

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 17, 2022

National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission
Interior Region 1 – National Capital Area
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, DC 20242

Dear Commission Members:

We write in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Memorial Foundation's efforts to thoughtfully and expediently identify a site location on the National Mall for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial. As you know, last year Congress passed the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act, which specifically authorized a site in the Reserve area of the National Mall as the Memorial's future home. As a bipartisan group of veterans, we were proud to lead this effort, which marked an historic step toward honoring all who have served and sacrificed in the Global War on Terrorism.

We are glad that you will soon be meeting with GWOT Memorial Foundation representatives to discuss potential sites for the Memorial. We understand that site selection is a complicated process with many considerations at play, and therefore requires a collaborative, constructive dialogue to determine the best possible location. The foundation has been thorough and professional in their site analysis, and we appreciate you receiving them with a spirit of cooperation that reflects the honor and solemnity this project deserves.

In addition to the importance of the Memorial's ultimate location, it is also imperative that it be built as quickly as is practical. For many Americans, the wounds of war – literal and otherwise – are still fresh. Many Gold Star families, veterans, and others who supported America's post-9/11 counterterrorism efforts need a national place of healing, empowerment, and unity. All Americans deserve a place to honor those who have served our country in different capacities. The Memorial will also help educate a generation of Americans too young to remember the 9/11 attacks and subsequent valorous efforts to keep our country safe.

Perhaps most importantly, the Memorial must be built while the generation of warfighters who gave so much in places like Afghanistan and Iraq are still alive. Our veterans and others should not be forced to repeat the experience of our World War II veterans, who waited nearly 59 years from the end of World War II to see the inauguration of a Memorial in 2004.

Thank you for your very good work to commemorate a key chapter in American history, and to honor all who helped write it. We know we speak for the people of our districts in expressing our desire for the Memorial to come to life as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress



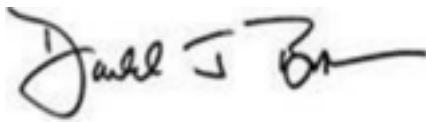
James R. Baird
Member of Congress



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C. Scott Franklin
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Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
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