National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial

Concept Presentation
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
October 21, 2021
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National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial
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SUMMER MORNING

SPRING MORNING

FALL AFTERNOON

WINTER MORNING
Memorial Plan

Dune Height Varies: Flush to Max. 6.5’

TW ELEV 24.9’  BW ELEV 19.0’

17.2’

19.0’

49’

16.3’

Dune Height Varies: Flush to Max. 6’

LEV ELEV 20’+

Constitution Avenue NW

23rd Street NW

National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial
Section

National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial

Section a-a
Updates to Concept Design and Commemorative Work

- Positive feedback related to siting, form, and spatial character of the landscape
- Ambiguity in the narrative content
- Complicated and exhibits busy-ness
- Figurative sculpture is problematic

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS, SEPTEMBER 2020

- Memorial form remains the same
- Commemorative narrative clarified: sacrifice
- Reframed Storm Wall as a cinematic narrative including build-up, conflict, and liberation to support the overall theme
- Simplified Inscription Wall and removed figurative sculpture

REVISED, OCTOBER 2021
Commemorative Framework: Service

To honor those who served.

1. SERVICE IN THE CONFLICT
   how they served and changed the nation

2. SERVICE AND SACRIFICE
   how they sacrificed

3. SERVICE OF THE COALITION
   how they worked together
Commemorative Framework: Service

*To honor those who served.*

1. **SERVICE IN THE CONFLICT**
   how they served and changed the nation

The bas relief on this wall depicts the build-up of the Operation, the troops on the ground, and the dawn of a new day.
The bald eagle and falcon symbolize the leadership of the United States and the role of regional allies, and commemorate the liberation of Kuwait.

Commemorative Framework: Service

To honor those who served.

1. SERVICE IN THE CONFLICT

how they served and changed the nation

The bas relief on this wall depicts the build-up of the Operation, the troops on the ground, and the dawn of a new day.
Commemorative Framework: Service

To honor those who served.

1. SERVICE IN THE CONFLICT
   how they served and changed the nation

2. SERVICE AND SACRIFICE
   how they sacrificed

The inscription honors those who volunteered to serve and those who lost their lives in service.
Commemorative Framework: Service

To honor those who served.

1. SERVICE IN THE CONFLICT
   how they served and changed the nation

2. SERVICE AND SACRIFICE
   how they sacrificed

3. SERVICE OF THE COALITION
   how they worked together

The Unity Shield commemorates all nations of the Coalition, highlighting success of cooperation and underscoring their shared sacrifice in this conflict.

Reminiscent of a battle shield of antiquity, this element represents the shared effort of all coalition nations to join forces and assist the nation of Kuwait.
Commemorative Framework: Service

To honor those who served.

1. SERVICE IN THE CONFLICT
how they served and changed the nation

2. SERVICE AND SACRIFICE
how they sacrificed

3. SERVICE OF THE COALITION
how they worked together
Storm Wall: Service in the Conflict

DEVELOPMENT OF BAS-RELIEF

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS, SEPTEMBER 2020

“MY CONFIDENCE IN YOU IS TOTAL. OUR CAUSE IS JUST! NOW YOU MUST BE THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING OF DESERT STORM.”

• Imagery lacks cinematic quality
• Number of images should be reduced
• Wall texture is distracting

REVISED, OCTOBER 2021

“WE SET OUT TO CONFRONT AN ENEMY ABROAD, AND IN THE PROCESS TRANSFORMED A NATION AT HOME.”

• Simplified and refined bas relief carvings
• Integrated bas relief elements with wall texture
• Adjusted placement of the raptors
Storm Wall: Service in the Conflict

BUILD-UP

CONFLICT

LIBERATION
Storm Wall: Depth of Relief
Storm Wall: Build-up
Storm Wall: Conflict
Storm Wall: Liberation

WE SET OUT TO CONFRONT AN ENEMY AERIAL, AND IN THE PROCESS TRANSFORMED A NATION AT HOME

FOREWORD GEORGE H. W. BUSH

LIBERATION
Storm Wall: Liberation Detail

DEVELOPMENT OF SCULPTURE

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS, SEPTEMBER 2020

• Raptors don’t appear to be related
• Underside of falcon is inconsistent

REVISED, OCTOBER 2021

• Raptors reduced in size and moved closer together to signify flying in tandem
• Falcon pose changed to show back the same as eagle
Storm Wall: Service in the Conflict
Storm Wall: Service in the Conflict

DIMENSIONS
Wall Length - 238'-4"
Average Height - 4'-7"
Inscription Wall: Service and Sacrifice

DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS, SEPTEMBER 2020

“They set out to confront an enemy abroad, and in the process, they transformed a nation at home.”

- Figurative sculpture is in conflict with abstract memorial
- Homecoming imagery is too celebratory

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“To honor the service and the sacrifice”

- Figurative sculpture removed
- Revised homecoming theme to one that recognizes service and sacrifice
Inscription Wall: Service and Sacrifice

BATTLE OF AD DAWRAH
BATTLE OF QURAH
BATTLE OF UMM AL MARADIM
BATTLE OF KHAFJI
BATTLE OF BUBIYAN
BATTLE OF WADI AL-BATIN
BATTLE OF WADI AL BUSAYYAH
BATTLE OF 73 EASTING
BATTLE OF NORFOLK
BATTLE OF MEDINA RIDGE
Inscription Wall: Service and Sacrifice
Inscription Wall: Service and Sacrifice

DIMENSIONS
Wall Length - 164'-9"
Average Height - 4'-2"

XX° Angle of Wall
X' - X" Length Along Surface
X' - X" Plumb Height
Unity Shield: Service of the Coalition
Unity Shield: Service of the Coalition

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS, SEPTEMBER 2020
• Overall positive comments on coalition shield
• Shield and table element is bulky
• Concentric rings lack visual interest

REVISED, OCTOBER 2021
• Shield concept retained, table aspect removed
• Reduced the size and height of the shield
• Refined the basin and the surface pattern
Unity Shield: Service of the Coalition
Unity Shield: Service of the Coalition
Unity Shield: Service of the Coalition
THANK YOU
APPENDIX
Precedent Sculpture: Emily Bedard
Study Model
Precedent Sculpture: Robert Eccleston

RAPTOR SCULPTURE PRECEDENT

Birds in tandem flight were studied for the composition of the raptors and positioning of their anatomy and feathers.
Study Model
Study Model - Alternate Raptor Positioning
Bas-relief at Storm Wall

Classic bas-relief techniques of Donatello provide precedent to the cinematic quality of the Storm Wall. Dynamism, volume, and climax is achieved through the layering of figures. Varied scale of figures and levels of carved relief show perspective and spatial depth. Contrast is achieved with the transition from low to high relief, with dramatic shading of the foreground figures. The layering and low relief of the background provide atmospheric perspective, background texture, and a sense of a larger expansive landscape.