honoring the service and sacrifice of those who have defended our nation.

SVA greatly appreciates the work of your office and that of your colleagues to build a memorial in honor of Global War on Terrorism veterans. Please feel free to contact Justin Monk directly if you should have any additional questions on this matter by phone at 202-223-4710, or by email at justin.monk@studentveterans.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Lyon". The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a large loop at the end.

Jared Lyon
President & CEO
Student Veterans of America



LOS ANGELES HEADQUARTERS
6171 W. CENTURY BLVD. SUITE 310
LOS ANGELES, CA 90045

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you to express my support of the *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act*.

My name is Jake Wood; I am a proud Veteran of the United States Marine Corps, serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I am now the CEO of Team Rubicon, a Nonprofit organization that serves communities by mobilizing military veterans to continue their service, leveraging their skills and experience to help people suffering from the effects of disasters and humanitarian crises. A large part of our mission is to help military veterans reintegrate and find the camaraderie and purpose that they may have lost when they took off their uniform.

Because of my own experience in the military and my daily interactions with veterans, I am aware of the incredible sacrifice that is made when one joins the service, as well as the toll that it has on the rest of his or her life. Acknowledging and celebrating this sacrifice is of the utmost importance. This can be done in many ways; a very impactful one being the erection of a national memorial to their service.

Like the generations of past wars that have been honored by memorials, the recent generations who served and still serve in the Global War on Terrorism deserve the same recognition. Building a tangible symbol of the sacrifice that has been made by those volunteers who have served in this ongoing war will empower, strengthen, and unite all citizens of this great country. Every American, in some way, has been impacted by this war, but none more than the men and women who wore our nation's cloth and the families they left behind. It is our duty to not allow their sacrifices to go underappreciated.

We can begin fulfilling this duty through the *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act*.

In Service,

Jake Wood

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jake Wood".



To whom it may concern,

I am writing you to demonstrate my support for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act.

I am a proud veteran of the United States Navy where I served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other regions of the world. Since my retirement from the Navy in 2014, I have founded Tomahawk Strategic Solutions (TSS), the pinnacle provider of comprehensive advising, training, and educational programs for private corporations and government institutions. Through the services and programs provided, we mitigate risks and security threats for our clients. Headquartered in Nashville, TN, TSS has accomplished sustainable growth in a flooded marketplace through superior and consistent performance. We have attracted top-tier talent due to our unique culture and growth opportunity as an emerging company. Consequently, our workforce is comprised of over 90% veterans.

With over 15 years of service in the military and interactions with veterans, I am acutely aware of the physical and mental sacrifices made by military members and their families; from the day they join the military to well after their service time is completed. The cost of those sacrifices is immeasurable. Our veterans comprise only 1% of the population of the United States, however their dedication and selflessness impact the entire nation.

An impactful and meaningful way to pay tribute to our most recent war heroes is by erecting a national memorial that is dedicated to their service. I believe this memorial will be symbolic of the sacrifices that have been made by military members over the past two decades of war, similar to the way the United States has recognized veterans of prior wars. The unique opportunity to erect the Global War on Terrorism Memorial provides not just a place for citizens to reflect and give thanks to our service members, but also a place for our veterans to honor their fallen brothers and sisters who, to protect our freedom, paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

We need to fulfill our duty to our war heroes: demonstrate our gratitude and respect through the support for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act.

Yours Sincerely,
Keith Walawender

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Walawender", written in a cursive style.



815 16TH ST. NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

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202-637-5350
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unionveterans.org

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Dear Representative,

The Union Veterans Council, AFL-CIO, which represents more than 1 million working union veterans nationwide, including tens of thousands who served in the global war on terrorism (GWOT), invite you to co-sponsor a critical piece of bipartisan legislation—H.R. 5046, the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act. This bill honors and commemorates our service members who have served and continue to serve in the ongoing global war on terrorism.

Our affiliated unions have had a historical relationship with our nation's veterans, providing gainful employment and stability through career opportunities, industry partners, and programs designed to train and support the men and women who have served this nation throughout our history.

We have seen firsthand what this generation of service members and veterans have to offer, from volunteering to serve during an ongoing conflict, to now transitioning home and becoming leaders in their communities and workplaces. This generation of warfighters deserves our gratitude, and we must adequately recognize and honor their service with a memorial on the National Mall through the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act.

The GWOT has had an immeasurable impact on the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, civil servants, first responders and other civilian support personnel of the United States and their families. Nearly 20 years of protecting the sovereignty of the United States from the pernicious threat of terrorism has required profound sacrifices from multiple generations of Americans. We must honor the sacrifices of the more than 6,954 service members who gave their last full measure of devotion for their country, and the countless service members, their families and civilians who have served in defense of this great nation.

A meaningful way to honor these sacrifices is to establish a monument on the National Mall honoring all GWOT veterans and recognizing how the GWOT has changed the course of American history. In the last Congress, a bill was passed authorizing the establishment of a GWOT memorial to the men and women who have fought and died in our nation's wars. We've honored veterans and fallen service members from the Vietnam War, the Korean War, World War II and those from Washington, D.C., who served in World War I. With this legislation, we may bestow the same honor upon those who have served since 9/11.

Thank you in advance for supporting this prestigious recognition of all who have served during this conflict.

Respectfully,

William Attig
Executive Director
Union Veterans Council, AFL-CIO

For additional information or answers to questions, please contact Will Attig at wattig@unionveterans.org.

