

THE COLLIER COUNTY
FREEDOM MEMORIAL



The Collier County Clerk of Courts Freedom Memorial Fund 620
2671 Airport Road South, Suite 202 Naples, FL 34112

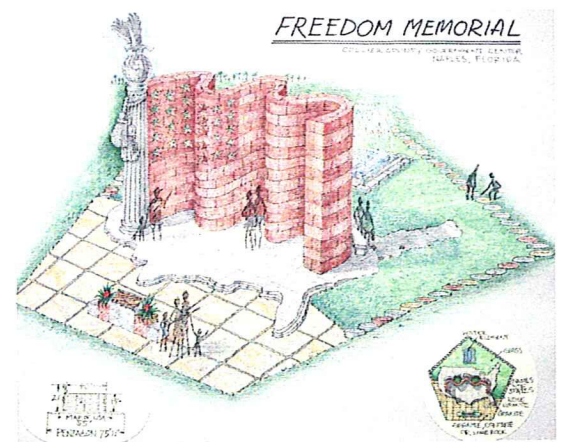
Henry P. Albrecht, President
Henry and Betty Albrecht Foundation
100 Glenview Pl., Ste. PH 1
Naples, FL 34108

Dear President Albrecht:

The Collier County Freedom Memorial Committee sincerely appreciates the opportunity to submit this grant proposal for \$3,000. This respectful request is for funds to help construct a memorial at Freedom Park in Collier County, Florida that will pay tribute to the members of our armed forces who have sacrificed their lives to preserve our freedom and to honor law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and civilians who perished during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The Collier County Freedom Memorial Committee is humbled by the realization that so many non-profit organizations are requesting support from caring donors like the Henry and Betty Albrecht Foundation. We are also aware that funds like those we request – bricks and mortar money for the construction of a memorial, even for 9/11 – are sometimes difficult to consider since so many compelling human needs compete for limited funds. Please understand the Freedom Memorial Committee is working very hard to develop and strengthen other methods to generate the funds that are necessary to construct this fitting and appropriate Freedom Memorial.

The following pages contain our best and most passionate arguments about why the Collier County Freedom Memorial should be built now, some six years after an event that indisputably changed the course of the world, perhaps forever. In fact, it is the magnitude of the events of September 11, 2001 that continues to motivate the dedicated and diverse stakeholders who are involved with this important project.



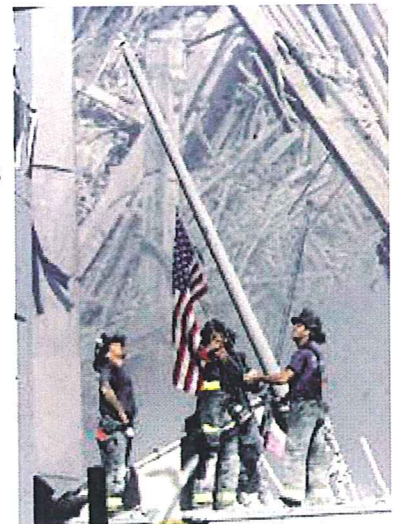
The winning design for the Freedom Memorial submitted by Collier County Artist Gerald Ladue. The design competition is briefly described on page three of this proposal.

Remembering 9/11 in Collier County

“Good evening. Today, our fellow citizens, our way of life, our very freedom came under attack in a series of deliberate and deadly terrorist acts. The victims were in airplanes, or in their offices; secretaries, businessmen and women, military and federal workers; moms and dads, friends and neighbors. Thousands of lives were suddenly ended by evil, despicable acts of terror.”

The message above was broadcast to our entire nation on September 11, 2001 by first-year President George Bush. The President’s words described a loss of human life in our nation that rivaled the number of armed forces members who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor over six decades ago. Today there are memorials, beautiful one-in-all, honoring those who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor and other battlefields that each provides a place to honor our fallen heroes. As years go by, memorials also begin to serve as special places where deep wounds of sorrow begin to heal. Human beings have always needed memorials to **honor and heal** and the tragedies that occurred on September 11, 2001 are no exception.

While the world is arguably still quite involved with the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedies, we, in fact, have comparatively few memorials that pay tribute to the human beings who died nearly six years ago on the high floors of burning skyscrapers, aboard Flight 93, and in our nation’s Capital. Most of us will never forget the riveting but fatal acts of heroism by firefighters who ran into the crumbling towers of the World Trade Center. Do we remember, however, that 343 firefighters never came home that day in New York City? In fact, nearly 3,000 human beings perished on September 11, 2001. And since that day, more than 3,000 more Americans have lost their lives in a war that has traveled the full spectrum of popularity within the hearts of Americans. **Today, six years after 9/11, there are no public memorials in Collier County to honor those who died in and because of this American tragedy.**



While the mission of the Collier County Freedom Memorial has nothing to do with the politics of our current war in Iraq, it has everything to do with paying tribute to members of our armed forces who have sacrificed their lives in the defense of our nation **in this war and prior wars**. These brave men and women, along with law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and civilians who died in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks are the most important reason for Collier County’s efforts to construct the Freedom Memorial. Project stakeholders agree that this sacred memorial will also serve to honor survivors of all terrorist attacks, and to symbolically display the strength of the American spirit in times of tragedy.

Moving With Conviction - Efforts to Construct the Collier Co. Freedom Memorial

Plans for the Freedom Memorial began in 2004, when the Collier County Commission declared September “Freedom Month” in Collier County and launched a campaign entitled, “What Does Freedom Mean to You?” The campaign grew into a community project involving county officials, local law enforcement agencies, the Naples City Council and area fire departments to commemorate the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

After the Collier County Board of Commissioners endorsed the idea of building the Freedom Memorial, a wide appeal was made to artists to submit proposals for a memorial design that reflected American freedom and values. The Freedom Memorial Committee used the actual World Trade Center Memorial as a model to develop guidelines for our own, local competition. By the January 31, 2005 deadline, 32 design proposals were submitted to the Freedom Memorial Committee. Entries were received from local artists and from artists across the United States. All of the designs were publicly displayed at the Collier County Government Center for a period of several weeks. Members of an independent jury panel reviewed the eligible, anonymous submissions and selected three finalists. This jury's recommendations were then forwarded to the Collier County Board of Commissioners, who made the final selection.



Winning artist Gerald Ladue with the Collier County Board of Commissioners, April 2005

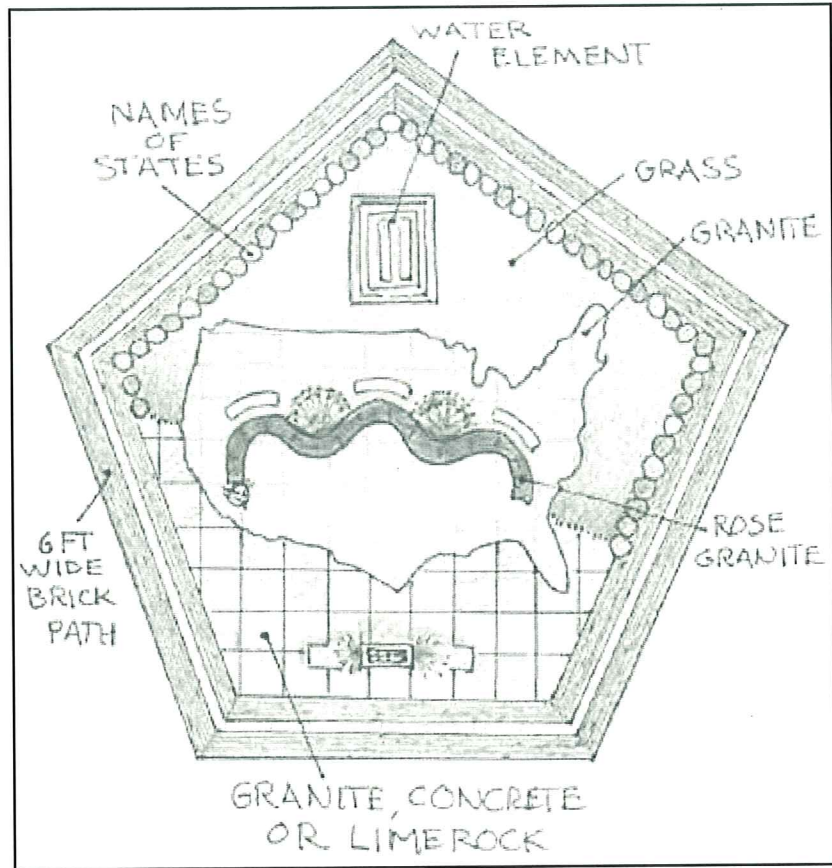
The Board selected the design of artist Gerald A. Ladue, who recently moved to Naples from Massachusetts. The granite, stone and water memorial as planned will be 13 feet tall and 40 feet wide, in the shape of the American Flag anchored on a granite base in the shape of the United States. The monument will feature a waterfall flowing on one end and will sit on 50 stones representing each state. Behind the memorial, three benches will be placed before a reflection pool to represent the three attacks -- Twin Towers, the Pentagon and United Flight 93 which crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers overtook their hijackers.

Inscribed bricks will surround the entire monument. The commemorative bricks will allow all Collier residents and their families to become a lasting part of the project. Each brick will be inscribed and laid into a six-foot wide pathway around the monument. At the present time, an active campaign is underway to sell approximately 8,000 bricks available in two sizes. Bricks that are 4x8-inches cost \$100 and offer 60 characters of inscription while 8x8-inch bricks cost \$300, allowing 120 characters.



¹ The appeal for a design of the Freedom Memorial was publicized through the Naples Art Association, the Art League of Bonita Springs, the Art League of Marco Island, Naples Artcrafters, the Philharmonic, Florida Arts, United Arts Council, Art in the Park Festival at Fleischman Park, the Haldeman Creek Art Festival, Ave Maria University, the District School Board of Collier County, Edison College, and Florida Gulf Coast University. What's more, promotional announcements were placed in the Gazette, the Immokalee Bulletin, the Naples Daily News, the North Naples Journal, and the Naples Sun Times newspapers.

² The independent jury members included Reg Buxton, North Naples Journal Publisher; Jennifer Edwards, Supervisor of Elections; Claude Haynes, Deputy Tax Collector; Mike Reagen, President of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce; Jerry Sanford, North Naples Fire District; Wayne Smith, former President and CEO of BF Goodrich Chemical Ltd.; and Peter Thomas, the "Voice" of PBS.



Originally planned for construction on the Collier County Government Center grounds, the \$2 million monument is now slated for construction at Freedom Park. The park is planned near the intersection of Golden Gate Parkway and Goodlette-Frank Road in Naples, Florida. Organizers wanted a peaceful, quiet place for reflection where families could walk and gather. Freedom Park will offer a fitting environment with flowing waterways, winding paths and shaded benches.



important to the Freedom Memorial Committee. These other qualities include the fact that the memorial will be visible from major roadways, that the site includes parking onsite or nearby, that the site provides peaceful and respectful surroundings to pedestrians and families, and that the park and memorial are ADA accessible from nearby parking.

Costs of the Freedom Memorial and Fundraising Successes to Date

With Freedom Park now selected as the home for the Freedom Memorial, the Freedom Memorial Committee is challenged to raise the estimated \$2,000,000 price tag of the monument.

An informed comment captured by the Naples Daily News last March tells all. “With just under \$30,000 currently raised, we’re still crawling, but we’ll get there,” says Jerry Sanford, public information officer for the North Naples Fire Department. “I’m a 30-year vet from the New York City Fire Department. There were 343 firefighters killed on 9/11 and I had the privilege of knowing and working with about half of them.” Sanford intends to see the project through to its end. “The fund-raising is a grass roots effort,” he added. “Pennies lead to dollars which lead to bigger dollars.”

In fact, there has been an earnest and sustained effort to raise the \$2 million necessary to construct the Freedom Memorial. This application to the Henry and Betty Albrecht Foundation is actually a very important part of the Freedom Memorial Committee’s overall plan to raise funds for the Monument. Collier County Commissioner Fred Coyle, Jerry Sanford (above), and all the members of the Freedom Memorial Committee continue to encourage individuals and organizations to get involved in any way they can. To boost fund-raising for the Freedom Memorial, supporters launched a commemorative brick campaign to create the pathway around the monument, which will honor those who have sacrificed for our country’s freedom. The bricks may be inscribed for a business, family or in memory of a loved one (see top paragraph of page 4 for details of how the brick campaign works).

The Request: A \$3,000 Grant from the Henry and Betty Albrecht Foundation.

In summary, the Freedom Memorial Committee’s goal to construct the Monument in the next year is acutely challenged by the significant costs associated with construction of the commemorative structure. In a very challenging fundraising environment, particularly for causes that serve immediate human needs, the Committee has thus far found elusive the type of foundation gifts that are always a part of such a capital campaign. Along with this respectful request to the Henry and Betty Albrecht Foundation, the Committee is carefully submitting no less than 180 additional funding proposals to area, state, and national foundations. The Committee is sharing the fact that 180 other proposals are being submitted to foundations like the Henry and Betty Albrecht Foundation with the hopes that all the foundations will see clear the reasons why each should contribute a modest grant toward construction of the Freedom Memorial in Collier County. Such foundation gifts are absolutely essential if this worthy community memorial is ever to become reality.

The Freedom Memorial Committee is extremely serious about raising the funds necessary to construct the beautiful and respectful monument described within this proposal. The Committee desires nothing more than to see our strong community emerge and support a memorial that will pay tribute to the members of our armed forces who have sacrificed their lives to preserve our freedom and to honor law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and civilians who perished during the 9/11 terrorist attacks. A grant for \$3,000 from the Henry and Betty Albrecht Foundation to help the Committee to complete construction of the Freedom Memorial would go a long way toward our goal to make this special and sacred

³“Memorial paves its way to reality”, by Kelly Farrell, Naples Daily News, March 9, 2007.

structure a true community project.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this important request from the Freedom Memorial Committee. If we may answer any questions or provide additional clarification, please do not hesitate to call. Finally, it would be our greatest pleasure to host or attend an informative meeting with the foundation so that you can come to further appreciate what is in our hearts regarding this very special structure.

Sincerely,



Fred Coyle
District 4 County Commissioner



Jerry Sanford
North Naples Fire District
Retired New York City Fire Dept.