WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL:
FDR D-DAY PRAYER

Prepared for:
FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL, INC

JANUARY 20, 2022
PRESENTATION TO THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
(COMMEMORATIVE FEATURE DETAILS AND REVISIONS)

OEHME, VAN SWEDEN OvS
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COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
FDR PRAYER CIRCLE AGENDA

CFA 26/NOV/23-1

LOCATION: West Potomac Park, 17th Street and Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC

OWNER: National Park Service (NPS)

PROPERTY: World War II Memorial

DESCRIPTION: Install plaque with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's D-Day Prayer

PREVIOUS REVIEW: CFA 21/MAY/26-1

27 May 2021
Dear Ms. Hall;

In its public meeting of 20 May, conducted by video conference, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed and approved a final design submission for alterations to the existing Circle of Remembrance at the World War II Memorial, to include a new plaque inscribed with the prayer delivered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt by radio on D-Day. Citing the resolution of the outstanding design issues, the Commission approved the final submission with the following recommendations for the various options that were presented.

In their approval action, the Commission members endorsed Alternative B for the treatment of the perimeter elements of the circle, in particular the revisions to the profile of the benches and the relationship of the bronze prayer plaque to the stone base. For the identifying inscription on this stone base at the entrance to the circle, they recommended that the text be only "A Prayer for the Nation." They also endorsed the proposed landscape design and Option 1 for the lighting design, recognizing that additional lighting poles or fixtures be installed to illuminate the plaque. Concerning the options presented for the support of the pavement within the circle, the Commission members unanimously endorsed the inclusion of the circular granite design of olive branches and five stars; suggesting that this element could be made bolder, possibly larger or located in an inner ring of the pavement; to enhance the clarity of this design, they recommended that the elements of the granite be bronze inset into the granite paving stones instead of cast as bronze panels. In their discussion of the option for a bronze medallion at the center, intended to repeat the Victory Medal design in a circle, some Commission members raised concern that the figurative composition would create an undramatic directivity to the space and would detract from the impact of the prayer plaque, while others found that the medallion as proposed has strong symbolic importance and reinforces the connection to the main part of the memorial; the Commission concluded by recommending a design featuring both the garland and the medallion.

As part of the final review process, the Commission recommended that additional details be developed and documented in coordination with the staff. These include the possible grading of the plaza toward a slot drain located beneath the perimeter benches; the design of any structural brackets required for the projecting benches; sufficient structural supports to prevent deformation of the prayer plaque; the design for the composition of the medallion and garland within the pavement; and the layout of the proposed graphic design for the plaque and inscriptions.

The Commission congratulates the National Park Service and the project team for their diligence in developing an elegant final design for this important addition to the World War II Memorial. Please coordinate with the staff to complete the development and documentation of the design in accordance with the final approval.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Luecke, FAIA
Secretary

During the May 21st review, CFA recommended "additional details be developed in coordination with the staff:

I. Grading
   • "possible grading of the plaza toward a slot drain located beneath the perimeter benches"

II. Bench Design
   • "design of any structural brackets required for the projecting benches"

III. Structural Support of Prayer Plaque
   • "sufficient structural supports to prevent deformation of the prayer plaque"

IV. Medallion and Garland Design
   • "design for the composition of the medallion and garland within the pavement"

V. FDR Prayer Plaque and Inscriptions
   • consider "layout of the proposed graphic design for the plaque and inscriptions"

VI. Wall Coursing
   • finalize coursing at ends of freestanding walls

Kym A. Hall, Area Director
Region 1 - National Capital Area
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024

cc: Lisa DelPiscio, Oehme, van Sweden
Holly Rotondi, Francie of the National World War II Memorial

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FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL
OEHME VAN SWEDEN & ASSOCIATES, INC - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
1. Grading
"...the Commission recommended that additional details be developed, [including], the possible grading of the plaza toward a slop drain located beneath the perimeter benches..."

- Drains are located to the east and west of the entry and under the plaque
- Drain grates are fabricated from bronze for durability

**Drain Grate**
Semi-custom Bronze Grate (variable patina finish to be discrete beneath bench and plaque)
II. Bench Design

"...the Commission recommended that additional details be developed, [including], the design of any structural brackets required for the projecting benches..."

- Bench supports shall be stainless steel plates, inset into the bench stones.
- Supports shall not be visible from above.

**Plan Key**
- Scale: NTS

**Enlarged Plan**
- Scale: NTS

**Detail - Bench Support**
- Scale: NTS
II. Bench Armrest Design

- Bench armrests to be bronze
- Mounting stainless steel plate beneath bench, connected to concrete wall
- Armrest located between bench segments, at joint

Precedent: Existing Handrail at WWII Memorial

Bronze Armrest on Granite Bench - Section

Bronze Armrest on Granite Bench - Axonometric
III. Structural Support of Prayer Plaque

"...the Commission recommended that additional details be developed, [including], sufficient structural supports to prevent deformation of the prayer plaque..."

- Posts: 2-1/2" dia. x 1/4" thick SS hollow tube, welded to SS inbed plate in wall
- Spine: 3-1/2" x 2-1/2" SS hollow tube
- Lateral Supports: 2' x 2' x 1/4" SS plates
- Plaque supports shall be stainless steel and blackened to reduce visibility

Plan

Section

Blackened Steel Samples

Views
IV. Medallion and Garland Design

"...the Commission recommended that additional details be developed, [including], the design for the composition of the medallion and garland within the pavement..."

"In their discussion of the option for a bronze medallion at the center, intended to repeat the Victory Medal design in the arches of the World War II Memorial, some Commission members raised concern that the figural composition would create an undesirable directionality to the space and would detract from the importance of the prayer plaque, while others found that the medallion as proposed has strong symbolic importance and reinforces the connection to the main part of the memorial; the Commission concluded by recommending a design featuring both the garland and the medallion." CFA Letter May 27, 2021

Plan (as previously reviewed)
scale: NTS

Plan (current)
scale: NTS
IV. Medallion and Garland Design

"...the Commission recommended that additional details be developed, [including], the design for the composition of the medallion and garland within the pavement..."

"Concerning the options presented for the center of the pavement within the circle, the Commission members unanimously endorsed the inclusion of the circular garland design of olive branches and five stars, suggesting that this element could be made bolder, possibly larger or located in an inner ring of the pavement; to enhance the clarity of this design, they recommended that the elements of the garland be bronze inset into the granite paving stones instead of cast as bronze panels." (CFA Letter May 27, 2021)
IV. Medallion and Garland Design

"...the Commission recommended that additional details be developed, [including], the design for the composition of the **medallion and garland** within the pavement..."  

- Bronze stars and olive branches to be inset in granite paving band  
- Olive garland is botanically inspired, rather than stylized
V. FDR Prayer Plaque and Inscriptions

"...the Commission recommended that additional details be developed, [including], the layout of the proposed graphic design for the plaque and inscriptions."

A PRAYER FOR THE NATION
D-day June 6, 1944

Plan (as previously reviewed and approved)
scale: NTS
V. FDR Prayer Plaque and Inscriptions

"...the Commission recommended that additional details be developed, [including], the layout of the proposed graphic design for the plaque and inscriptions."

A PRAYER

Their road will be long and hard. They hurl back our forces. Success may be, but we shall return again as the victors of Thy grace, and by the power of battle.

night and day, without rest — darkness will rent by noise and shaken with the violences of war.

from the ways of peace. They fight. They fight to end conquest. They fight to let justice arise, and song all Thy people. Their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home — fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters, and brothers of brave men overseas — whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them — help us, Almighty God, to redeem ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, redouble the contri- material support of .

And let our hearts bear sorrow that many may die.

And, O Lord, give us our sons; Faith in end Let not the keenness of impacts of temporary fleeting moment — unconquerable purpose

Plaque Text Layout

Guilloche Border Detail

Font for Front Wall and Plaque: Perpetua

Font Parameters (Bronze Plaque)
- Complementary to Roman Claudian Variant
- Meets ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)
- Meets parameters for casting:
  - Heading
    - 1-1/2 inch
  - Subheading
    - 1 inch
  - Body Text
    - 3/6 inch is minimum text height visible from three feet
    - 25 point kerning (space between letters)
    - 2 pts thick minimum stroke

实际尺寸
V. FDR Prayer Plaque and Inscriptions

"...the Commission recommended that additional details be developed, [including], the layout of the proposed graphic design for the plaque and inscriptions."
VI. Wall Coursing (ends)

- Wall incorporates (3) stone bands, with center band corresponding to bench
- Bench profile draws from simplified WWII bench design
- Armrests centered on stone veneer

Wall Coursing: Interior Elevation
scale: NTS

Wall Coursing: Exterior Elevation
scale: NTS

Wall Coursing: End Profile
scale: NTS

Wall Coursing: End Profile View
scale: NTS
MATERIALS INDEX

GRANITE
1. 'Greene County' granite (primary paving)
2. 'Moss Green' granite (paving accent)
3. 'Kershaw' granite (wall and bench)

BRONZE
1. Ornamental Bronze Inlay (stars & garland)
2. Bronze Armrests (atop perimeter benches)
3. Bronze Stars and Olive Garland