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## **Air Force Memorial's Soaring Spires Completed**

**Arlington, Virginia** – The United States Air Force Memorial's stainless steel spires were finished yesterday with the placement of the top segment of the tallest of its three spires, providing the first complete view of the Memorial's towering and iconic design.

Reaching a height of 270 feet and located on a promontory adjacent to Arlington Cemetery, the Memorial will transform the greater Washington DC skyline and provide visitors with a commanding view of the nation's capitol.

"The reality has lived up to the dream that we've had for almost 15 years since we embarked on this project to develop the Memorial," said Major General (Ret.) Edward Grillo, President of the Air Force Memorial Foundation. "As we remove the cranes and peel away the blue plastic covering to reveal the stainless steel in the next few weeks, the nation will finally be introduced to this lasting tribute to the men and women of the Air Force and its predecessor organizations."

Designed by the late James Ingo Freed, internationally renowned architect of Pei Cobb & Partners, the spires are evocative of the bomb-burst flying formation, which was made famous by the United States Air Force Thunderbirds. "It was a truly special feeling to see the final piece lifted and set into place," said Grillo.

The Air Force Memorial Foundation will be officially dedicated on Saturday, October 14. "We are expecting over 30,000 people to join with us to celebrate the official dedication of the Memorial in just over three weeks time," Grillo said. "As an Air Force veteran, I am incredibly excited about the planned events and wish to extend an invitation to all Americans to join us in Arlington on October 14."

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Members of the public are encouraged to visit the Foundation's web site for concise information about attending the Memorial's dedication ceremony.

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**

**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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