

VISION TO REALITY

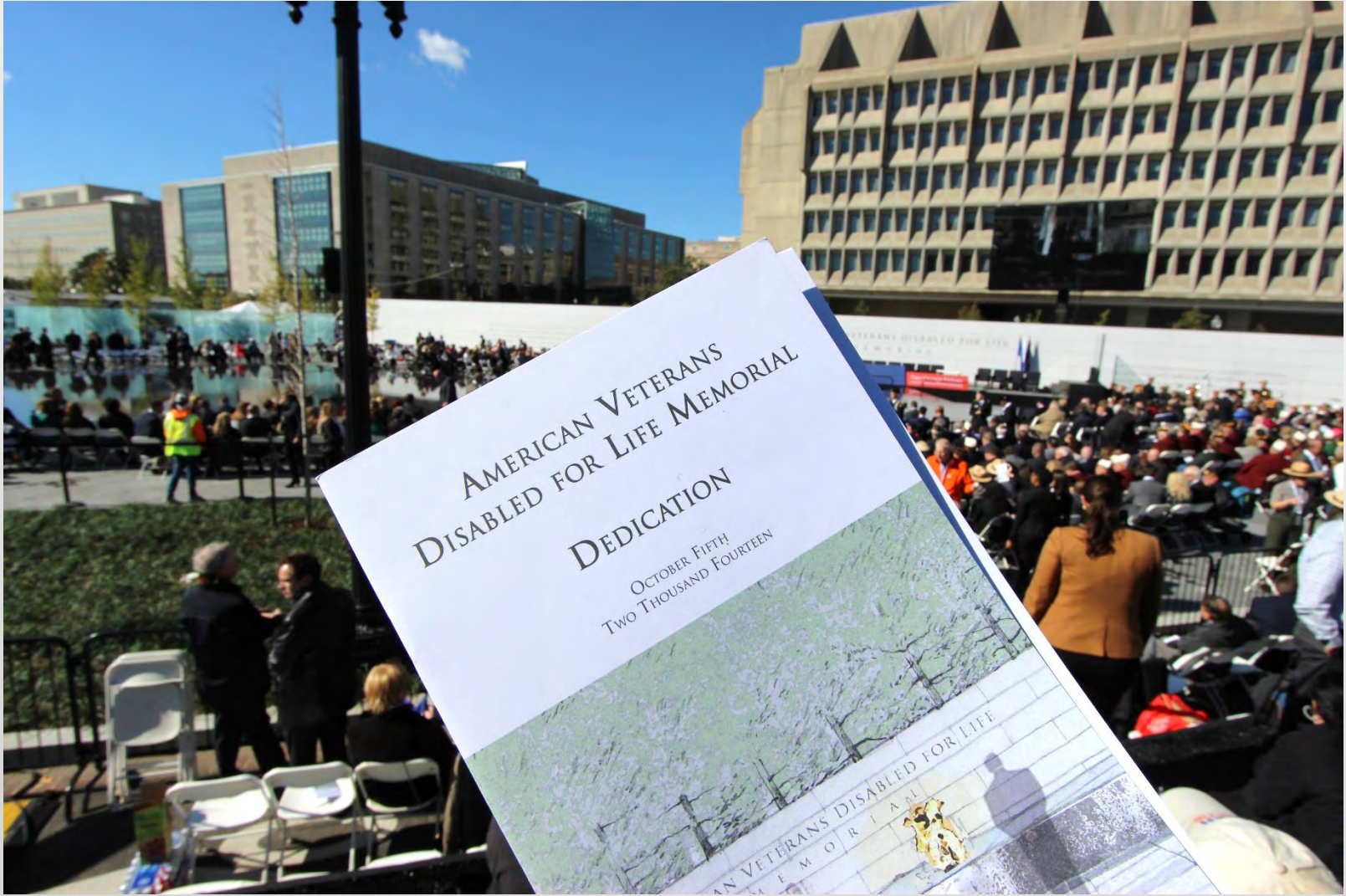


Dedication Ceremony Special Edition Newsletter

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DEDICATION CEREMONY OCTOBER 5, 2014



AMERICAN VETERANS
DISABLED FOR LIFE MEMORIAL
DEDICATION
OCTOBER FIFTH
TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN

AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE
MEMORIAL



Welcome and introductions by
The Honorable Ray LaHood,
Former Secretary,
U.S. Department of Transportation

The United States Army Band
"Pershing's Own,"
First Lieutenant Joel DuBois, Conductor





"Today, we take another step forward. With this memorial we commemorate, for the first time, the two battles our disabled veterans have fought -- the battle over there, and the battle here at home -- your battle to recover, which at times can be even harder, and certainly as longer. You walk these quiet grounds -- pause by the pictures of these men and women, you look into their eyes, read their words -- and we're somehow able to join them on a journey that speaks to the endurance of the American spirit. And to you, our veterans and wounded warriors, we thank you for sharing your journey with us."

-- President Barack Obama



“So if you’re an American, and you see a veteran -- maybe with a prosthetic arm or leg, maybe burns on their face -- don’t ever look away. Do not turn away. You go up and you reach out, and you shake their hand, and you look them in the eye and you say those words every veteran should hear all the time: ‘Welcome home, thank you. We need you more than ever. You help us stay strong, you help us stay free.’”

“America, if you want to know what real strength is, if you want to see the character of our country -- a country that never quits -- look at these men and women. And I’d ask all of our disabled veterans here today -- if you can stand, please stand; if not, please raise your hand so that our nation can pay tribute to your service. We thank you. We’re inspired by you. And we honor you.”



“These walls and sculptures stand as symbols that our disabled veterans have not been forgotten and serve as reminders that the cost of war does not end when the guns are silenced. Our respect and recognition of their struggles are long overdue.”

Lois Pope, DVLMF Co-Founder and Chairman



"We honor our fallen. We honor every branch and the battles and the bold. But until this day, this very day, we have not remembered those who lived and whose lives were forever changed by the sacrifices they made in uniform."

"And yet, without their stories and the experiences of their loved ones, we as a people cannot know the true cost of war. Without acknowledging their sacrifices, we forget the courage that ensures our freedom and the promises we make with those who defend our land."

"The experiences etched on these walls remind us that, for those who serve and their families, wars often continue long after the final bullet is fired. The most difficult fight often begins after an injury is sustained."

*Arthur H. Wilson, DVLMF Co-Founder and President,
and retired National Adjutant of DAV, who served in Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, & Taiwan*

"We are not unique in our story. We are just an example of the thousands of lives affected by life-long disabilities that are the terrifying consequences of war."

"Although I've been blessed with many achievements in life, the achievement I am most proud of is this Memorial. A Memorial that gives me, and the many thousands of other disabled veterans like me, a sense of contentment knowing that what we gave, what our families gave, and what we will continue to give, will be forever remembered here in our nation's capital."

*Dennis Joyner, DVLMF Director and Secretary,
awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam*





"Today, and from this day forward, with the opening of this national monument, we honor millions of our heroes living with the wounds of war, with a place of healing, remembrance, and gratitude for all they have given, and by so doing, we help to ensure that our nation will endure for generations to come. For if we do not remember our defenders, our heroes, how can we expect future generations to step up to serve?"

Gary Sinise, National Spokesman for the Memorial

“Because of (veterans), our country’s highest principles and ideals endure. Our Nation stands as the world’s foremost example of freedom, justice, and opportunity. And because of them, we can ensure a more secure future for all Americans.”

“The men and women we honor today — and whom this memorial honors in perpetuity — endure the pain and meet the challenges of lifelong disability.”

*The Honorable Robert McDonald,
Secretary,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*



“Today, we add a new memorial to the National Park System to honor those who carry with them the visible and invisible scars of war. A memorial dedicated to disabled veterans – our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members – who bear the physical and emotional cost of defending our country.”

“Like so many of our national parks, the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial is the result of a partnership between the American people and their government, with the inspiration and funding coming from private citizens and organizations. I applaud all who contributed their time, talent and treasure to make this day possible.”

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior



THE MEMORIAL'S DESIGN COMMEMORATES AND HONORS DISABLED VETERANS' ...

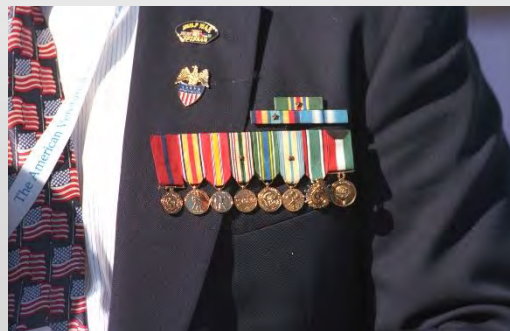


Call to Duty & Pride in Service

Trauma of Injury

Healing

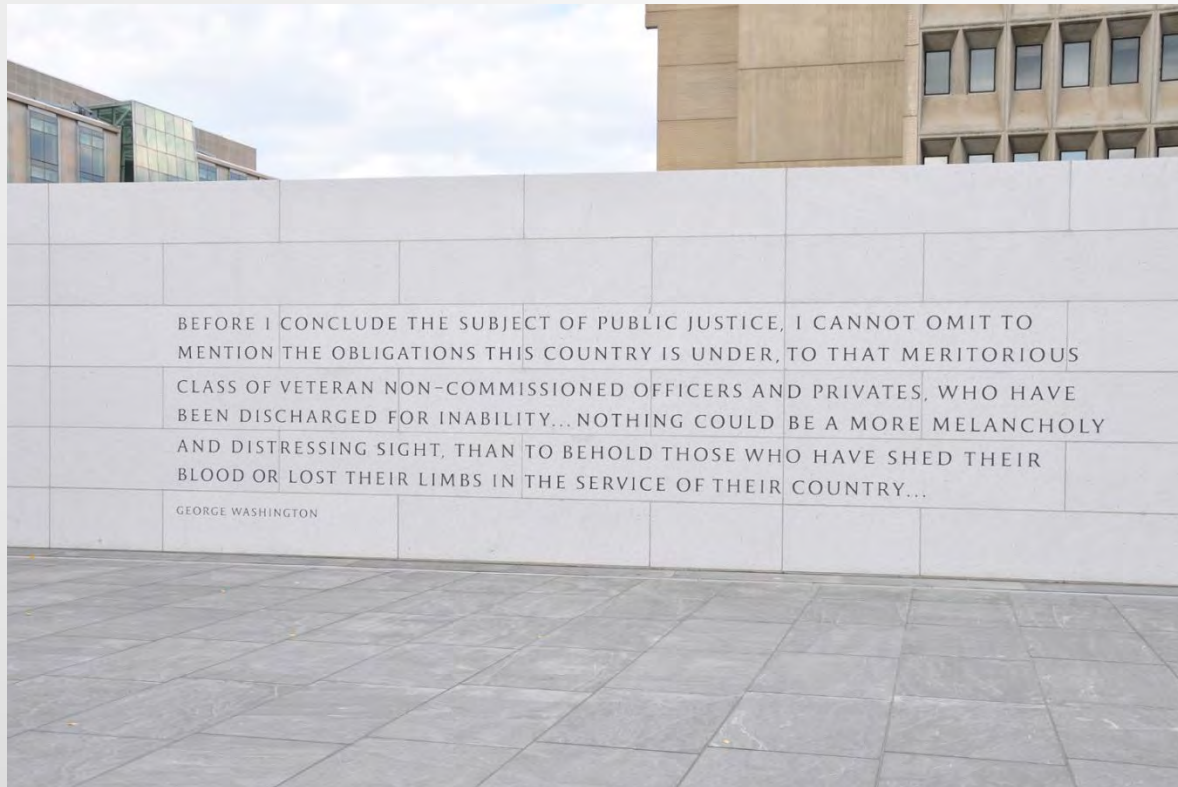
Renewal of Purpose



The Memorial conveys a combination of strength and vulnerability, loss and renewal. Its focal point is a star-shaped fountain with a single ceremonial flame, which flows into a triangular-shaped reflecting pool. A grove of trees beside the pool signifies hope. Three walls of laminated glass panels with embedded text and photographs and four bronze sculptures, display the universal story of disabled veterans' pride of service, trauma of injury, challenge of healing and renewal of purpose.



WALL OF GRATITUDE



“I cannot omit to mention the obligations this country is under, to that meritorious class of veteran...nothing could be a more melancholly and distressing sight, than to behold those who have shed their blood or lost their limbs in the service of their country...it is therefore more than a common debt, it is a debt of honor...”

-- *George Washington*

WALL OF GRATITUDE

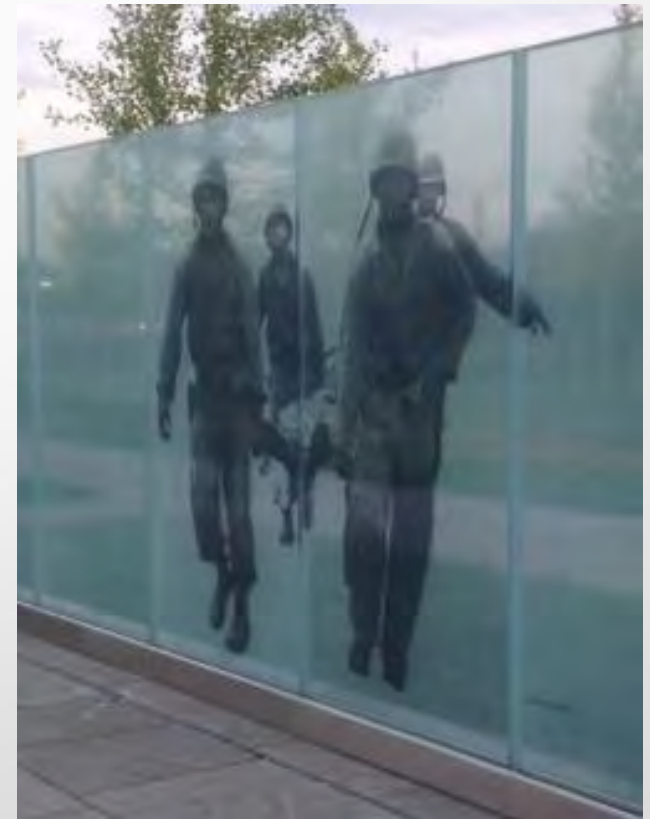


“Each one of you bears upon his body the permanent, honorable scars of dangerous service: service rendered in order that our great nation might continue to live according to the expressed will of its own citizens.”

-- *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

VOICES OF VETERANS

The Memorial's glass walls represent "the voices of disabled veterans" – their personal journeys of courage and extraordinary sacrifices made in the service of their country as well as the voices of their loved ones and caregivers.



“In the end, what gets people through a physical or emotional crisis is not new technology or medication. Those things can help, of course. But it's faith that gives you the strength to endure - faith that won't allow you to give up; faith that manifests itself in a ferocious determination to take the next step - the one that everyone else says is impossible.”

Bob Dole



“When you're young, you're invincible. You're immortal. I thought I'd come back. Perhaps I wouldn't, there was that thought, too, but I had this feeling that I would come back. Underneath that feeling, there was another, that maybe I wouldn't be quite the same, but I felt I'd make it back.”

Michael A. Naranjo



“We start by not thinking so much anymore about what you have lost. You must think about what you have left...and what you can do with it.”

Dr. Hampar Kelikian

“There are life-threatening injuries to confront and surmount, life-changing disabilities to meet and master, and life-shaping experiences to make peace with and understand.”

Jesse Brown

“The strongest ties between human beings are not cemented in safety, luxury, and comfort. It is the sharing together of the scanty covering, the insufficient shelter, drinking from the same cup, eating from the same plate, the dividing by a hungry soldier with a hungrier comrade the last morsel of meat or the remnant of a cracker; the binding up of each other's wounds, the lending of courage from one heart to another: these are what create the strongest bonds between human beings.”

Horace H. Shaw

“For every tragic story of a life unraveled by military battle, there are a dozen tales of individuals who have managed to triumph over the harrowing experiences of war and ruin.”

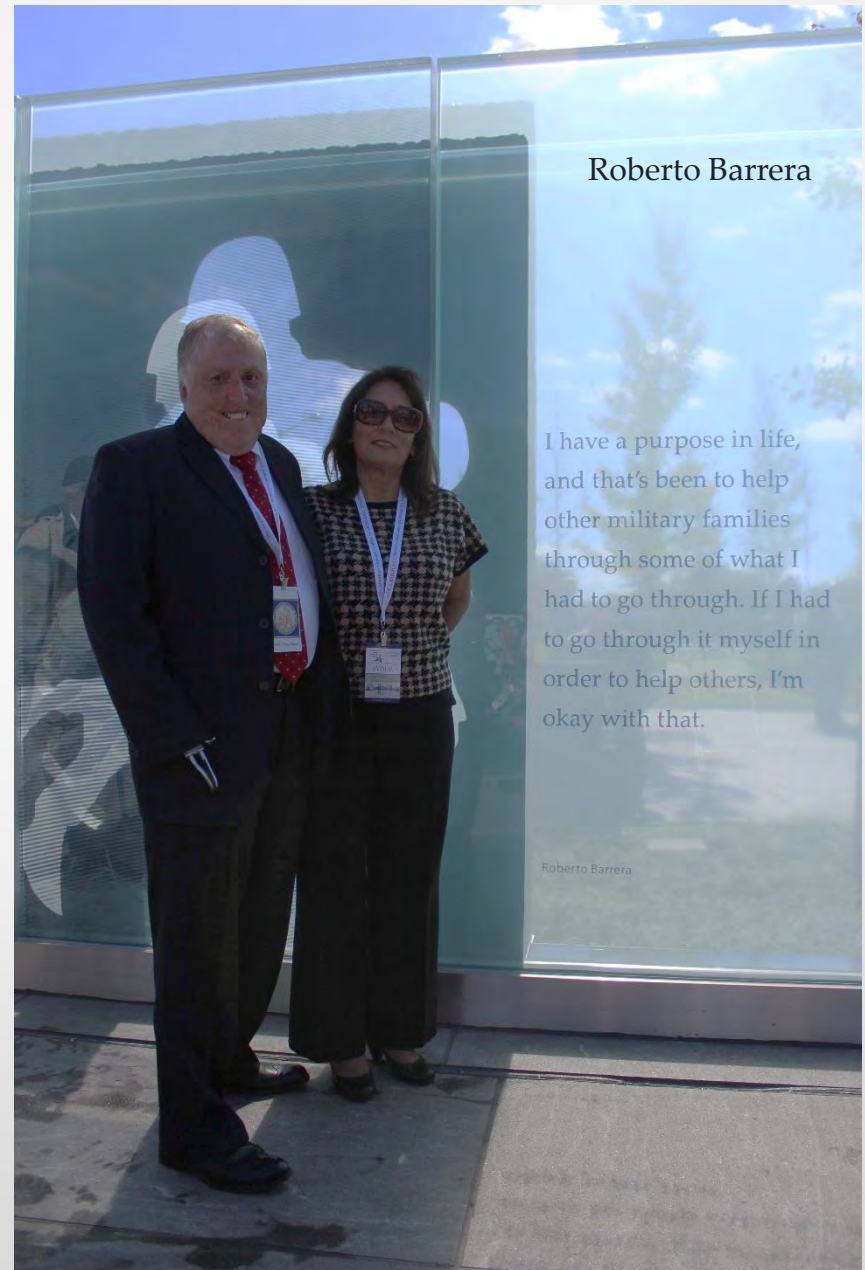
Jesse Brown

“I have a purpose in life, and that's been to help other military families through some of what I had to go through. If I had to go through it myself in order to help others, I'm okay with that.”

Roberto Barrera

“I loved him for who he was in his heart. And he still had that. And I loved him for what he had in his mind. And he still had that.”

Jayme Peters Bozik





"My wife means everything to me, and she's also been my therapy. They got me to talk about it."

"People didn't understand that it is so painful to discuss. As I'm talking to you right now, there are tears running down my face."

"Since the war, I've been confined to a wheelchair and have tried to live a good life. However, I relive the war every day."

Dean Winters

"I felt a special compassion for these young men with torn-up faces. The wounds one could see were often less severe than the psychological injuries they brought with them. My heart went out to each of them."

Martha Cameron

“I shall recall with reverence those who fought beside me and died. And in that quiet, I shall recall with respect those who fought with me and were scarred by bullets, left limbless by bombs.”

“I shall recall with humility those who were stronger and braver than me.”

“And I shall recall - with celebration and joy - our nation's heritage of selfless sacrifice and commitment to the common good.”

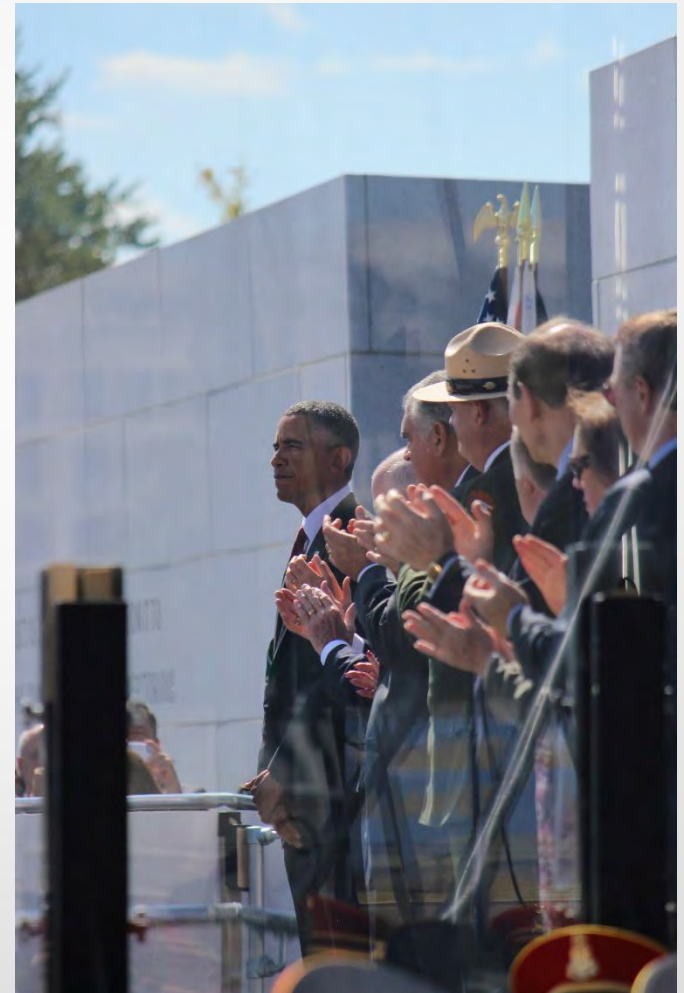
Billy E. Kirby

“It's not what you've lost that counts, it's what you do with what's left.”

Charlie McGonegal

“In a way, I'm special, I thought. I'm a member of a unique group. It could be the end of the world for me, or it could be the beginning of a whole new life.”

Harold Russell





“I don't care how prepared you are. When it actually happens, it's a different story.”

“Everybody was running around all over the place. Nobody knew what was happening. Nobody knew what to do next.”

“I felt so alone, watching what was happening. By this point, I knew I'd been hurt, but I just wanted to find someone from my company.”

Felicia Weston

“In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.”

Jose Narosky

“How is a life replaced - the companionship, nurturing, love and support of a husband and father.”

“We were totally unprepared for and were devastated by years of illness.”

Joan McCarthy

“I am always proud of my service. Yes, I wished things would have worked out a little better for me but I did come home alive and had a fairly successful life.”

George R. Sullivan

“It's possible for a man to lose half of his physical being and still become whole.”

“Before I lost my limbs I was only half a man. Now I've developed some humility. I can look at the average person and understand him, where before I looked only at myself.”

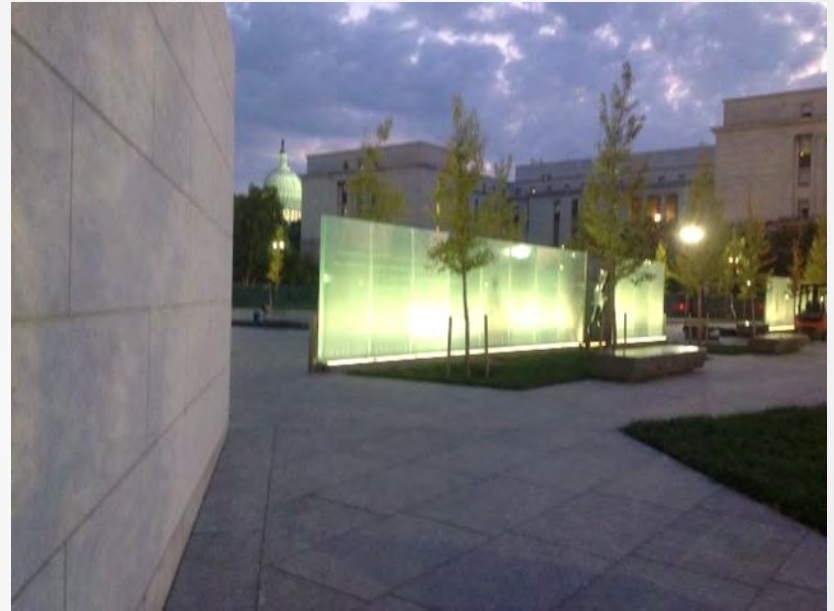
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Cloud Gehshan Associates

Ceremonial Flame

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*Moon Shadow Glass
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