



FREEDOM MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2009

THE COLLIER COUNTY FREEDOM MEMORIAL

Construction of the Collier County Freedom Memorial is underway thanks to the generous donations made by hundreds of individuals, foundations and other organizations. Kraft Construction Co. is handling the initial construction phase which has included survey and layout, earthwork, the foundation for the flag wall, the flag wall (minus the granite cladding) and the concrete foundation slab of the USA. The official groundbreaking ceremony for the memorial was held March 19, 2009.

The Tourist Development Council (TDC) recently recommended approval of a \$39,000 grant for the Collier County Freedom Memorial. The TDC recommendation will now go to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for consideration. Last year, the TDC recommended a \$125,000 grant for the memorial which was subsequently approved by the BCC. The combination of TDC funding and private donations enabled construction of the memorial to begin.

“We are very grateful for the TDC’s continued support of the Collier County Freedom Memorial,” said Jerry Sanford, chair of the Freedom Memorial Task Force. “Private contributions have exceeded \$140,000 including recent donations of \$5,000 from the North Naples Professional Fire Fighters Local

2297, Kraft Construction Company and Physicians Regional Healthcare System. The Task Force wishes to extend its thanks to all of our donors and to the members of the TDC for

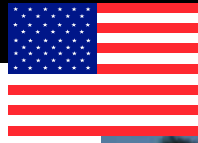
manent memorial that will serve as a gathering place and focal point for the community to commemorate events such as 9/11, Memorial Day and other patriotic anniversaries.”



recognizing the importance of this project to the community and for bringing it one step closer to reality. We still have a ways to go to reach our fundraising goal but with construction ongoing, we are more committed than ever to build a per-

The Collier County Freedom Memorial is located at Freedom Park - a water quality park that has been built near the intersection of Golden Gate Parkway and Goodlette-Frank Road. The memorial will pay tribute to the law enforcement officers,

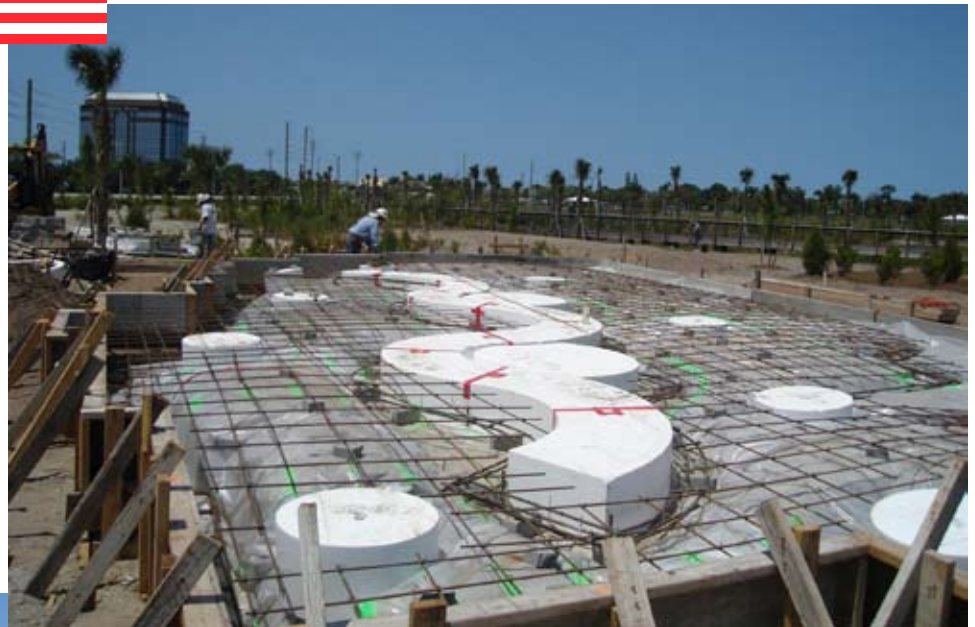
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firefighters, emergency medical personnel and civilians who died in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and will serve as an important reminder of the sacrifices – past and present - that are made every single day by our military men and women on the front lines around the world and here at home who protect us during times of peril. It will become a gathering place not only for local residents but also for visitors who want to pause to remember and pay tribute to the enduring spirit of freedom.

The Freedom Memorial Task Force is responsible for all fundraising, marketing and promotional activities in support of the project. A separate Web site has been established – www.CollierRemembers.org - to promote the memorial and to solicit on line donations. Paradise Advertising & Marketing is in the process of redesigning the memorial Web site. All of Paradise's work is generously being provided pro bono on behalf of the memorial project. Donations have also been successfully obtained through inserts in utility bill mailings for Collier County and the cities of Naples and Marco Island. The overall goal of the task force is to raise the necessary funds of \$1.8 million to construct the memorial. It is also a goal of the task force to solicit from various vendors donated materials to lower the overall fundraising target.

The granite, stone and water memorial as designed by Naples artist Gerald Ladue 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, commemorative bricks will surround the entire monument along a six-foot wide pathway. Hundreds of bricks have been bought thus far in support of the memorial campaign and bricks are still available for purchase. Bricks that are 4 x 8-inches cost \$100 and offer 60 characters of

inscription while 8 x 8-inch bricks cost \$300, allowing 120 characters. The commemorative bricks will allow each participant to become a lasting part of the project. For more information about the memorial brick campaign, visit:

www.colliergov.net/freedommemorial

The memorial is a unique project that reflects and symbolizes the values that make our community a wonderful place to live. Thank you for your continuing support of the Collier County Freedom Memorial.