



## Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***What is the Foundation's vision?***

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial will be a lasting tribute to the courage and sacrifice of all who have served, and especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, in the nation's longest war, while inspiring all Americans to stand united behind those who continue to serve.

### ***What is the Foundation's mission?***

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation leads the effort to plan, fund, and build the National GWOT Memorial on the National Mall, in Washington, D.C., on a site befitting the historical significance of service in this war.

### ***What is the purpose of the Memorial?***

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial will be a lasting tribute to the courage and sacrifice of all who have served in the nation's longest war, while inspiring all Americans to stand united behind those who continue to serve.

Only by locating this Memorial near the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War memorials can we show the generations of Americans who have served, and will serve, in this war that their service is equally valued by our country.

The Memorial will:

- **Honor:** Salute all who served in this conflict: service members, civilians, and their families.
- **Heal:** Provide a focal point for healing and reflection on a complex multigenerational war.
- **Empower:** Engage and educate civilian and military communities to build mutual understanding.
- **Unite:** Foster and sustain the sense of patriotism that brought all Americans together in the wake of 9/11.

### ***What is the Global War on Terrorism?***

The Global War on Terrorism is a multi-theatre war encompassing all operations since September 11, 2001 to counter terrorism.

### ***Why should this Memorial be on the National Mall?***

The selfless service by all-volunteer armed forces and civilians to defend our nation is the most compelling reason this generation has earned recognition alongside the nation's other major war memorials.

- As of April 2019, about 22,000 troops were serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, with an additional 65,622 U.S. military and civilian personnel supporting broader contingency operations.\*
- From 9/11 to April 2019, about 6,967 service members died in GWOT and Overseas Contingency Operations, and 52,902 were wounded.\*
- According to the U.S. Department of Labor, from 9/11 to April 2019, about 3,413 civilian government contractors were killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, and 38,953 sustained work-related injuries.\*
- From 9/11 to September 2015, 2.77 million service members served on more than 5.4 million deployments.\*\*

### ***What makes this Memorial unique?***

It will recognize the service and sacrifice of not only members of the military but also the countless civilians, family members, and others in the fight to keep our country safe and secure.

It will memorialize a war with no end in sight, providing a focal point for the nation's continued recognition of those who give their lives to serve and protect us all.

\* Source: Congressional Research Service, U.S. War Costs, Casualties, and Personnel Levels Since 9/11. <https://fas.org/sgplcrs/natsec/IF11182.pdf>

\*\* Source: Rand Corporation, Examination of Recent Deployment Experience Across the Services and Components, [https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research\\_reports/RR1900/RR1928/RAND\\_RR1928.pdf](https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR1900/RR1928/RAND_RR1928.pdf)



## ***What is the process for building a national Memorial in Washington, D.C.?***

Gaining approval for a national memorial in the nation's capital is an enormous undertaking. A 24-step process includes:

- Winning passage of legislation in Congress to authorize the Memorial's establishment and to designate a sponsor responsible for its construction.
- Working with the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC) to identify an appropriate site for the Memorial and to obtain approval from the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) for the site.
- Coordinating with the National Park Service or General Services Administration to create and refine a memorial design for submission to the NCPC, the CFA, and the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- Raising funds and obtaining permits for the construction of the Memorial and preparing for its operation, maintenance, and preservation.

As of January 2020, the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation has completed 8 of the 24 steps.

## ***Has Congress authorized establishment of a Global War on Terrorism Memorial?***

The **Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act (H.R. 873)** authorized the establishment of a national war memorial on federal land in Washington, D.C. The bill unanimously passed the House and Senate within six months of its introduction and was signed by President Trump on Aug. 18, 2017 (Public Law No: 115-51).

The Act entrusts the Foundation to oversee the fundraising, design, and construction of the memorial in accordance with federal law and exempts the Memorial from the customary 10-year statutory waiting period after the formal conclusion of the associated conflict. It also prohibits the use of federal funds for the Memorial.

A second bill, the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act (H.R. 5046), was introduced in Congress on Nov. 12, 2019, to permit the construction of the Memorial in the reserve on the National Mall. Two combat Veterans, Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO) and Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI), introduced the bill with the support of the entire For Country Caucus, a bipartisan congressional caucus of post-9/11 Veterans.

## ***What is the history of the Foundation?***

The Foundation was formed in 2015 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation by a small group of like-minded veterans, military spouses, and patriots to honor the service and sacrifice of all who served in the Global War on Terrorism. In its first two years, the Foundation was the driving force behind the Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act to authorize the establishment of a national war memorial on federal land in Washington, D.C.

## ***Does the Foundation have authorization to construct the Memorial?***

The Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act (Public Law No: 115-51) authorizes the Foundation to oversee the fundraising, design, site selection, and construction of the Memorial in accordance with federal law. The Foundation is solely responsible for accepting contributions and paying the expenses for the establishment of the Memorial.

## ***How can you help?***

There are many ways that you can get involved and support our mission!

### **Donate**

The Memorial will be entirely funded through donations. No government funding will be used. Join the movement to honor all those who have served, and continue to serve, in the longest war in our nation's history. Visit the donation page on our [\*\*website\*\*](#) to contribute and secure your legacy.

### **Contact your Senators and Representative in Congress**

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial should rest on the same solemn ground as the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War memorials. To make this possible, Congress must pass the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act (H.R. 5046). **Contact** your Representative and Senators to encourage their support.

### **Share your story**

Whether you're an active duty service member, a veteran, a family member of someone who served, or a civilian who cares about all who have served, we want to hear from you. Tell us what the Global War on Terrorism Memorial means to you. Use #GWOTMemorial on social media to spread the word.

### **Stay informed**

Sign up for our mailing list for updates on the Foundation's activities and progress and details on how you can rally support for those who have served and sacrifice to keep us safe.



**GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM**  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.



*For more information on the Global War on Terrorism Memorial and the Foundation, visit*  
**[www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org](http://www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org)**