



HONOREARNED

The Official Newsletter of The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial

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Campaign Update

2008 was an extraordinary year for our Foundation. In spite of the difficult and uncertain economic climate, we achieved excellent results:

- Net Income was \$10,842,161, compared to \$2,628,910 in 2007, an increase of \$8,213,253
- Net Assets are \$14,623,808, compared to \$3,781,647 in 2007, an increase of \$10,842,161
- Fundraising Costs were \$1,285,311 compared to \$10,845,210 in 2007, a decrease of \$9,559,899

These results would not have been possible without our dedicated Board of Directors, Advisory Board, Management Team and, most importantly, the more than one million supporters who share our mission to honor the service and sacrifices of the more than three million living disabled veterans.

About the Memorial

Adding to the beauty of our nation's capital, the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial will soon become one of our country's treasured landmarks, bringing together visitors of all ages and backgrounds—a fitting tribute to the brave men and women who stand watch over America. Commanding an impressive two-acre site between Washington Avenue SW (Canal Street), C Street SW and Second Street SW, the memorial will be within full view of the United States Capitol, adjacent to the National Mall, and across from Independence Avenue and the United States Botanic Garden.

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Letter from the Chairman

Lois Pope

The **American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial** is not about artfully arranging glass and marble in a high-visibility site in the neighborhood of the Capitol building. While we continue to work diligently with the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the National Park Service to make the Memorial a structure worthy of our nation's capital, we have not lost sight of our mission: to educate the American public and our lawmakers about the human cost of war, and to honor those men and women who have put themselves in harms way for the good of the American people. No one with the character, dedication and patriotism to give so fully of themselves should ever be forgotten, nor should their needs be neglected. The recession will eventually end, but Americans disabled in service to our country will carry the physical evidence of their sacrifice to their graves.

The most vulnerable in our society are always the first to be affected by economic downturns, and among the vulnerable are many of our disabled veterans, particularly those who are no longer able to work to support themselves and their families. The war in Iraq has produced the highest percentage of surviving wounded in our nation's military history. There are many untold stories of broken bodies and shattered lives. The physical, emotional, and economic stresses of disability affect not only the individual veterans, but their families, caregivers, and communities. Veterans don't need to be reminded of the sacrifices that our disabled veterans have made for our country. Unfortunately, too often, the general public takes for granted the efforts of those who have put their lives on the line to preserve American

The Passing of a True American Hero



It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our esteemed colleague and friend, Kenneth G. Musselmann, a Director of the **Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation**. Ken, a resident of Los Alamitos, CA, lost both his legs to gunshot wounds and a land mine explosion in Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his heroism. Ken was the DAV National Commander (1986-87) and an Adjutant of the DAV Department of California from 1989 to 2008. He held all elected officer positions in the DAV's Department of California, including that of State Commander, and was Chapter Commander of DAV Chapter 19 in Lakewood, California, where he was a life member. Ken was selected as California's Outstanding Disabled Veteran in 1978 and the DAV recruiter of the year in 2006 for bringing 346 disabled veterans into membership of the DAV Department of California. He graduated from California State University at Long Beach.

For 15 years he worked for the United States Navy, ending his government career as Division Director of Technical Services for Business and Logistics Data Processing at the Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, California, in 1989. His responsibilities there included hardware and software acquisition, systems software support, data communications, database technology and computer center operations. Ken served on the DVLMF board since 1998.

He is survived by his wife, Diane, and two children, Kenna Ritchie and Matthew Musselmann. The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, contributions should be made in his memory to the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, and designated for the "Kenneth G. Musselmann Memorial Fund." Donations can be made online at www.avdlm.org or sent to 6290 Linton Blvd, Suite 104, Delray Beach, FL 33484.

AVDLM On-The-Go

DVLMF, along with CM Designs and Magnet America, has created a limited-edition car magnet as a gift for donors who give \$25 or more. The magnet features a rendering of the Memorial, along with the slogan "Their Courage Endures." To donate, please click here:

<http://www.avdlm.org/onlineDonation.php>



GEICO's Generosity

GEICO Insurance Company presented DVLMF with a check for \$25,000. Mike Baker, director of **GEICO's Military** marketing said, "Disabled veterans sacrificed tremendously to help preserve our freedoms and our way of life. All Americans owe them a great debt of gratitude." To view the official news release on GEICO's website, please click here: <http://www.geico.com/about/pressreleases/2009/20090429/>

Wendy's Franchisee Partners With AVDLM for Summer Fundraiser

Select Wendy's restaurants owned by DavCo Restaurants, Inc. in the **Baltimore-Washington DC-Salisbury metro areas** are offering a limited-edition collectors mug suitable for both hot and cold use. Available for \$2.99, the proceeds go directly to AVDLM. A \$1.99 Wendy's coupon is included with each mug purchased. "We are thrilled to partner with this extraordinary foundation," said Harvey Rothstein, chairman of DavCo Restaurants, Inc. "We look forward to a great response from the community, and we are honored to align our Wendy's restaurants with a foundation that strives to bring solace and healing to the lives of disabled veterans and their families." The promotion begins **May 22, 2009 and ends July 4, 2009**.

We're all atwitter!

freedoms. For the majority of Americans, war is a segment on the evening news.

Thanks to the media, those recently disabled are fresh in our minds, but we would ask that you not forget the veterans of previous wars who carry lifelong scars and disabilities. Our goal is to raise national awareness so that every American recognizes the national debt owed to those individuals who are disabled in military service. The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial is a symbol that brings focus and unity to national efforts that call the attention of our lawmakers and of the general public to the human cost of war, and to the personal sacrifices and lifelong medical needs of our disabled veterans. American heroes should come home from military service to honor and recognition, not to neglect and anonymity.

Your investment in the **American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial** will help inform generations of Americans about the true meaning of character, responsibility, service and sacrifice. We invite you to make a generous gift to the **American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial**, and have the satisfaction of knowing that you have made a difference. We are grateful for your support.

To view the entire 2008 annual report please click here: http://www.avdlm.org/media/pdfs/2008_Annual_Report.pdf.

-Lois Pope



Follow AVDLM on Twitter to keep up to date with the latest happenings, news and AVDLM information

Click here: twitter.com/AVDLM

Also, join our group on Facebook: [American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial](#)

Free Interactive E-Cards Available to Honor Someone Special In Your Life!

Do you know someone who has served or is serving in the Military? Want to spread the word about the Memorial? Send them a free interactive e-card available at

<http://www.avdml.org/spread-the-word.php>

Hot Off the Presses! AVDLM REACHES 90% OF FUNDRAISING GOAL

\$5.9 MILLION STILL NEEDED FOR WASHINGTON DC
GROUNDBREAKING



The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc. has secured 90 percent of funding needed to break ground on the **American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial** (AVDLM) in Washington DC, announced the Foundation's Co-founder and Chairperson Lois Pope. With the final phase of the fundraising campaign now kicking into gear, Pope added that \$5.9 million must still be raised through corporate and individual donations before the Memorial can become a reality.

Unlike other war and veteran memorials, the AVDLM will be dedicated to both living and deceased disabled veterans, including army, navy, air force, marines and coast guard. The focal point of the Memorial design will be a star-shaped reflecting pool, its surface broken by a single eternal flame. A grove of trees will stand sentry beside the pool, symbolizing the persistence of hope. Michael Vergason Landscape Architects, Ltd., of Alexandria, Virginia, designed the Memorial following a national invitational design competition.

"When Congress approved the Memorial for Washington DC and President Clinton signed it into law, one of the stipulations was that 100 percent of the money needed to design, build and maintain the Memorial had to come from private donations," said Pope. "And the Foundation, which was created to raise these funds, must have all the funds in place before construction can begin. We're almost there."

The Memorial will command an impressive two-acre site between Washington Avenue SW (Canal Street), C Street SW and Second Street SW, in Washington DC. It will be within full view of the United States Capitol, adjacent to the National Mall, and across from Independence Avenue and the United States Botanic Garden.

"It is important to remember that of the 26 million American veterans living across the world today, three million are permanently disabled from injuries suffered in our nation's defense," said actor, director and musician Gary Sinise, the Memorial's national spokesperson. "It cannot be stressed enough how important it is to recognize the sacrifices that our country's disabled veterans have made on behalf of us all."

The Foundation anticipates breaking ground on the Memorial in 2010. The **Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation** is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit and donations are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. To make a donation, or for more information, visit www.avdml.org.

DEERFIELD BEACH



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHAPTER MAKES GENEROUS DONATION TO FUND NATION'S FIRST MEMORIAL DEDICATED TO DISABLED VETERANS



The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the public funds needed to design, build and permanently maintain the nation's first memorial dedicated to disabled veterans, announced today the generous donation of \$5,000 from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Gold Coast Chapter 133 of Deerfield Beach. The donation is a big step forward in the final fundraising phase of the **American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial**, said Foundation Chairperson Lois Pope.

The chapter collected the funds through various community-based fundraising initiatives - including an annual fishing tournament and personal contributions from chapter members.

"We're grateful for the generous and selfless fundraising efforts of the Gold Coast Chapter," said Victor Biggs, Executive Director of the **Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation**. "The chapter should be proud of the excellent example it is setting on behalf of a cause near and dear to the hearts of disabled veterans and their families."

The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial plans to break ground in 2010. Located in Washington D.C., it will be the first national memorial honoring disabled veterans. To date, the Foundation has raised 90% of the total funds needed to design, build and permanently maintain the Memorial. \$5.9 million must still be raised before groundbreaking can begin.

To make a donation or for more information, please visit www.avdlm.org.

1-800-331-7590

www.avdlm.org