



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



30 West Mifflin Street, P.O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843
(608) 266-1311 FAX (608) 267-0403
1-800-947-8387 (WIS VETS)
Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
Raymond G. Boland, Secretary

TO: Senator Rodney Moen
Chairman Veterans Committee

FROM: Secretary Raymond Boland
WDVA

DATE: March 17, 1999

RE: Assembly Bill 65

Assembly Bill 65 gives the Department of Veteran's Affairs authority to accept contributions of money on behalf of Wisconsin veterans for the construction of the World War II memorial in Washington, D.C. Under the bill, any contributions will be matched by the state, up to \$166,100. The bill requires the department to submit the contributions plus state match funds to the American Battle Monuments to honor members of the U.S. armed forces who served in World War II.

The department will work with veteran, school, and community groups to raise the money needed to support Assembly Bill 65. Upon passage of Assembly Bill 65, the department will prepare a compressive plan to be briefed to the chairmans and members of the Veteran committees on our fund raising program.

Attached is a fact sheet on the National World War II Memorial.

I would have liked to attend the hearing but I will be in Washington D.C. with my executive assistant on March 17 attending a conference on Long Term Health Care.

I urge you and members of the committee to support the passage of Assembly Bill 65. If you have any questions or need additional information about the memorial, please contact my executive assistant, John A. Scocos, at 608-266-3081.



Fact Sheet

National World War II Memorial

Authorization

President Clinton signed Public Law 103-32 on May 25, 1993, authorizing the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to establish a World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., or its environs. It will be the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World War II and acknowledging the commitment and achievement of the entire nation.

The law also authorized the president to appoint a Memorial Advisory Board to offer advice to the ABMC on site selection and design of the memorial, as well as to perform its primary duty of promoting and encouraging private donations for the building of the memorial. The board was appointed in September 1994, and works under the chairmanship of Pete Wheeler, commissioner of veterans affairs of the state of Georgia.

Purpose

The memorial will honor the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S. during World War II, the 406,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th Century, the memorial will be a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people to the common defense of the nation and to the broader causes of peace and freedom from tyranny throughout the world. It will inspire future generations of Americans, deepening their appreciation of what the World War II generation accomplished in securing freedom and democracy. Above all, the memorial will stand as an important symbol of American national unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and awesome power that can flow when a free people are at once united and bonded together in a common and just cause.

Site

The first step in establishing the memorial was the selection of an appropriate site. Congress provided legislative authority for siting the memorial in the prime area of the national capital, known as Area I, which includes the National Mall. The National Park Service, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission approved selection of the Rainbow Pool site at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. President Clinton dedicated the memorial site during a formal ceremony on Veterans Day 1995.

Design

ABMC engaged the General Services Administration's (GSA) Public Buildings Service to act as its agent to manage execution of the memorial. Friedrich St. Florian, an architect based in Providence, R.I., was selected to design the memorial through a two-stage, open competition modeled on the GSA's Design Excellence Program. Teaming with St. Florian are George E. Hartman of Hartman-Cox Architects, and Oehme van Sweden & Associates, both of Washington, D.C. Leo A Daly is the architect of record for the project and is legally and professionally responsible for the design. St. Florian's memorial design concept was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission in the summer of 1998.

Fund-Raising Campaign

The \$100 million memorial will be funded almost entirely by private contributions. Leading the campaign are National Co-Chairmen Senator Bob Dole and Frederick W. Smith. Senator Dole, a World War II veteran seriously wounded on the battlefield and twice decorated with the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, was the Republican nominee for president in 1996 and the longest-serving Republican Leader in the U.S. Senate. Frederick W. Smith is chairman, president and chief executive officer of FDX Corporation, a \$15 billion global transportation and logistics holding company. He is a graduate of Yale and a former U.S. Marine Corps officer, and serves on the boards of various transport, industry and civic organizations.

Information about the memorial, including how to donate, can be obtained by calling the toll free customer service center at 1-800-639-4ww2 or visiting the memorial web site at wwiimemorial.com. Tax-deductible donations can also be sent to: **World War II Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 96766, Washington, D.C. 20090-6766.**

Timeline

Under the provisions of the Commemorative Works Act of 1986, the ABMC must obtain a construction permit from the Secretary of the Interior within seven years of the legislation authorizing the memorial, i.e., by May 2000. Before a permit will be issued, the final design must be approved and all construction funds must be on hand. The funds required include a perpetual maintenance fund (10% of the construction cost) provided to the National Park Service, which will assume title and the responsibility for control and maintenance of the memorial after it is completed. ABMC hopes to break ground by Veterans Day 2000.

ABMC

The American Battle Monuments Commission is an independent, executive branch agency with 11 commissioners and a secretary appointed by the president. The ABMC administers, operates and maintains 24 permanent U.S. military cemeteries and 27 memorial structures in 15 countries around the world, including five memorials in the United States. The commission is also responsible for the establishment of other memorials in the U.S. as directed by Congress.



TOMMY G. THOMPSON

**Governor
State of Wisconsin**

February 17, 1999

The Honorable Fred Risser
President of the Senate
220 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

The Honorable Scott Jensen
Speaker of the Assembly
211 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Re: 1999 Assembly Bill 65

Dear President Risser and Speaker Jensen:

1999 Assembly Bill 65, introduced by Representatives Musser and Schneider, and co-sponsored by Senator Moen, relates to contributions for a World War II memorial in Washington, D.C. and making appropriations.

1999 Assembly Bill 65 contains a fiscal note in excess of \$100,000. Pursuant to sec. 16.47 (2), Stats., I consider this bill an emergency bill, I recommend the bill and I ask that passage of 1999 Assembly Bill 65 be permitted prior to passage of the budget bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tommy G. Thompson".

TOMMY G. THOMPSON
Governor

TGT/mrf

About the Memorial
About the Design
The National Campaign
How You Can Help
Who's Who
What's New
Sitemap

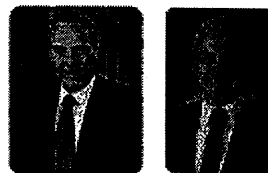
The National World War II Memorial will be the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World War II. The memorial will honor all military veterans of the war, the citizens on the home front, the nation at large, and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms.



It will be located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. at the Rainbow Pool site at the east end of the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. This prominent location is commensurate with the historical importance and lasting significance of World War II to America and the world.

President Clinton dedicated the memorial site during a formal ceremony on Veterans Day, November 11, 1995. The design concept was created by architect Friedrich St. Florian. Groundbreaking is projected for Veterans Day 2000.

A national fund-raising campaign is under way. The memorial will be funded almost entirely by private contributions. The capital campaign goal for donations is \$100 million. Leading the fund-raising campaign are



national campaign chairman Senator Bob Dole, and co-chairman Frederick W. Smith, president and CEO of FDX Corp.

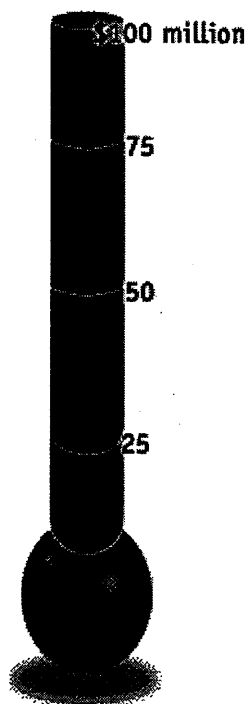
You can be involved in building the World War II Memorial by becoming a Charter Member of the World War II Memorial Society, entering the names of veterans in the Registry of Remembrances, or participating in the Donor Programs.

The Purpose:

The World War II Memorial will be the first national memorial dedicated to all who served in the armed forces and Merchant Marine of the United States during World War II and acknowledging the commitment and achievement of the entire nation. All military veterans of the war, the citizens on the home front, the nation at large, and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms will be honored.

Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th century in American history, the memorial will be a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people, to the common defense of the nation and to the broader causes of peace and freedom from tyranny throughout the world. It will inspire future generations of Americans, deepening their appreciation of what the World War II generation accomplished in securing freedom and democracy. Above all, the memorial will stand for all time as an important symbol of American national unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and awesome power that can flow when a free people are at once united and bonded together in a common and just cause.





About the National World War II Memorial Fund-Raising Campaign

The memorial will be funded almost entirely by private contributions, as specified in Public Law 103-32. The capital campaign goal for donations is \$100 million. As of January 1999, approximately \$38 million has been raised through Corporate and Foundation Giving, the support of Veterans Groups, Associations, and Individual Donations. Leading the campaign are Senator Bob Dole, National Campaign Chairman, and Frederick W. Smith, National Campaign Co-chair.

Under the provisions of the Commemorative Works Act of 1986, ABMC must obtain a construction permit from the Secretary of the Interior within seven years of the legislation authorizing the memorial, that is, by May 2000. Before a permit will be issued, the final design must be approved and all funds must be on hand. The total funds required include a perpetual maintenance fund (10 percent of the construction cost) to be provided to the National Park Service, which will assume title and the responsibility for control and maintenance of the memorial after it is completed.

Learn [how you can help](#) build this long-overdue tribute to the World War II generation.



News Releases

Boeing Pledges \$1.2 Million to National World War II Memorial

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 1999

Contacts:
ABMC: Mike Conley 703-696-6780
Boeing: Doug Kennett 703-465-3534

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) today announced a \$1.2 million pledge from The Boeing Company to help build the National World War II Memorial. Boeing's pledge is the largest gift to date from a defense-related corporation, and brings the \$100 million campaign to the \$35 million mark.

Stan Ebner, Boeing senior vice president for Washington operations, announced the five-year pledge to the memorial campaign national chairmen, Senator Bob Dole and Frederick W. Smith, president and CEO of FDX Corporation, during a short ceremony in December.

"Boeing is proud to help honor our World War II generation in this manner," Ebner noted. "The Boeing team was part of the war effort then; it's only appropriate that we be part of the World War II Memorial effort now."

Boeing is the world's largest aerospace company. During World War II, Boeing and its heritage companies (McDonnell Douglas and North American Rockwell) produced almost 90,000 aircraft for the U.S. and its allies. Among these venerable aircraft were the B-17 "Flying Fortress," B-29 "Super Fortress," P-51 "Mustang" and C-47 "Gooney Bird."

"Boeing's World War II contributions were critical to U.S. air power and a key to the Allied victory," Dole said. "This generous pledge is a reflection of Boeing's World War II heritage, and an example of the important role corporate America plays in helping us permanently preserve the legacy of those who fought and struggled to preserve the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy today."

ABMC hopes to break ground for the memorial by Veterans Day 2000. Information about the National World War II Memorial can be obtained by visiting the memorial web site at wwiimemorial.com or by calling toll free to 1-800-639-4WW2. Tax deductible donations may also be sent to **World War II Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 96766, Washington, D.C. 20090-6766.**

###

For more information about the World War II Memorial contact:

Previous Releases:

Vice President and U.S. Postmaster General Unveil 1940s Celebrate the Century Stamps Commemorating Triumphs of World War II (November 10, 1998)

Senator Inouye Leads Senate Support of World War II Memorial; Design Concept Approved (July 15, 1998)

World War II Memorial Design Concept Approved by National Capital Planning Commission (July 9, 1998)

World War II Memorial Design Concept Approved by Commission of Fine Arts (May 21, 1998)

Members of Congress, Veterans Groups Endorse World War II Memorial (May 20, 1998)

American Battle Monuments Commission Unveils Revised Design of National World War II Memorial (May 12, 1998)