



GLOBAL WAR
ON TERRORISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION®

20
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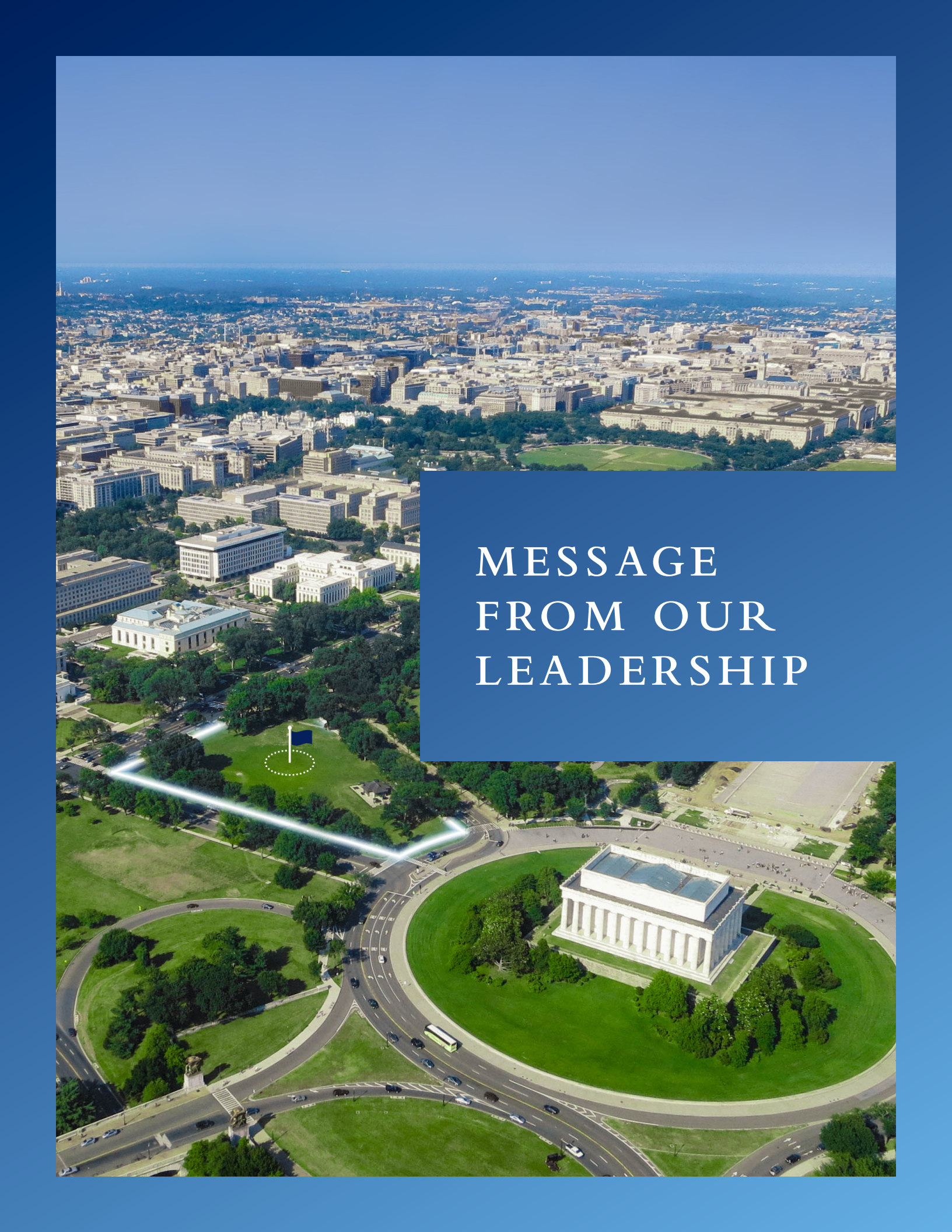
HEAL



EMPOWER



UNITE

An aerial photograph of Washington, D.C., showing the city's layout from the White House area in the upper left to the Lincoln Memorial in the lower right. A blue rectangular box is superimposed over the image, covering the area from the White House down to the Lincoln Memorial. Inside this box, the text "MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP" is written in white, serif, all-caps font. A small blue flag on a white pole is positioned on the lawn between the White House and the Lincoln Memorial, with a dotted white circle around its base. A white line connects the flag to the Lincoln Memorial.

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Foundation Family,



It is with immense gratitude that I join you in reviewing a year defined by progress, purpose, and partnership.

At the heart of the Foundation's work is a deep commitment to honoring the Global War on Terrorism community—not just in history, but in every living moment. This year, we advanced significantly in our mission by naming our Memorial Design Team, led by the extraordinary Kengo Kuma. His ability to translate stillness into strength, and memory into space, promises a Memorial that is worthy of those we honor.

Just as importantly, our Design Advisory Council—representing voices across generations, branches, and experiences—has actively shaped this next phase. They remind us daily that this Memorial must not be built for the community, but with it.

Thank you for standing with us. We build together—not only a Memorial, but a legacy.

THEODORE "TED" C. SKOKOS

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



As we reflect on the progress of 2024, I remain humbled by the trust you place in us and inspired by the unwavering spirit of the Global War on Terrorism community. Your commitment, voices, and sacrifices continue to guide our mission as we take critical steps toward building a Memorial that reflects the gravity, complexity, and enduring nature of this conflict.

This year marked a powerful turning point when world-renowned architect Kengo Kuma joined our team. Kuma san's vision—shaped through our Help Design History survey and direct conversations with our Design Advisory Council—will breathe life into a place that honors, heals, empowers, and unites. With his global lens and our community's personal stories, this Memorial will become a lasting tribute to service and sacrifice.

In 2024, we also expanded our impact through the newly launched Jawbreaker Fellowship Program and the continued growth of the Johnny Micheal Spann Ally Program. These initiatives will ensure that education, remembrance, and shared responsibility remain central to our work—even after the Memorial is built.

We are moving forward with purpose. Our work continues—because the war is not yet over, and the stories must still be told. Together, we will ensure that every American who answered the call is remembered.

Gracias and Godspeed,

MICHAEL "ROD" RODRÍGUEZ

PRESIDENT & CEO

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Memorial Design Team Announced

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation Design Team has been intentionally curated with a diverse set of experts, creatives, and individuals personally impacted by the war to ensure the Memorial reflects the magnitude of this ongoing international conflict.

The Foundation is fortunate to have Kengo Kuma, a world-renowned architect, leading its Design Team. Kuma san, along with his team at Kengo Kuma & Associates, is known for a poetic use of water that brings a sense of tranquility and quiet—ideal for this space of hope and healing.

Named one of Time's "100 Most Influential People" in 2021, Kuma san has led design for some of the world's most famous buildings, including the Japan National Stadium in Tokyo, the V&A Dundee Museum in Scotland, the Centro de Arte Moderna Gulbenkian in Lisbon, and the Rolex Building in Dallas, Texas.

With offices around the world, Kuma san and his team will bring an international perspective to the Memorial to appropriately reflect the global nature of the Global War on Terrorism. This is not only important to the Foundation's Board of Directors, Staff, and Design Advisory Council, but also to over 80% of Americans surveyed through our Help Design History campaign, which included 20,000 participants from all 50 states, representing every branch of the military as well as civilians.

Kuma san and his colleagues are collaborating closely with the Foundation's Design Team, which consists of the Board of Directors and the Design Advisory Council, to create a tribute to the men and women who have bravely answered the call to serve.

In 2024, Kuma san met with members of the Design Advisory Council, listened to more than 20 hours of personal stories, and inquired about their desires for the Memorial.

Currently, Kuma san and his team are working on design concepts for the Memorial. We look forward to sharing more updates on the Design Team's progress throughout 2025.



*Scan the QR code on the
left to meet Kengo Kuma!*



DESIGN ADVISORY COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS

Elliot Ackerman

U.S. Marine Corps GWOT Veteran

Jennifer Ballou

*Master Sergeant (U.S. Army, Retired),
GWOT Veteran, and Gold Star Spouse;
Mother of Three*

DESIGN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eva Marie Briseno

GWOT Gold Star Mother

Joseph D. Briseno

*Staff Sergeant (U.S. Army, Retired)
and GWOT Gold Star Father*

Kirsten VC Brunson

*Colonel (U.S. Army, Retired) and
Military Spouse of GWOT Veteran*

Elisabeth Burgess

GWOT Gold Star Stepmother

Terry A. Burgess

GWOT Gold Star Father

Michael Cannelongo

*Master Sergeant, U.S. Army
and GWOT Veteran*

Michelle Cannelongo

*GWOT Veteran and Military Spouse
of GWOT Veteran*

Shannon Spann Debruyn

*Spouse of First GWOT KIA (CIA, Retired)
and GWOT Veteran; Mother of Three*

Frank M. Dunlevy

U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran

Gregory D. Gadson

*Colonel (U.S. Army, Retired)
and GWOT Veteran*

Alex R. Hernandez Jr.

*Sergeant Major (U.S. Army, Retired),
Retired CIA, and GWOT Veteran*

Rev. Dr. Darius J. Holland

*Chaplain, U.S. Army National Guard,
and GWOT Veteran*

Eduardo Loredó

GWOT Gold Star Child

Jacob R. Rodríguez

Military Child and Brother of GWOT Veterans

McKenna Slutman

GWOT Gold Star Child

Shannon Slutman

GWOT Gold Star Spouse; Mother of Three

Jennie Taylor

*GWOT Gold Star Spouse;
Mother of Seven and Civilian Aide to
Secretary of the Army for Utah*

Megan Taylor

GWOT Gold Star Child

Ganpat “Gunner” V. Wagh

(FBI, Retired) GWOT Veteran

Jamie Walawender

Military Spouse of GWOT Veteran

Keith “Wally” Walawender

*Chief Special Warfare Operator, Seal
(U.S. Navy, Retired), and GWOT Veteran*

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Foundation Names Fellowship Program in Honor of Operation Jawbreaker



In May, the Foundation was proud to announce the launch of Operation Jawbreaker Fellowship Program, named in honor of the historic CIA mission Operation Jawbreaker, the first ever U.S. operation in the Global War on Terrorism.

Fellowships are an important part of the Foundation's legacy. Even after our Memorial is built on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., our Fellows will help raise awareness of the Global War on Terrorism, its heroes, and its lasting impact on our Nation's history.

The Foundation's Fellows serve one-year terms and, at the time of the announcement, included Gold Star Fellow, Krista Simpson Anderson, and Gold Star Child Fellow, Megan Taylor.

"I AM GRATEFUL AND HUMBLLED BY THE HONOR OF SERVING AS THE FOUNDATION'S FIRST GOLD STAR CHILD FELLOW. THIS NEW ROLE GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE EXPERIENCES OF AMERICA'S GOLD STAR CHILDREN. I'M EAGER TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MEMORIAL'S PLANNING AND REACH NEW SUPPORTERS WITH THE FOUNDATION'S MESSAGE."

MEGAN TAYLOR
GOLD STAR CHILD FELLOW

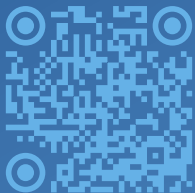
JOHNNY MICHEAL SPANN ALLY PROGRAM

A Legacy of Action, Responsibility, and Leadership



In 2023, the Foundation named its Ally Program in honor of Johnny Micheal "Mike" Spann, a CIA officer and former Marine who became the first American combat casualty in the Global War on Terrorism on November 25, 2021. His selfless service and ultimate sacrifice represent the very best of our Nation, and his values of Action, Responsibility, and Leadership are at the heart of the qualities we seek in our allies.

Through the Ally Program, the Foundation partners with like-minded organizations committed to helping amplify our mission and work. Our Allies lend their voices, platforms, and resources to help educate the public, advocate for remembrance, and build a lasting legacy in our Nation's capital.



Scan the QR code on the left for a complete list of our allies and to apply to be part of the program!

We proudly welcomed the following allies in 2024:



★ MOWW ★
MILITARY ORDER
OF THE WORLD WARS



A photograph of Michael "Rod" Rodríguez, President and CEO, standing at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He has a beard and is looking slightly to his right. His hands are clasped in front of him. The background is dark with many out-of-focus blue and red lights, creating a bokeh effect. Confetti is visible in the air around him.

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

The American Legion Honors Michael “Rod” Rodríguez with the Patriot Award

In August, President and CEO, Michael “Rod” Rodríguez, received The American Legion’s prestigious Patriot Award at the organization’s 105th National Convention in New Orleans. This award is reserved for individuals who exemplify outstanding service and dedication to our Nation’s core values. Rod’s unwavering commitment to his country and his leadership at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation truly embodies the essence of this honor.

HIS DEDICATION NOT ONLY REFLECTS HIS PERSONAL
DEVOTION BUT ALSO SERVES AS A BEACON FOR OUR
FOUNDATION’S MISSION.

MOBILIZING FOR IMPACT ANSWERING THE CALL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Bringing the Global War on Terrorism Memorial to life is a historic and collective endeavor – honoring all who have served and sacrificed in defense of our principles and freedoms. This effort is powered entirely by private support. Every contribution helps us move closer to dedicating this enduring symbol of national gratitude and healing.

By law, no federal funding will be used to construct the Memorial, so we depend on contributions from our supporters. Throughout 2024, we received many generous donations of all sizes, for which we are supremely grateful.



OUR MISSION REQUIRES
SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT
TO ENSURE THE MEMORIAL
IS BUILT, DEDICATED,
AND SUSTAINED FOR
GENERATIONS TO COME.

The Foundation is pursuing a 2028 dedication of this historic Memorial. With strong momentum and support from across the country, we are advancing towards our vision.

Join us in investing in this national legacy. To learn how your support can advance this mission, please contact our Chief Development Officer Heather Lancaster at lancaster@gwotmf.org

GIVING CIRCLE DONORS

The Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation is incredibly grateful to its supporters who are members of a giving circle as of December 31, 2024.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



VALOR CIRCLE



LIBERTY CIRCLE



DONOR SPOTLIGHT NUCOR®

We proudly recognize Nucor Corporation for their steadfast partnership and investment in the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation.

Nucor made a historic contribution of \$2.5 million—the largest single gift in the Foundation's history. This generous donation includes steel that may be incorporated into the Memorial's construction on the National Mall, symbolizing the strength and resilience of all who have served and sacrificed in the Global War on Terrorism.

A special thanks to Leon J. Topalian, Chairman, President, and CEO of Nucor Corporation—and a member of the GWOT Memorial Foundation Board of Directors—and to the entire Nucor team for championing our mission and helping bring this National Memorial to life. Their support reflects a profound commitment to honoring the courage, service, and sacrifice of those who have given so much in defense of liberty, security, and freedom.

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*Retired U.S. Army Green Beret;
GWOT Veteran*



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*Desert Storm Veteran; Dallas
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*25th Secretary of the Air Force;
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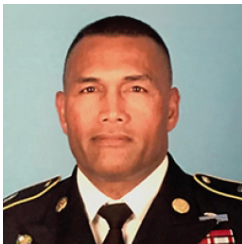
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BOARD MEMBER
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*Chair, President, & CEO, Nucor
Corporation*



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*GWOT Veteran; Retired U.S.
Army Command Sergeant
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(In Memory)
Edwin “Spike” Wahlen

GWOTMF

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Mother of Seven; Civilian Aide to
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GWOTMF

*Staff[★]***PRESIDENT & CEO****Michael "Rod" Rodríguez****CHIEF OF STAFF****Jennifer R. Ballou****CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
& GENERAL COUNSEL****David Bearden****CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER****Heather Lancaster****SENIOR ADVISOR****Michael McMahan****DIRECTOR OF IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT****Mary Catherine Morris***★As of June 2025*



THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (GWOT)

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION is the nonprofit organization designated by Congress to plan, fund, and build the National GWOT Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

OUR MISSION is to build a reverent and apolitical National War Memorial that will honor all who have served and sacrificed in the ongoing Global War on Terrorism. This includes uniformed and non-uniformed veterans, as well as the families who have supported them throughout this incredibly complex war fought by so few.

**GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

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Washington, D.C. 20004



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