



Volume 23, 2012

Memorial Construction Update



We are pleased to announce the most recent developments taking place at ***The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial*** site.

The site, while prominent in location (adjacent to the Rayburn House Office Building and in full view of the United States Capitol) presents extraordinary and complex construction issues. It is situated directly above the I-395 tunnels, with shallow depth for below-grade structural support systems and the mechanical equipment serving the Memorial.

In January 2012, construction began on the underground duct bank for communications facilities for the House office buildings. This project, funded by the Federal Highway Administration, is expected to be completed in June

GET INVOLVED

Become a [Memorial Ambassador](#)

TAKE A TOUR

View the [Virtual Memorial](#)

WATCH US GROW

Read About Our [Groundbreaking](#)

BUY A COIN

Pay tribute with the [2010 American Veterans Disabled for Life Silver Dollar](#)

VETERANS CRISIS HOTLINE

Keep this information handy: The Veterans Crisis Hotline is an indispensable resource for veterans who need a helping hand.

Veterans and their loved ones can call the toll-free, 24-hour hotline at 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1), chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net or send a confidential text message to 838255.



ATTENTION GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation is pleased to announce that it will be included with the Military Support Groups of America (MSGA) membership list as part

2012.

Phase II infrastructure construction includes the closure/realignment of C Street, elimination of the redundant entrance ramp to I-395, and modifications to 2nd Street and Washington Avenue, including curbing, street lighting, traffic signaling and modifications to water and sanitation lines. Phase II engineering/design work has been completed, with construction drawings submitted for final review and approval this month.

Phases I & II are currently funded by the Federal government and are necessary to prepare the site for construction. In addition, the removal and relocation of utility data and power transmission lines is required for site readiness prior to Memorial construction, which will commence immediately upon completion of the infrastructure projects.

To reduce the construction time, off-site fabrication of granite pavers and wall panels, the four bronze sculptures, 48 glass panels and ceremonial flame equipment began in 2011 and will be finished in late 2012.

We will continue to update you in our newsletter about our progress. In the meantime, please visit our website to see what the [Memorial](#) will look like upon completion.

Federal Task Force Holds Meeting



During a meeting last month of an inter-agency task force charged with increasing veterans' access to capital and federal work, contractors had the opportunity to chime in on ways to improve government small business contracting programs established for veterans. The task force was established by President Barack Obama in April 2010, under the auspices of Office of Veterans Business Development.

Read about its [recommendations](#), which were the focus of the Jan. 20 meeting.

Riding Sessions Help Disabled Veteran



Nancy Simpson enjoys taking time out of her everyday life to connect with the therapy horses at the Florida-based Sarasota Manatee Association for

of the Fall 2012 Combined Federal Campaign. MSGA is a part of Military Family and Veterans Service Organizations of America, a nonprofit organization that pre-screens high quality national and international charities and presents them for giving consideration. If you are a Federal government employee, you have the ability to select charities to donate your hard-earned dollars to every year.

We sincerely hope that you will consider DVLMF (Code 13490) as your charity this year. Click [here](#) to learn more about the [Combined Federal Campaign](#).



DENNIS JOYNER INTERVIEW

Visit [Fuzzy Manning's Blog Talk show](#) to listen to Mr. Joyner's November 2011 interview.

VFW MAGAZINE

VFW Magazine writes about the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in its October issue. Read the [full article](#).

2010 DVLMF ANNUAL REPORT

The DVLMF 2010 Annual Report is now available on our website. [Read the report](#) and learn about all the progress and exciting developments from last year.

Riding Therapy.

A disabled veteran who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, Simpson praised the horses for their patience and thoroughness in listening to commands.

When Simpson sees her horse acting anxious, she realizes the animal may be reflecting anxiety that she feels.

Read more about [Nancy and her horse](#).

Disability Review Board Letters



On combat patrol several years ago, a U.S. soldier suffered two attacks from improvised explosive devices in a 24-hour-period. The first one rattled him and killed his buddy. The second one blew him out of his vehicle and knocked him unconscious.

In the past, the Army would medically separate this soldier with a 10-percent disability rating, even though his medical records showed symptoms of traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

No longer. Congress has directed the Department of Defense to establish the Physical Disability Review Board (PDRB) with authority to re-examine the files and, if appropriate, raise the disability ratings of up to 77,000 veterans -- those medically separated with ratings of less than 30 percent between Sept. 11, 2001, and Dec. 31, 2009.

Read more about the [Board's plans](#).

Injuries Don't Stop Vets From Skiing, Snowboarding



One day at a time. That's the approach these American military veterans take when it comes to living with lifelong injuries. Twenty-one wounded warriors recently took to the ski slopes in Wintergreen, Virginia, for a

GARY SINISE

We are honored to have actor, director and musician Gary Sinise as the national spokesperson for the **American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial**. Gary has been traveling the country, supporting the Memorial's cause at events and conferences from coast to coast. ([more](#))



BUY A COIN, BUILD A MEMORIAL



This commemorative coin is now available directly from the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation! Proceeds from every coin purchased help fund The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington D.C.

With thousands of disabled veterans returning from current conflicts, now is the time to purchase the American Veterans

weekend of skiing and snowboarding.

"I'm learning how to snowboard. ... It's a blast," said 21-year-old Marine Lance Cpl. Cody Pettitt. "I've probably been up and down that hill five times already."

Pettitt was seriously wounded in an attack in Afghanistan. He's had reconstructive surgery on his left foot and is well aware of the importance of staying active. "Just getting out and moving helps loosen everything up," he said.

Tom Brown, executive director of Wintergreen Adaptive Sports, said veterans need to learn to use their muscles in new and different ways.

Read more about his [eight-year-old program](#).

Mission Statement

The mission of **The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial** is to celebrate those men and women who may be broken in body—but never in spirit. Transcending conflicts, service branches and generations, the Memorial will express America's lasting gratitude to the men and women whose lives were forever changed in service to our country. As these veterans face a life for which no one can prepare, so must their families and friends. **The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial** will also honor veterans' loved ones and caregivers – individuals whose heroic devotion is a source of strength for those striving to heal.

1-800-331-7590 | www.avdlm.org

DONATE TODAY.
Honor Our Heroes. [Click Here](#)

Disabled for Life Silver Dollar to show your gratitude and support for our disabled veterans. At the same time, you'll be adding a family keepsake that will be enjoyed and revered for generations to come.

[Order yours today.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Memorial and tribute cards in honor or memory of a loved one are available [online](#) and donations are tax-deductible. Choose from nine designs, all with the option of adding a custom message.

DVLMF & SOCIAL MEDIA

We update our Facebook and Twitter accounts daily. Be in the know about the latest happenings with the Memorial and current news impacting America's disabled veterans. Join us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

