



## **FDR D-DAY PRAYER ADDITION AND CIRCLE OF REMEMBRANCE RESTORATION**

### **Fact Sheet**

#### **OVERVIEW:**

Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) was awarded a \$2 million grant by Lilly Endowment Inc. to add President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's D-Day Prayer to the World War II Memorial, restore the "Circle of Remembrance" – the area where the prayer will be placed, and to develop interpretative programming.

This effort will complete the World War II Memorial and the additional programming - both onsite and online – will explore the stories of the everyday men and, in particular, the women, of all backgrounds, who served and without whom victory would not have been possible.

#### **LOCATION:**

The northwestern corner of the National World War II Memorial referred to as the "Circle of Remembrance".  
1750 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

#### **DESIGN DETAILS:**

The Prayer is a free-standing element within the Circle of Remembrance with the bronze plaque held by granite piers, providing material continuity and lighter feeling. The Prayer is a distinct element within the Circle, separated by circulation on either side. The Prayer plaque of a height so as to be read standing or seated in a wheelchair. Low planting beyond Prayer will provide green backdrop that reinforces the form of the Circle.

This design alternative takes inspiration from the World War II Memorial, with symmetrical geometries and similar layout to the existing Circle of Remembrance.

As the bronze of the plaque will provide a strong link to the bronze within the core of the Memorial, granite – similar to that also used within the core of the Memorial – will also be brought in to create the walls and granite bench will curve around the Circle, uniting the walls and providing accessible seating.

#### **ONLINE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMMING:**

Friends will develop an online interpretative program with the award in collaboration with *New York Times* best-selling author Alex Kershaw. Working with Kershaw, Friends will produce 25-30 video profiles of female World War II veterans. The goal of the video profiles is to educate the American public and have this educational content easily and readily available online for years to come

#### **KEY DATES:**

Friends will present to the Commission on Fine Arts and National Capital Planning Commission with a full design concept, including material selections and plantings for approval.

Friends anticipates a June 6, 2022 dedication of the FDR D-Day Prayer Plaque addition.

#### **ARCHITECT OF RECORD:**

Oehme van Sweden & Associates (OvS), the original landscape architects for the WWII Memorial. The firm is a diverse group of landscape architects, horticulturalists, designers, creative thinkers, and collaborators. It explores the ecology, culture, and history of each landscape and fuse art, science, and humanity to distill its form and amplify its function. The result is a contextually-appropriate, high-performance composition that connects people to the land.

## **PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Friends of the National World War II Memorial will work with the National Park Service (NPS), the design team, contractors, and other subject matter experts to execute the design and construction of the FDR D-Day Prayer Plaque Addition and Circle of Remembrance Restoration Project and to implement the interpretative programming plan.

NPS – the caretakers of the World War II Memorial – will take over the care and ongoing maintenance of the new addition once it's in place. NPS will also provide onsite wayside interpretative signage to provide a more comprehensive framework for the purpose of the addition of the historic prayer and its chosen location in a public space, and offer visitors a deeper understanding of the prayer in the context of today's cultural environment.

## **PROJECT HISTORY TIMELINE:**

- 2013 / 2014: The World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2013 was introduced into the United States Senate on May 23, 2013 by Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH). The bill was referred to the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the United States Senate Energy Subcommittee on National Parks. The bill passed in the Senate on June 5, 2014 by unanimous consent. The House voted in Roll Call Vote 339 on June 23, 2014 to pass the bill 370-12. On June 30, 2014, President Barack Obama signed the bill into law.
- September 2014: National Park Service requested Friends of the National World War II Memorial to take the lead role in the funding, site selection, design, and construction of project.
- March 2015: Friends engaged OvS, the original landscape architects for the WWII Memorial, to conduct the site analysis in order to seek site approval from the federal commissions.
- September 2015: NPS and Friends (with OvS) presented the results of the site analysis to the National Capital Memorial Advisory Council (NCMAC), which made the formal recommendation to place the addition in the Memorial's "Circle of Remembrance."
- October / November 2015: Following presentations of the site analysis, the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) approved the Circle of Remembrance as the site for the addition, conditional upon design approval.
- May 2016: Friends engaged OvS for the design concept phase of the project. OvS developed, in consultation with interested parties, three initial conceptual design alternatives of the Circle of Remembrance that demonstrate possible locations and designs for the addition.
- October / November 2016: Following presentations of three design concept alternatives, the CFA and NCPC favored two design concept alternatives and approved moving forward with both alternatives with modifications.
- 2017 / 2018: Friends continued to engage OvS to work with NPS and the CFA and NCPC commissions and staff to modify and refine the design alternatives.
- March 2020: Friends, OvS, and NPS project team members reconvened to discuss the preferred design alternative which includes the Prayer as a free-standing element within the Circle of Remembrance and maintains a similar layout (shape, size, entry/exits) of the existing Circle.

Work to-date has cost nearly \$200,000, which has been mostly paid for through more than \$125,000 in contributions from the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Ohio Christian Alliance, the late Honorable Amory Houghton, and a handful of other individual contributions.

## **WEBSITE:**

[www.wwiimemorialfriends.org](http://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org)

## **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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