



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 23, 1998

## **Court Rules In Favor of the Air Force Memorial Foundation**

**Arlington, VA, June 23, 1998** -- The civil suit filed against the Air Force Memorial Foundation was dismissed in a summary judgment last week.

In a June 15 ruling, United States District Judge Albert V. Bryan, Jr. dismissed the civil action against the Air Force Memorial Foundation and several government agencies. The suit, filed by Rep. Gerald G.H. Solomon (R-NY) and the Friends of Iwo Jima, would have precluded the building of the Air Force Memorial on the preferred and approved site on Arlington Ridge in Arlington, VA.

After the dismissal, Foundation President Charles D. Link said, "The Air Force Memorial Foundation regrets that some people oppose building an Air Force Memorial on Arlington Ridge. We have sympathy for their concerns and feelings in this matter. But we firmly believe that the Air Force Memorial will complement—not detract from or despoil—the two existing monuments on Arlington Ridge. In fact, the Air Force Memorial was specifically designed to occupy its own distinct and separate space near both the Netherlands Carillon and Marine Corps War Memorial."

In commenting on the entire process, Link added that "the America that the armed forces have sworn to defend is a nation of laws. Our founders recognized that honest people may hold strong and differing views. Our judicial process serves to separate fact from opinion and truth from perception. In the final analysis, we are pleased with Judge Bryan's ruling and look forward to continuing to move this very significant project to completion."

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Pete Lindquist  
Vice President of Operations  
Air Force Memorial Foundation  
(703) 247-5859