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RECEIVED MAR 0 1993

Representative Cliff Davidson

Alaska State House
State Capitol · Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 · (907) 465-2487

TO: Representative Richard Foster, Chair
House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Cliff Davidson

DATE: March 2, 1993

SUBJECT: Scheduling of House Bill 175

House Bill 175, "An Act making an appropriation for construction of the Women in Military Service Memorial; and providing for an effective date" was recently referred to the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

This bill would appropriate Alaska's contribution of $15,000 toward this memorial in recognition of the military service of women. The memorial is to be placed in Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C..

I would like to request the expeditious scheduling of HB 175. If I can provide any further information, please let me know. Thank you for your expeditious consideration of this request.

Encl.

P.O. Box 746 · Kodiak, Alaska 99615 · (907) 486-8250

SDC
THE SUSAN DAVIS COMPANIES

MEMORANDUM

To: Fran Ulmer

From: Susan Davis SD

Date: February 8, 1993

Re: State Appropriations Bills for WIMSA

Fran: Attached is a fact sheet on the Memorial project. They have received state grants thus far from the following states:

Arkansas	$10,000
Florida	$20,000
Montana	$25,000

We have ongoing or pending activity in about a dozen more states.

We start by determining whether the request should go to the Governor (asking for discretionary funds) or to a member of the legislature (asking for an appropriation to the Division of Military Affairs or Division of Veterans Affairs to be donated to the Memorial). A letter is sent from a local field representative (we have reps in all 50 states), as well as one signed by the primary members of WIMSA's Board of Directors. If we have a National Tribute Committee Member from that state, we ask for their support in writing, as well. We usually request $25,000.

Each letter includes the following information (I'll use Alaska as an example):

- # of women veterans in the state: 5,000
- National Tribute Committee Members: Senator Ted Stevens and Senator Frank Murkowski. (Murkowski is about to introduce a bill in the Senate to mint a Women In Military Service coin.)
- Highlights of famous Alaskan women who served in the military

Any advice or direction you can give us is greatly appreciated. Thanks much.

1146 Nineteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036 USA
(202) 775-8881
FAX (202) 775-8912
TELEX 249118/SDAVIS UR

Women In Military Service For America
Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Dept. 560
Washington, D.C. 20042-0560
(703) 533-1155 1-800-222-2294 (703) 931-4208 (FAX)

March 1, 1993

Representative Cliff Davidson
State Capitol
Juno, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Davidson:

I am writing to request your assistance in a vital project that will directly benefit the 5,000 women veterans who live in the state of Alaska. The Women In Military Service Memorial, to be built at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, will pay tribute to these women and the other 1.8 million who have served throughout history. We are delighted that you have agreed to sponsor an appropriation of $15,000 for the construction of this Memorial, joining the states of Florida, Montana, and Arkansas in supporting this worthy effort. Similar bills are also pending in South Dakota, Hawaii, Georgia, New Jersey, Virginia, and New York.

This will be the first major national memorial recognizing the contributions of women, and telling their stories for future generations. Many great women hail from the state of Alaska, including Colonel Mary Louise Rasmusen, US Army, Retired, former Director of the Women's Army Corps from 1957 - 1962, a critical period for women's continued service in the military.

By law, the Memorial must be funded through non-Federal donations. Sufficient funds to complete the project and provide for maintenance must be on hand before construction can begin. The fundraising goal is $14 million and authority expires on November 5, 1993.

A contribution from the state of Alaska at this stage could provide tremendous momentum and lead to support from many other states. Additionally, this contribution can help sponsor the 5,000 women veterans who do not have sufficient funds for the $25 registration donation for their names and record of service to be included in the Memorial's register. All states making contributions will be permanently recognized in the Memorial.

Support for the Memorial has already come from a variety of sources within the state of Alaska. Our National Tribute Committee includes Senators Frank Murkowski, who sponsored the original legislation, and Ted Stevens. In fact, Senator Murkowski is expected to assist us by sponsoring a bill in the Senate that would authorize the minting of a Women In Military Service coin, to benefit the Foundation.

Please feel free to call us if we can do anything to assist your efforts. Again, thank you for your efforts to honor the women who have served, in Alaska and nationwide, with valor and dedication.

Sincerely,

Wilma L. Vaught
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)
President

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Connie L. Slewitzke
Brigadier General, USA, NC (Ret.)
Vice President

Sara J. Pritchett
Colonel, USMC (Ret.)
Secretary

Myrna H. Williamson
Brigadier General, USA (Ret.)
Member

W[illegible]hen In Military Service For Ame[illegible]a
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ABOUT THE MEMORIAL

WHAT: Women In Military Service Memorial to honor the more than 1.8 million women who have served or are serving in the armed forces starting with the American Revolution.

WHERE: The gateway to Arlington National Cemetery.

WHEN: Construction to start in December, 1993.

WHO: Spearheaded by the Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation (WIMSA).

THOSE TO BE HONORED: All U. S. servicewomen. WIMSA is seeking names, addresses, photos and memorable experiences of women who have served. Descendents of deceased servicewomen are asked to register them.

HISTORY: Bill to honor military women introduced by Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar (D-Ohio) and Senator Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska). Signed into law by President Reagan in November, 1986.

DESIGN: Ms. Marion Gail Weiss and Mr. Michael Manfredi of Weiss/Manfredi, New York City, winners of national competition.

The Memorial features an upper terrace with views of Arlington National Cemetery and the monuments of Washington. On the terrace, there will be an arc of glass "pages" in which quotations from servicewomen are etched. This arc of glass also introduces natural light into the Memorial's visitor center. At the lower terrace in front of the Hemicycle wall are the reflecting pool and Court of Honor. The visitors center located behind the Hemicycle houses a Hall of Valor, theater, and a computer Register of servicewomen. Through the data base, visitors may access photos, military histories, and individual stories of registered women.

FUNDING: The cost for building the Memorial -- an estimated $14 million -- must be raised through non-Federal funds. This sum must be available by November, 1993. So far, more than $1 million is committed to the building fund.

DONATIONS AND REGISTRATIONS: Donations and histories of servicewomen can be sent to: Women In Military Service Memorial, Dept. 560, Washington, D. C. 20042-0560. Toll-free telephone: **1 - 800 - I - SALUTE** (1-800-472-5883.)

The Memorial is a registered member of the Combined Federal Campaign, the annual workplace fundraising drive conducted by the U. S. Government for all military, civilian agency and postal workers worldwide. In state and corporate campaigns, donors should designate "Women In Military Service For America Memorial" on their pledge card.

As of: Jan. 1, 1993

W●men In Military Service For Ame●a
Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Dept. 560
Washington, D.C. 20042-0560
(703) 533-1155 1-800-222-2294 (703) 931-4208 (FAX)

April 1, 1992

For more information, contact: Rae Lee
Fay Fulton
703/533-1155

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE MEMORIAL TO HONOR AMERICA'S SERVICEWOMEN THROUGHOUT THE AGES

The Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation (WIMSA) was founded to create a Memorial to honor the 1.8 million women who have served in the U.S. military services throughout history, from the American Revolution through Operation Desert Storm and beyond. Authorized by Congress in 1986, the Women in Military Service Memorial will provide a legacy to future generations by capturing the undocumented history of our American servicewomen. It will be unique in that it will be a place of honor for both the living and deceased; those who served in the past, those who serve today, as well as those who will serve in the future.

This Memorial is unique in other ways. It will use an existing site and its structures at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, our most honored military resting ground. The wall there, or Hemicycle, suffers from years of neglect and is badly in need of repair. The Hemicycle will be restored and modified to add four stairways to the upper level of the wall, a walkway with views of Arlington National Cemetery and monumental Washington. A key feature of the terrace will be an arc of glass tablets bearing quotations of servicewomen etched theron. These glass tablets will also form a series of skylights into the Memorial's interior Visitors Center. The Visitors Center will house an underground theater and a computerized data base where the public can access the photos, military history and individual stories of the women who have served. The Foundation relies on servicewomen, veterans and their descendants to "Register" their stories and photos so that the history of women in the military is brought to light for all Americans.

Support for the Memorial has come from a number of sources. The governments of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar announced their support, in honor of the women who served in the Persian Gulf. State governments also provided financial support in 1991, including Montana, Florida and Arkansas. Corporations which contributed include: The Coca-Cola Company, Martin Marietta Corporation, RJR Nabisco, Northrop Corporation, Raytheon Company, Xerox Corporation and Tambrands Corporation. A number of veterans and service organizations have supported the project in a variety of ways, many through publicity to their membership and group registration of their female members. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary voted last year to accept WIMSA as a group project. Each activity and contribution brings this tribute closer to reality for the many women who have served throughout the years.

-more-

The cost for building this Memorial — an estimated $12 million - must be raised through non-Federal funds. Public Law #102-216, passed in November 1991, extended by two years WIMSA's deadline for raising the remaining monies needed to build the memorial. With 20 months remaining in the deadline, this project needs the support and help of all Americans.

One example of how women have fought for their country is Deborah Sampson Gannett. Gannett disguised herself as a man to serve in the Army in the Revolutionary War. She was shot in battle and escaped detection by removing the musket ball from her thigh by herself. Some two years later, when she was hospitalized with a fever, the attending doctor found that this soldier was a woman. She is one of thousands of women whose story will be told through the Memorial Register.

Today's heroine does not have to disguise herself, but the dangers are just as real. Major Marie Rossi, who became a familiar sight on television screens during the Persian Gulf War when CNN broadcast an interview with her, was killed one day after the cease fire while operating a supply helicopter. There are many more women who have contributed in defense of our nation that deserve our recognition, too.

Now all of these women, veterans, active duty, Guard and Reservists, will receive the honor and recognition they have earned.

Those wanting more information on how to register for the Memorial or support this tribute to military women, please call **1-800-4-SALUTE** or write to Women In Military Service Memorial, Department 560, Washington, DC 22042-0560.

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Women In Military Service For America
Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Dept. 560
Washington, D.C. 20042-0560
(703) 533-1155 1-800-222-2294 (703) 931-4208 (FAX)

NUMBER OF FEMALE VETERANS IN EACH STATE*

State	Female Veterans	State	Female Veterans
Alabama	17,000	Montana	4,700
Alaska	5,000	Nebraska	6,900
Arizona	25,000	Nevada	9,200
Arkansas	9,800	New Hampshire	7,200
California	146,200	New Jersey	26,000
Colorado	21,000	New Mexico	9,600
Connecticut	14,100	New York	56,300
Delaware	3,600	North Carolina	30,600
Dist. of Columbia	3,700	North Dakota	2,600
Florida	85,400	Ohio	40,500
Georgia	31,000	Oklahoma	13,800
Hawaii	7,100	Oregon	17,000
Idaho	4,600	Pennsylvania	46,300
Illinois	34,800	Rhode Island	4,600
Indiana	19,500	South Carolina	16,800
Iowa	8,600	South Dakota	3,000
Kansas	9,300	Tennessee	17,000
Kentucky	11,900	Texas	72,800
Louisiana	14,300	Utah	4,800
Maine	7,400	Vermont	3,400
Maryland	28,900	Virginia	42,900
Massachusetts	26,500	Washington	33,500
Michigan	33,100	West Virginia	5,700
Minnesota	15,100	Wisconsin	17,400
Mississippi	9,100	Wyoming	2,300
Missouri	19,800		
		TOTAL	**1,106,600**

*Information courtesy of the Department of Veterans Affairs (1992).

These numbers are exclusive of the number of women on active duty and in the national Guard, Reserves and Coast Guard in each state.

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STATISTICS ON WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

Number of Women on Active Duty as of March 31, 1992

Active Duty		Reserve and Guard
Army	76,887	62,954
Navy	54,849	22,007
Air Force	70,917	15,567
Marine Corps	8,643	1,524
Total DoD	211,364	102,052
Coast Guard	2,776	1,393
Total	214,140	103,445

Number of women who served in Operation Desert Storm, by Service

Army	26,000
Navy	2,600
Air Force	3,800
Marine Corps	952
Coast Guard	13
Total	33,365

Number of women held Prisoners of War during individual military conflicts

World War II	88	(all officers, all nurses)
Desert Storm	2	(one doctor; one, the first, enlisted woman)

Number of women who served in the military conflicts

Civil War	6,000
Spanish/American War	1,500
World War I	34,000
World War II	400,000+
Korea	22,000
Vietnam	7,500
Grenada	116
Panama	1,200
Desert Storm	33,365

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A SUMMARY HISTORY OF WOMEN'S SERVICE IN THE MILITARY

The history of America's military women begins with the birth of our nation. It is a dramatic story of persistence, courage and foresight in the face of repeated frustrations and the built-in institutional resistance of the tradition-bound military subculture. It is set against the background of peace and war, of social evolution and of advancement in the technology of warfare.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, women were routinely present with the armies in battle. Indeed, with constant manpower shortages, sustaining Washington's army during the American Revolution in field or in garrison would have been next-to-impossible without women. Women also were hired employees, and the medical service, for example, was allowed one matron and ten nurses per hundred wounded.

It was common and accepted practice for poor but respectable wives, mothers and daughters to go along with their men when they went off with the army; often, they had no practical alternative. Women also served in less-conventional capacities, and in their little-known history are many stories of women masquerading successfully as male soldiers until wounded and medical attention revealed their deception. In the War of 1812, the "first girl Marine" is reputed to have served for three years on the USS Constitution as George Baker.

During the Civil War, women on both sides became active on an unprecedented scale, as many of the social conventions were set aside. In addition to their usual functions of nursing, cooking, sewing and foraging for supplies, many women -- both black and white -- served a saboteurs, scouts and couriers. They led troops into battle as color bearers, blew up bridges, cut telegraph wires, burned arsenals and warehouses, and help prisoners and slaves escape. One woman, Dr. Mary Walker, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for her contributions.

In the Spanish-American War of 1898, an epidemic of typhoid fever forced the recruitment of women by the Army under a civilian contract. Eventually, 1,500 served, leading initially to the formation of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901, and later to the formation of the Navy Nurse Corps in 1908. When involvement in World War I became inevitable, the nursing services were organized and ready to serve, but full military status would not be accorded women until 1948.

During World War I, both the Navy and Marine Corps enlisted women as clerks, translators, and radio electricians, with about 12,000 serving, along with a few in the Coast Guard. About 23,000 Army and Navy nurses served in field hospitals and in mobile, evacuation, base, and convalescent hospitals, on troop trains and transport ships. Some died, some were wounded and many were decorated, including three who received the Distinguished Service Cross, a combat medal second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor.

World War II saw the first class of female officers in the history of the U.S. Armed Forces assembled for training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, in July of 1942. Eventually, more than 400,000 women -- all volunteers -- served in all branches and in all military theaters. The casualties, more than 200, included Army nurses and members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, and there were 88 women held as prisoners of war.

Until demobilization began in 1945, women's service in the military had followed much the same pattern as Washington's army in the American Revolution. When the war was over, the Continental Army disbanded, leaving a force the size of a Corporal's guard -- some 80 men. Women were not granted full and permanent military status in the U.S. Armed Forces until that attitude toward preparedness changed. At the close of World War II, when the exodus home began, military leaders began to have second thoughts about letting all the women go. At General Dwight D. Eisenhower's direction, legislation was drafted to establish a Women's Army Corps in the Regular and Reserve of the peace-time Army. It died in controversy but led to the Integration Act, passed by Congress as the Women's Armed Services Act of 1948. On June 12 of that year, President Harry S. Truman signed the measure that finally established a permanent place for women in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

The Integration Act did not guarantee equity for military women, and after the debacle of an ill-planned recruiting program during the Korean War, women's programs in the subsequent Cold War years barely survived. Women's roles in the military, once a route to education and jobs previously reserved for men, became token in the fifties and early sixties -- tolerated but not take seriously. Instead of serving as a springboard for further integration and equality for woman, the Act had become the base of a system of institutional segregation and unequal treatment. Unlike their predecessors in World War II and Korea, American servicewomen were not taxing aircraft, running motor pools or teaching aerial gunnery. The Pentagon's official attitude was that women would not be employed at jobs that "are not in conformance with the present cultural pattern of utilizing women's services in this country." This situation, however, changed when the demand for recruitment for the war in Vietnam could not be met with available manpower of acceptable quality and ultimately resulted in a renewed expansion of roles for woman.

The next step was real integration: the abolition of separate services for women military members. The Army's Chief of Staff, General Bernard W. Rogers, recognized that support was necessary from the top to the very bottom of the organization and sent a message to his commanders in Mary, 1978, emphasizing the Army"s commitment to integration of women and to accomplishing it "smoothly and rapidly:"

> Qualified women now have the opportunity to serve in all but a few specific combat units and combat specialties. In availing themselves of the opportunity, women, like their male counterparts, must accept the responsibility for sharing all risks and enduring all hardships inherent in their specialty. Some people believe that women soldiers will not be deployed in the event of hostilities, that they are only to be part-time soldiers -- here in peace, gone in war. Some women are being used in skills other than those for which they were trained and some are being excused from performance of unit duties. The Army cannot operate effectively in this manner. Women are an essential part of the force; they will deploy with their units and they will serve in the skills in which they have been trained... The first considerations in the assignment of women in the Army have been, and will continue to be, the mission of the Army itself, and the uniquely demanding nature of Army service in wartime. Within that context, women can make many important contributions; indeed they are doing so now. The burden which rests on leaders at every level is to provide knowledgeable, understanding, affirmative and even-handed leadership to all our soldiers.

Clearly, women are and continue to be an essential factor in the volunteer services, qualitatively and quantitatively. In 1979 for example, had the services not enlisted some 42,000 women, recruiting shortfalls would have been even larger. Their ability to meet 1980 recruiting goals was due in large part to the enlistment of 50,000 women, the largest number of women since World War II.

In 1988, the Secretary of Defense wrote to the Service Secretaries that decisions that military women could be assigned to missions and units under the combat exclusion laws but only with the understanding that they would be assigned to them both in peacetime and during conflict. He said they should not be assigned duties which they could not fulfill during mobilization or national emergency since there would be no plans or instructions to remove or evacuate them

Recent history has raised the awareness of American public about women in the military. A few women had deployed with their units to the island of Grenada. However, when some commanders realized they were there, the women were ordered back to their United States bases. Eventually, that order was lifted and the women continued their duties without fanfare. Women servicemembers also deployed to Panama although the stories of their performance tended to overshadow their actual contributions.

It was Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf, however, which proved to be a determining factor in women's futures as members of the military. According to the Women's Research and Education Institute, more than 33,300 U.S. military women served in key combat-support positions. They piloted and crewed planes and helicopters, directed artillery, drove trucks, ran prison-of-war facilities, served on support and repair ships and in port security units and construction battalions, and did a myriad of other jobs crucial to the success of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. And, of course, many women served in the vital medical and administrative jobs where women always have been well-represented.

As a result of their performance, both the Senate and the House of Representatives passed legislation lifting the combat exclusion laws as they pertain to women serving in aviation.

Today, more than 400,000 women are on active duty, and in the National Guard and the Reserves of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, and comprise more than 11 percent of the active duty personnel and 13 percent of the ready reserves of the country's armed forces. It is estimated that there are more than 1.2 million living women veterans.

It is intended that the Women In Military Service For America Memorial, the first to honor women's contributions in the defense of our nation, will help write their history for all to read. The memorial's unique inclusion of all the women, in all the wars faced by the country -- from the American Revolution through the Persian Gulf -- and in peacetime, is an opportunity for the public recognition of a part of our collective heritage that has gone unnoticed for too long. The location of the memorial, at the ceremonial entrance to the nation's most-hallowed resting place for its military and national heroes, is the appropriate setting. The goal of the memorial's cultural and educational center is to tell the history of the dedication, commitment and sacrifice of women in partnership with men in service to their country, and to inspire our youth to emulate these women, to follow and to surpass them.

USA TODAY

Women's role in U.S. military saluted today

By Tracy Walmer
USA TODAY

Forty-seven years ago today, Staff Sgt. Paula Burrows was nervously waiting and watching as the D-day invasion unfolded in France, carrying out plans she had carefully helped orchestrate.

She stood watch from an office outside London — behind the scenes and away from the battle lines, like most of the 400,000-plus U.S. women who served in World War II. Burrows received a Bronze Star for her work.

Today, her fellow female soldiers get their due when luminaries join military women and families at ceremonies at the Capitol in Washington.

The celebrators hope to erect a memorial to honor the estimated 1.6 million women who have served in the U.S. military since the Revolutionary War.

When Chinook helicopter pilot Marie Rossi died a day after the Persian Gulf war ended — and a week after she captured the hearts of many Americans through a CNN interview — her parents decided to turn their loss into a gift to military women.

They'll be on hand at today's tribute, where Marie will be honored as a highly visible symbol of women who for so long have been largely invisible to the public.

"It's not just about my daughter. It's about all the women who served," says Gertrude Nolan Rossi.

Agnes Jensen Mangerich, 76, is one.

A World War II Army flight nurse, her tour nearly ended in disaster, when a cargo plane carrying Mangerich and 29 other nurses, medics and crew was shot down over Albania in November 1943.

The next two months were a horror of dysentery, typhoid, malnutrition and midnight hikes through German lines as the group was guided by frightened, hungry Albanian sympathizers to a rescue boat on the Adriatic coast.

"When I think about it now, the hairs just stand up on my head," says Mangerich. "You know, when you're 20 you just think you're invincible."

Betsy Ross Menin, 58, liked her Korean War service.

"I'd do it again if I was young enough," says Menin, who joined the Marines when she was 19. She spent eight years working the jobs available to women — stenographer, clerk, court reporter and drill instructor.

In Vietnam, between being a female and dealing with widespread anti-war feelings at home, it was hard to feel appreciated, says Carol Kenefick DeMeo, 47.

"You just buried your feelings. It was a time you didn't talk about," says DeMeo, now a civilian nurse. "The memorial is important. It will help."

▶ Snapshot, 1A

Photos by Women in Military Service Memorial

IN VIETNAM: Carol Kenefick DeMeo, now 47, says it was especially hard for women to feel appreciated for serving in that war.

BURROWS: Worked behind the scenes in World War II

ROSSI: Helicopter pilot died day after gulf war ended

50-state tribute for the women of Desert Storm

Today's tribute in Washington kicks off a 50-state campaign to honor the women who served in Operation Desert Storm, and to raise money to build a memorial to all U.S. military women.

Authorized by Congress in 1986, the memorial is slated to go up in Arlington National Cemetery by 1993. Plans call for a computer database with photographs and information on every woman who has served.

About 60,000 of the estimated 1.6 million military women are in the database so far.

The privately funded memorial will cost $25 million. Raised so far: $3 million.

For more information, call Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation at 800-472-5883.

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Memorial created for women's role in armed services

By NANCY PRICE
TIMES WRITER

Wilhelmina Daniels left her New Orleans home at the age of 20 to enlist in the Coast Guard during World War II, crisscrossing the United States as a radio operator.

The east Anchorage resident describes her career in the Coast Guard as "two really nice years of my life" but thinks it is time women vets had more than their memories to commemorate their service in the U.S. armed forces.

She and 60,000 other women vets want a permanent registry and memorial for the women who have served in the country's military.

"I think it's a great idea, I really do," she said. "An awful lot of women in the service went overseas (during World War II).

"I think we did our part, we did the same things in my department that the men did. I think we deserve a memorial."

Daniels is one of more than 60,000 women vets who have registered with the Women In Military Service Memorial. The register will be housed eventually in a memorial center to be constructed at the Arlington National Cemetery's Hemicycle and marked by 10 glowing glass spires.

> 'I think we did our part, we did the same things in my department that the men did. I think we deserve a memorial.'
>
> — Wilhelmina Daniels
> Anchorage resident

The Women In Military Service Memorial Foundation hopes to register the nation's estimated 1.6 million servicewomen who have served from the Revolutionary War to the present. Their histories and photographs will be entered in a computer register that will be accessible to the memorial's visitors.

But the memorial still faces a few hurdles, spokeswomen Rae Lee said Friday.

Times photo by MICHAEL DINNEEN

Wilhelmina Daniels is registered for the Women's Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The foundation, headed by retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, is trying to raise $15 million toward the memorial's construction and still must win approval of its design from three Washington committees, Lee said.

The memorial's establishing legislation expires in November, but legislation already has been introduced to extend the congressional mandate for two more years, she said.

Women veterans and their families are being asked to contribute $25 toward the registry, but registrations are accepted regardless of ability to pay, Lee said.

The foundation even has a toll-free number — 1-800-222-2294 — for registrations and contributions.

Carolyn Van Laar of Ketchikan is trying to locate Alaska's estimated 4,000 women vets.

Van Laar, herself a World War II vet who served as a Navy WAVE, is one of the memorial's 570 field representatives. She has kept busy lately, contacting television and radio stations to get public service announcements broadcast, getting announcements posted in retirement homes and organizing booths in a Ketchikan mall.

The search for women veterans has not been easy, Van Laar said.

"They're all hiding, but I'm finding them," the Ketchikan lodge owner said.

Anchorage Times, AK
5-11-91

The Washington Post

Galleries: Ellipse hosts the work of weavers 2

Backstage: David Petrucci on dinner theaters' fate 2

Style

3 Names & Faces: South Africa to Michael Jackson: 'Bad!'

4 Weekend TV: Highlights and listings

Cityscape

Women's Memorial: Stunning Surprise

At Arlington, It's a Splendid Addition, but Dollars Are Scarce as Deadline Looms

By Benjamin Forgey
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial, like so many others, has had its ups and downs. Conceived by a pair of architects from New York, it started out tall and ended up short, began high and concluded low, originated as a sequence of verticals and finished as flat as a table—or the Washington skyline.

But the ending is a happy surprise: As revised at the behest of the Washington aesthetic establishment, the design is through and through a splendid one.

Beautifully situated at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, the memorial will, if built, constitute a significant addition to the city's catalogue of special places.

The if factors are big. After the second of two triumphant design review hearings this week, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, president of the memorial foundation, pointed out that with $1 million in hand, the foundation remains $13 million short of the amount needed to build the structure. A congressionally mandated deadline looms. Vaught and colleagues have but 15 months to raise the hefty sum.

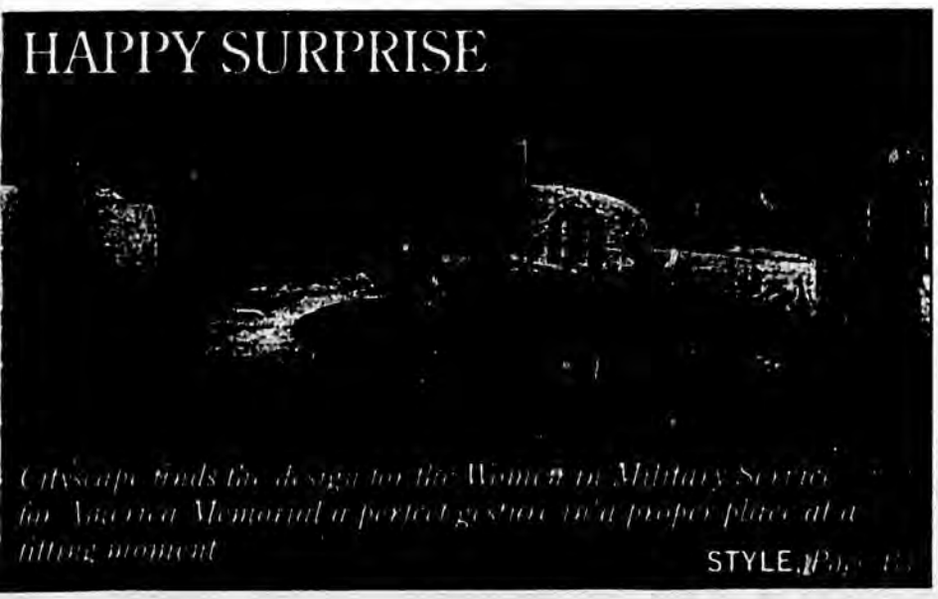
And despite conceptual approvals by the National Capital Planning Commission on Wednesday and the Commission of Fine Arts on Thursday, the design still faces preservation reviews. The federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Virginia's historic preservation officer have yet to utter their critical judgments.

But the memorial clearly deserves broad support. Symbolically it is a perfect gesture in a proper place at a fitting moment. Women have served this country in the military from the Revolutionary War to the present day, and have done so against major odds and obstacles. But their contributions have gone vastly underrecognized in the national pantheon that is Washington. By prominently honoring all who served, and not just this or that branch in this or that conflict, the memorial finally would correct a long-lasting mistake.

Aesthetically, the design is a gem. Encompassing the neoclassical, semicircular wall at the entrance to the cemetery, the memorial as designed by architects Marion Gail Weiss and Michael Manfredi would positively transform the wall and the space around it.

As it now stands, the 60-year-old retaining wall admirably if grandiloquently performs a single function: It is the end piece of the visual axis linking the Lincoln Memorial across Washington's prettiest bridge to the cemetery and Arlington House (the Custis-Lee Mansion) up above. The beauty and symbolic resonance of this view rarely fail to impress. Connecting north and south of a once-divided republic, the vista embodies the nation's profound collective memories and its high aspirations.

But the role of the granite hemicycle, with its blind niches and its tall central apse, is best appreciated from a distance. Up close, shrouded by haphazard plantings at its base, it is an unvisited and almost unvisitable dead space. Up very close, it is obvi-



Cityscape finds the design for the Women in Military Service for America Memorial a perfect gesture in a proper place at a fitting moment

ously a wreck, its heavy stones discolored and chipped, its joints caked with rock-hard calcified salts.

It may be, as Vaught believes, that the initial, competition-winning Weiss-Manfredi design did not receive a fair hearing. Featuring 10 39-foot-tall, translucent, inner-lit glass pylons set in an arc on the terrace atop the hemicycle, it was opposed from the outset by the National Park Service, Arlington Cemetery's caretaker, and the pylons were negotiated out of existence behind closed doors. Whether justified or not, this kind of opposition usually produces unsatisfactory design results, the sorts of compromises we've witnessed in the designs of the memorials to the veterans of the Vietnam and Korean wars.

Not this time. To their everlasting credit, Weiss and Manfredi jettisoned their disappointment and went back to basics, focusing again on the fundamental purposes of the memorial and their own deep responses to the site. The relative merits of the two designs are of course debatable, but the fortunate outcome is not. The revised design is sensitive, internally consistent and subtly poetic. It offers a wonderful opportunity to fix what is broken at this important spot, physically and symbolically.

In fact, it promises great improvement, changing a passive place to an active one, transforming a retaining wall into a handsome building facade, and resurrecting for public enjoyment an exhilarating view of monumental Washington, on the one side, and of the great cemetery on the other.

The crucial decision was to eliminate the pylons altogether, rather than to try some stubby in-between. Instead, the architects created a slightly tilted bank of cast-glass "pages" or "tablets," each inscribed with a fitting quotation from a woman veteran, and running the entire length of the high terrace behind the hemicycle. At the base of the hemicycle will be a paved "Court of Honor" with a centered, circular reflecting pool, framed by formal bosques of trees. Generous openings will be cut in the northern and southern extremities of the wall; behind the wall will be a curved gallery and a sequence of rooms—a 250-seat auditorium, a "register room" containing computerized information on individual veterans, a special exhibition hall and offices.

Water plays a major part. It will flow continuously over the tablets, symbolizing "singular voices," to be gathered as a "chorus of voices" in a sheetlike waterfall at the central apse, and from there to flow in a narrow channel into the reflecting pool, completing the story. Likewise, the role of light is intrinsic. The translucent pages will softly illuminate the interior spaces during the day; the shadowy inscriptions, moving in sundial fashion, will play mysteriously on interior surfaces. At night the subtly lit niches and pages will contribute a fitting new note to the stunning view from across the Potomac.

Critical to the success of the design is the idea of ascension. In a bold move, the architects propose to place stairwells in four of the hemicycle niches. If there is a stumbling block in the historic preservation review process, this is likely to be it—the stairwells are a major change. But the benefits are immense. These passages, visible through glass panels in the gallery, unify the space inside and outside. And they tie the memorial together bottom to top, thereby reclaiming that magnificent, still perspective up to Arlington House and the dynamic view back to the always moving city. Reviewers are strongly urged to consider the stairwells as a completion of the architecture, a brilliant, up-to-date realization of its full potential.

As to the comparative qualities of the two designs, well, something may have been lost in the change. The "candles," as the competition jurors so nicely called the pylons, possessed an undeniable, poetic power. They could have been lit oh-so-softly, like a necklace on the plush darkness of the Arlington hill.

But something definitely was gained. It's not simply that Vaught had the tactical sense to realize the argument would have gone on and on, though that she did. It's that Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi, by rethinking the entire design, were able to produce a wholly satisfying substitute. The second design is safer than the first, in some particulars more unified, and, in all respects save one, as evocative.

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WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL
DESIGN CONCEPT

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial will honor all servicewomen, past and present. The data register, in the Memorial's educational center, will tell their stories of service, sacrifice, and achievement in the defense of our country.

The Memorial site, the main gate of Arlington National Cemetery, is defined by an existing hemicycle wall completed in 1932 by the renowned architectural firm of McKim, Meade & White.

A broad and simply landscaped plaza forms the front of the Memorial. The circular reflecting pool in the forecourt marks the beginning of the journey for the visitor. An amphitheater of stone terraces extends to the face of the hemicycle wall and connects to a public terrace above by a series of ascending stairs which pass through arches in the hemicycle wall, framing views into the cemetery and toward the city.

The upper public terrace is marked by an arc of glass "pages" bearing inscriptions by and about the women who have served. Their words are etched upon the individual pages of glass, bearing witness to the history of women's contributions from the American Revolution through Desert Storm. A number of pages will remain unmarked, awaiting the contributions of future generations.

During the day, the sunlight passing through the arc of glass will cast the shadow of the inscriptions onto the walls of the gallery in the Memorial Center behind the hemicycle wall. Like the shadow of a sundial, the shadow of quotes will change with every passing hour, marking the continuous passage of time.

A thin veil of water descending over the inscriptions "carries" their singular voices to a collecting pool behind the central niche; the "voices" pass together through the niche forming a collective voice symbolized by the sound of the falling water. These voices finally come to rest at the reflecting pool, signaling the completion of their story.