



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 5, 2003

Air Force Memorial Design Unveiling

Arlington, VA, March 5, 2003 -- The design of the new Air Force Memorial was unveiled today, during a 10:30 a.m. ceremony in the Sheraton National Hotel, Arlington, VA. The Memorial will be constructed on a promontory overlooking the Pentagon, and includes three stainless steel spires that soar skyward. Other key elements of the Memorial include a bronze Honor Guard, inscription walls, and an open glass Chamber of Contemplation, all landscaped to create a memorial park and parade ground overlooking the nation's capital.

The Air Force 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 Air Force is the only branch of the Armed Forces without a memorial in the Nation's capital. The "soaring" 270-foot Memorial will also salute the vast technological achievements of American airpower.

The Memorial's spires resonate with images of aviation such as the precision "bomb burst" maneuver performed by the United States Air Force Thunderbird Demonstration Team at annual base open houses around the country. They also evoke the image of a space launch. Foundation officials believe the design captures the imagination of children looking skyward with dreams of becoming pilots, or astronauts or otherwise supporting the Air Force mission.

The Air Force Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees approved the new design after considering proposals by several distinguished architectural teams. It will be constructed adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery and just off Interstate 395 (a major gateway to Washington D.C.). Complementing the spires is a larger-than-life bronze Honor Guard proudly displaying the United States and Air Force flags. The award-winning sculptor Zenos Frudakis will sculpt the honor guard.

All of the different elements of the Memorial come together on a landscaped parade ground on top of the three-acre promontory. Foundation officials are confident it will

form an inspiring and graceful addition to Washington-area monuments. Congressional legislation signed in 2001 allowed for location of the Memorial at the current site. Plans call for ground breaking to begin in 2004 and construction to be completed in 2006.

The owner of this project is the Air Force Memorial Foundation. The architect is the internationally renowned James Ingo Freed of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners, Architects.

####

For more information contact Pete Lindquist, Colonel, USAF (Ret), vice president for operations for the Air Force Memorial Foundation, 1501 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA 22209, 703.247.5859, e-mail: plindquist@airforcememorial.org.