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One Done, Two to Go

First of Three Air Force Memorial Spires Completed

Arlington, Virginia – United States Air Force Memorial today passed a major milestone, with the completion of the first of its three soaring spires. The 13th of 15 spire pieces, the 70-foot tall, hollow, stainless steel top piece completes the assembly of the Memorial's shortest spire, which reaches a height of 201 feet. The tallest spire will reach a height of 270 feet.

“The Memorial is really coming into focus as the spires enter the final phase of assembly and the full effect of the sleek curve of the spires is more discernable,” said Major General (Ret.) Edward Grillo, President of the Air Force Memorial Foundation. “Motorists have been stopping to see, and perhaps guess at, what we’re building, and so I’m sure we have the most interesting construction site in the greater Washington DC area.”

The tops of the two remaining pieces will be put into place over the next two weeks. The three hollow pieces that complete each of the spires sit above an intricate concrete foundation that extends 40-feet below the base of the structure.

“The public is in for a real treat over the next month as the spires are completed and we remove the blue wrap and scaffolding that has been covering the stainless steel underneath,” said General Grillo.

Located just off Columbia Pike on a promontory overlooking the Pentagon and adjacent to Arlington Cemetery, the completed Air Force Memorial will stand out as a marker at the gateway to the I-395 entry to Washington. The Memorial will be open to the public on the afternoon of Sunday, October 15, following its formal dedication ceremony on Saturday, October 14 2006.

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The public is encouraged to visit the Foundation's web site for updates on the construction of the Memorial and to register their interest in attending the dedication activities on October 14.

Additional information about the Air Force Memorial Foundation and the Air Force Memorial can be found on-line at www.airforcememorial.org.

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Note to Editors

Photo Opportunity: Photographers and videographers are invited to tour the Memorial site. Due to Pentagon security regulations, all media are required to register in advance and be escorted onto the 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 U.S. Air Force spokespeople.

To register your interest in visiting the Memorial site or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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