



# ***Media Inquiries***

Jill Etter • Communications Director  
210.508.9953 • [jill.etter@ndswm.org](mailto:jill.etter@ndswm.org)

In 1990, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Within 24 hours, Iraq's military occupied its southern neighbor and controlled nearly 30% of the world's oil supply. Iraq's brutal dictator then set his eyes on Saudi Arabia. President George H.W. Bush recognized Saudi Arabia's important role in the region and launched Operation Desert Shield. As the deployment of American combat forces in Saudi Arabia grew, President Bush issued a mandate to Hussein stating that all Iraqi troops must leave Kuwait by January 15, 1991. The deadline passed with Kuwait still occupied by Iraqi forces. On January 17, 1991, the United States led coalition forces in the liberation of Kuwait, a campaign known as Operation Desert Storm.

These operations resulted in several major coalition victories, the removal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the imposition of international sanctions against Iraq and a significantly weakened Iraqi Army.

Roughly 600,000 American troops were deployed in support both Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, nearly 400 died.

Today, the United States lacks a national memorial dedicated to the courage and sacrifice of its Armed Forces who honorably fought in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association's goal is for completion of the Memorial to coincide with the 30th Anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, in 2021.

Our efforts have received support from United States Presidents, United States Senators, United States Representatives, military commanders, veterans and their families, and other grateful American citizens.

## **Memorial Timeline**

On May 28, 2014, the United States House of Representatives unanimously authorized construction of a Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial by a vote of 370-0.

On December 19, 2014, President Obama signed into law S.995 authorizing a National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in Washington D.C.

On March 31, 2017, President Trump signed a bill into law the authorizing a memorial to be built near the National Mall in Washington, D.C at an Area-1 location.

On June 21, 2018, the Commission of Fine Arts approved a site for the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial. The decision by the Commission of Fine Arts is the final step in the 3.5-year Site Selection process. The National Park Service and the National Capital Planning Commission recommended this same site earlier in 2018.

## **Location**

The Memorial will fall within the shadow of both the Lincoln and Vietnam Veterans Memorials, abutting the National Mall. The Memorial's site is at the southwest corner of Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street Northwest, Washington, D.C.

## **Financial Position**

Our efforts require time and resources, and we are deeply grateful for the support we have received thus far. However, far greater support—financial contributions, in particular—is still necessary to bring this tribute to life.

The Memorial's estimated cost is \$40 million. Current law stipulates that before groundbreaking can commence 110% of the projected budget must be raised. The law that authorizes us to build the Memorial prohibits the use of federal funds to pay any expense to establish this commemorative work.

As of 30 Sept 2019, we have raised \$8.67 million of our \$40 million-dollar goal: \$5.85 million relates to the memorial site award and \$2.82 million has been donated by individuals, businesses, foreign governments, and Veteran Service Organizations.

Note: The 10% overage is included in the \$40 million.

## **Conceptual Design Approved**

The memorial received approval of the conceptual design of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial by the Commission of Fine Arts on November 21, 2019.

We will continue to move forward in the Design Phase and the Fundraising Phase.

The Association is a federally recognized, tax-exempt, 501(c)3 structure led by an all-volunteer board of directors.