



GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Honor. Heal. Empower. Unite.

2019 Annual Report



GLOBAL WAR
ON TERRORISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.



Dear Friends of the GWOT Memorial Foundation,

Thank you for supporting our mission: to plan, fund, and build the National Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Memorial on the National Mall, in Washington, D.C., on a site befitting the historical significance of service in our nation's longest war. I'm proud to share with you our accomplishments in advancing this historic effort.

For nearly two decades, service members, civilians, and their families and supporters have courageously waged a global war on terrorism that has no end in sight. In 2019, the GWOT Memorial Foundation made great strides in building a Memorial to give our all-volunteer U.S. armed forces and the civilians who support them the recognition they deserve.

We began by interviewing hundreds of Veterans, active duty service members, Gold Star Families, Blue Star Families, elected officials, everyday civilians, and faith leaders to reach a consensus on the Memorial's purpose, vision, and location. Those conversations formed the foundation of a bill to permit construction of the Memorial within the Reserve on the National Mall.

Two fellow combat Veterans, Rep. Jason Crow, a Democrat from Colorado, and Rep. Mike Gallagher, a Republican from Wisconsin, introduced the bill in Congress with the support of the entire For Country Caucus, a bipartisan congressional caucus of post-9/11 Veterans. As of May 2020, the bill has 69 co-sponsors.

Even in a time of deep political division, all Americans agree on one thing: Our gratitude for the service and sacrifice of all those who have fought — and continue fighting — to defend our safety and security. Thank you to the generous sponsors, partners, and supporters who have made our progress possible.

Gracias and Godspeed,

Michael “Rod” Rodriguez

*President and Chief Executive Officer
GWOT Memorial Foundation*





I served alongside many brave men and women in the Marine Corps, some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation. Honoring their service, as well as the sacrifices of all those who have served in the global war on terrorism, is overdue.

—Rep. Mike Gallagher

OUR VISION

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial (GWOT) 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 to protect our country, while inspiring all Americans to stand united behind those who continue to serve.

OUR MISSION

The Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) 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.

OUR PROGRESS

- **Taking the Pulse of Americans.** The GWOT Memorial Foundation conducted hundreds of interviews with Veterans, service members, Gold Star Families, Blue Star Families, elected officials, everyday civilians, and faith leaders. These conversations gathered insights on the meaning, value, design, and location of the GWOT Memorial for a cross-section of Americans.
 - » “The very essence of what this Memorial should be, both physically and in its content, is emerging from these interviews.”
—Michael Winstanley AIA AICP, Founding Principal of WA&P
 - » “We need to fulfill our duty to our war heroes: Demonstrate our gratitude and respect through the support for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act.” —Keith Walawender,



Post-9/11 Veteran, former U.S. Navy SEAL



We wanted to provide an opportunity for the post-9/11 Veterans ... to bring their children, to reunite with their brothers and sisters who they fought with, and to reflect on the sacrifices of their friends who didn't come home.

—Rep. Jason Crow

- **Driving Authorizing Legislation.** The GWOT Memorial Foundation was instrumental in advancing the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act (H.R. 5046). Introduced by Reps. Jason Crow (D-CO) and Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and co-sponsored by the entire bipartisan For Country Caucus of post-9/11 Veterans, the bill will permit the construction of the Memorial in the Reserve on the National Mall.
- **Building Support.** As of May 1, 2020, has gained 69 co-sponsors, the GWOT Memorial Foundation has gained 64 co-sponsors and the pledged support of seven Veterans and Military Service Organizations. These groups bring their membership, influence, and channels for communications and fundraising to the Foundation's efforts.
 - » “Building a tangible symbol of the sacrifice that has been made by those volunteers who have served in this ongoing war will empower, strengthen, and unite all citizens of this great country.”—*Jake Wood, CEO, Team Rubicon*
 - » “Freedom is not a concept. It's a commitment. And for the brave men and women that are serving and have served our great country in the Global War on Terrorism, their commitment is clear for all to see. Building a national memorial in America's capital will make our commitment to giving back to them clear for the world to see.”
—*Shelly Kirkland, CEO, Boot Campaign*



HONORING SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial will be a lasting tribute to all who have served in the nation's longest war: 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.

Consider this: Today's war is fought by a smaller percentage of Americans than any war before, with just 0.6% of our population serving in uniform. And total deployment times per service member are equal to or greater than those of previous generations.

"The time has come for our nation to honor service members and families who have served, especially those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, with a Memorial on the National Mall. A monument will give the nation an enduring reminder of the heroism of our military and the sacrifices made." —*Jeremy Butler, CEO, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America*

Since September 11, 2001:

- About 6,967 service members have died in GWOT and Overseas Contingency Operations, and 52,902 have been wounded.*
- About 3,413 civilian government contractors have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, and 38,953 have sustained work-related injuries.*
- More than 87,000 military and civilian personnel are serving today.*
- Between September 11, 2001, and September 2015, 2.77 million service members served on more than 5.4 million deployments.**

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

**Source: RAND Corporation, *Examination of Recent Deployment Experience Across the Services and Components*. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1928.html



The GWOT Memorial will remember all those who gave their lives and honor those who continue to serve.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

We are dedicated to transparency and effectiveness. Visit www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org for our financial statements and IRS Form 990.

THE MISSION CONTINUES

Since the formation of the GWOT Memorial Foundation, our unwavering commitment has been to build a Memorial to the service members and all others who have served and sacrificed for our country in the Global War on Terrorism. In 2020, we are pursuing two key strategies to reach this goal:

Win passage of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act (H.R. 5046)

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial should rest on the same solemn ground as the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Memorials. By siting the Memorial in the Reserve, we will show the generations of Americans who have served, and will serve, in this war that their service is valued equally with that of previous generations. H.R. 5046 will authorize the construction of the Memorial on the National Mall at one of three proposed sites: the Constitution Gardens, West Potomac Park, or the JFK Hockey Fields.

Through our advocacy efforts, the GWOT Memorial Foundation has helped garner 69 co-sponsors of the bill in the House of Representatives. We are working to build that number in a show of broad-based national support and secure the introduction of a companion bill in the U.S. Senate. By elevating the Memorial's value and purpose in the national media and mobilizing grassroots support nationwide, we will win passage of the bill and proceed with the Memorial's design and construction.

Raise an initial \$50 million to plan and build the Memorial

The final cost of the Memorial will depend on its location as well as its final design. However, based on the costs of similar Memorials, the GWOT Memorial Foundation conservatively estimates that we must raise an initial \$50 million before groundbreaking begins. Under law, no taxpayer dollars can be allocated to the construction of this Memorial. The Memorial will be 100% funded through donations — from not only major foundations and corporate donors, but also thousands of individual donors who support our cause.



OUR SUPPORTERS

The GWOT Memorial Foundation is proud to have the support of a broad cross-section of organizations. For more information, visit www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org/alliance.

OUR LEADERSHIP

President George W. Bush, *Honorary Chairman*

Michael Rodriguez, *President and Chief Executive Officer*

Theodore C. Skokos, *Chairman*

Kenneth A. Hersh, *Vice Chairman*

Rye Barcott, *Secretary and Treasurer*

Joseph M. DePinto, *Board Member*

Rob McKee, *Board Member*

Edwin Wahlen, *Board Member*



GET INVOLVED

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

Donate

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial will be entirely funded through donations. No government funding will be used. Visit the donation page on our website www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org/ donate to contribute and secure your legacy as a founding donor. Contact DiAnne Graham at dg@gwotmf.org or 202-538-3454 with any questions.

Become a volunteer

We are always looking to grow our team of dedicated volunteers from across the country. There are many ways to get involved, from supporting our events to writing your Senators and Representative to support the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act (H.R. 5046).

Please contact us to join our network of volunteers and learn how you can help support our mission.

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. Share your story with us and tell us what the Global War on Terrorism Memorial means to you.

Spread the word

Follow the GWOT Memorial Foundation on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@gwotmf) and use #GWOTMemorial to help us spread the word.

Stay informed

Sign up for our mailing list for updates on the GWOT Memorial Foundation's activities and progress and details on how you can rally support.