



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2006

**CONTACT: Richard Baker – 202-585-2084
Katie Martha – 202-585-2037**

Two Done, One To Go – Air Force Memorial Spires Near Completion

Arlington, Virginia – United States Air Force Memorial today passed another major milestone with the placement of the top piece of the Memorial’s second highest of three stainless steel spires, which now reaches a height of 230 feet. The top piece of the tallest spire – which will be 270 feet tall – is the last remaining segment still to be installed.

“The Memorial is really living up to the inspiration of Jim Freed and his wonderful design, and the public is in for a real treat as we complete the last spire and take off the remaining scaffolding in the coming weeks,” said Major General (Ret.) Edward Grillo, President of the Air Force Memorial Foundation.

The arching spires of the Memorial were designed by the late James Ingo Freed, the internationally renowned architect of Pei Cobb & Partners, and are now a prominent part of the Northern Virginia and greater Washington DC area skyline. Evocative of the bomb-burst formation made famous by the Air Force’s Thunderbirds demonstration team, the ambitious Memorial and its spires will be a destination for tourists and a place of reverence and remembrance for America’s Airmen.

“Once complete, this Memorial will be America’s only national memorial dedicated to the veterans and active duty personnel of the United States Air Force and its predecessor organizations,” said Ross Perot, Jr., Chairman of the Air Force Memorial Foundation. “This towering and graceful tribute to America’s Airmen will serve as a constant remembrance, honoring past generations and inspiring future generations to serve their country.”

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. The Memorial will be dedicated and given to the nation at an official ceremony on October 14, 2006.

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Other key elements of the Air Force Memorial include a paved Runway to Glory at the site entrance, a bronze Honor Guard statue, two granite inscription walls located at either end of a central lawn and a Glass Contemplation Wall that reflects the missing man formation, the final tribute given to fallen airmen. The Memorial's surrounding spaces will be landscaped to create a memorial park and parade ground overlooking the nation's capital.

The public is encouraged to visit the Foundation's web site for updates on the construction of the Memorial and to register to attend the Air Force Open House and the dedication activities on Saturday, October 14, 2006.

The Air Force Memorial Foundation invites all interested media to register their interest in attending the Air Force Memorial dedication online at <http://www.airforcememorial.org/pressroom/index.asp>.

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. Updated construction images are available from the Foundation.

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:

Richard Baker

Powell TatelWeber Shandwick

Ph: 202-585-2084

Cell: 202-997-3537

Email: ribaker@webershandwick.com

Katie Martha

Powell TatelWeber Shandwick

Ph: 202-585-2037

Cell: 301-996-9719

Email: kmartha@webershandwick.com