



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 11, 1995

## **Air Force Memorial Site Approved**

**Arlington, VA, May 11, 1995** -- Plans for an Air Force memorial reached a crucial milestone on May 4 when the National Capital Planning Commission approved a memorial site.

The site, located on the Arlington Ridge, adjacent to Arlington Cemetery, is just several hundred yards from ground where America's first ever military flight took place at Ft. Meyer, VA.

Besides its roots in aviation history, the site is not far from the "Wright" Gate entrance to Ft. Myer and is a short ride from the headquarters of the United States Air Force at the Pentagon. The United States Marine Corps' "Iwo Jima" Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon are also nearby within walking distance.

Approval by the National Capital Planning Commission is a critical step in the process of establishing a memorial. It follows approval by the Commission of Fine Arts and the passage of authorizing legislation by both houses of Congress, which was signed by President Clinton in December 1993.

The Air Force Memorial Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization, has the responsibility for selecting a site, designing and constructing a memorial to honor the achievements of the millions of patriotic men and women who have served in the United States Air Force and its predecessors, such as the Army Air Forces. Additionally, the Foundation is responsible for raising all the necessary funds. No taxpayers' dollars will be used.

Last summer, the Air Force Memorial Foundation selected the architectural firm of Pei Cobb Freed and Partners Architects of New York City to design the proposed memorial. Mr. James Ingo Freed is serving as the principal architect for the project.

The Air Force Memorial Foundation's Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Joe Coors, Jr. of Golden, Colo., said that the Foundation anticipates a design concept to be completed by late summer. Coors also noted that plans are already underway for a ceremony to be held on the site in September 1997 honoring the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force as a separate service.

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