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## **Air Force Memorial Spires Take Shape in Arlington, Virginia**

**Arlington, Virginia** – The United States Air Force Memorial (AFM) is set to reach another milestone today as the second piece of the AFM’s second spire is welded into place at the memorial promontory, overlooking the Pentagon. The placement of the 40-foot tall, 41-ton stainless steel section is the first step in an accelerated assembly phase during which the three spires of the Memorial will be constructed.

Located on Columbia Pike in Arlington, Virginia, on the East side of the Navy Annex, the highest of the memorial’s three spires will eventually reach a height of 270 feet. The AFM project is scheduled for completion in mid-September 2006 and is being overseen by the Air Force Memorial Foundation (AFMF). The Memorial site offers spectacular and unobstructed views of Washington D.C. from Arlington.

“The Memorial is going to be assembled relatively quickly from this point forward, and so the placement of this big piece is a major milestone,” said Maj Gen (Ret) Edward Grillo, the AFMF’s President. “Area residents will soon see the Air Force Memorial take shape as it begins its graceful ascent into the skyline of Northern Virginia.”

The Memorial’s towering spires were designed by the late James Ingo Freed, an internationally renowned architect of Pei Cobb & Partners. Evocative of the Thunderbird bomb-burst formation, the ambitious design will have a prominent place in the greater Washington skyline and will be a lasting cultural attraction of national significance.

“The Arlington County Board is very excited to see the development of the United States Air Force Memorial here in Northern Virginia,” said Barbara A. Favola, Member, Arlington County Board. “The memorial will play a significant role in the revitalization of the Columbia Pike corridor around the Pentagon and is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of visitors to the area each year.”

The Memorial’s three spires are being constructed by Centex Construction, LLC and are being delivered in approximately 15 segments over the next four months. The Memorial will honor the millions of patriotic men and women who distinguished themselves in the United States Air Force and its predecessors, such as the Army Air Corps. Key elements

of the Memorial include a “runway to glory,” bronze Honor Guard, inscription walls, and a glass “missing man” formation image, all landscaped to create a memorial park and parade ground overlooking the nation’s capital.

Additional information about the Air Force Memorial Foundation and the Air Force Memorial can be found on-line at [www.airforcememorial.org](http://www.airforcememorial.org).

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**Note to Editors:**

**Site Visits:** Interested media should contact Richard Baker at Weber Shandwick on 202-585-2084 or email [ribaker@webershandwick.com](mailto:ribaker@webershandwick.com) to arrange a tour of the AFM site.

**Interviews:** A limited number of interviews by telephone can be arranged with USAF Maj. Gen. (Ret) Edward Grillo, President, Air Force Memorial Foundation and Barbara A. Favola, Member, Arlington County Board.