

World War II Memorial

Oregon State Capitol

Target Completion Date: June 6, 2011

Situation:

Approximately 1,000 American veterans of World War II are passing away daily. It is estimated that nearly all 16 million veterans of the war will be gone within the next several years. Although the "Greatest Generation" received a lot of media buzz/press attention over the past decade, this group of patriots literally saved the nation from multiple threats; they won a war that easily could have been lost. In simple terms, there is never enough media attention for their heroism or their dignified sense of mission.

Ironically, though there are several memorials and monuments that pay tribute to the WWII veterans, there is no "WWII Memorial" in Oregon. On top of that, there is nothing mentioning the conflict nor the significant role Oregon played in the war on the Capitol grounds. It is time the State of Oregon created a fitting memorial to the sacrifice and service of these courageous men/women.

Mission:

Design, fund, and construct fitting tribute to WWII Veterans near/upon the grounds of the Oregon State Capitol. This memorial will "mirror" the columns at the US WWII Memorial in DC; it will have elements of local WWII experience - with special emphasis on units "raised" and/or trained in Oregon during the war. This memorial should include a replica of the Oregon column as well as unique bronze/marble tributes to specific units and/or events in Oregon during the war. The space should be separated from the elements and/or the hustle of legislative business in a gracefully landscaped area - large enough that groups seeking to remember the war and its warriors in future years can assemble in a dignified manner.

The following principles shall inform the development of this project:

- Transparency of funding strategy and success
- Simplicity of design: creation of a dignified, fitting, and lasting memorial
- Community "buy-in" to the project, its meaning, and its sustainment
- US Column center-piece of "Oregon" experience (Expressing Unity/Uniqueness)

Method:

A team should assemble to accomplish the mission. It should consist of volunteers from many spheres of public life; it should include at least a representative from the following: Legislative Administration; the Governor's Office; the Oregon Legislature; the Oregon Capitol Foundation; Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs; Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department; the Unified Veterans' Groups of Oregon; the Oregon War Veterans' Association; and a few citizens selected at-large. There should be a fund-raising program that provides citizens and groups of citizens an opportunity to contribute to the project as well as state/federal funds dedicated to monuments/memorials of this nature. The group should begin meeting immediately following Thanksgiving 2009 so that some of the mechanical aspects can be appropriately determined prior to the February 2010 Supplemental Session - so that these concepts and timelines can be shared with members of the Oregon Legislature. A legal non-profit should either be formed or partnered with to ensure a stream for funds in/out for the duration of the project.

Draft Milestones/Timeline:

December 2009: Initial project meeting: Core team members present; discussion of targeted talent required for success of the memorial project.

January 2010: Team membership established; draft design plan approved (by team); draft fundraising plan approved (by team); Oregon State Parks/Recreation publicly "on-board" with project; Capitol Foundation "on-board" with project; UVGO/OWVA "on-board" with project; initial meeting with Raymond Kaskey scheduled.

February 2010: Team briefs Legislative Committees (and members individually) on project as well as fundraising strategies. Legislation and/or budget note approving effort introduced for Legislative approval; architectural designs begun - with target of May 2010 for team approval.

June 2010: Ceremony on the land selected for the memorial held. Renderings available to media and public; website established; fundraising events begin; golden shovels dig into dirt; images and monthly progress reports/updates of success.

September 2010: Public meeting with community about the memorial and the progress on fund-raising; construction begins (external to site).

December 2010: Public meeting and progress report on status of project - June 6, 2011 goal used for adjustment of ongoing construction and fundraising campaigns.

January 2011: Legislative opening ceremonies include mention if not visit to site and its significance.

February 2011: Oregon's Birthday - small event held on ground of memorial site.

March 2011: Construction on site begins.

May 2011: Construction complete - final work in place for June 6, 2011 formal dedication.

June 5, 2011: Private event for WWII veterans/families

June 6, 2011: Public unveiling of memorial - guest speakers for D-Day Celebration.

Team (so-far):

The following people have expressed a willingness to serve on a team for the project. This team will serve as the "core" team for the project. It is anticipated that there will be several functional teams to implement the overall strategy. This list will grow - hopefully - exponentially.

Paul Evans - Governor's Office

Leslie Roth - Governor's Office

Representative Vickie Berger

Representative Greg Matthews

Bill Markham - Retired Legislator, Oregon State Capitol Foundation

Paul Hanneman - Retired Legislator, Oregon State Capitol Foundation

Mike Burton - Retired Legislator, Vets TF Member

Bob Plame - Vets TF Member

Tom Mann - ODVA Public Affairs

Scott Burgess - Legislative Administrator (Ex-Officio)

Summary:

This document is offered to provide sideboards to the concept of a WWII Memorial. It is a simple mission with a relatively small scale/scope - as memorials go. Given the situation, we have precious time to waste in development of a rational, reasonable tribute to the WWII Generation and their families. If you have questions or comments regarding this concept contact Paul Evans at VeteransDayPromise@gmail.com or call him at 503.949.6378.