

January 5, 2006

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
State of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Ehrlich:

On behalf of the Women Veterans Monument Task Force, we are pleased to submit the Task Force Report. The nine member Task Force was established in the summer of 2005 in accordance with House Bill 523 and pursuant to Chapter 556 of the Laws of Maryland. It was directed to identify and recommend funding, design, construction and placement of an appropriate monument dedicated to the women from Maryland who served and are serving in the uniformed forces of the United States of America.

The report outlines the work of the Task Force during 2005 and identifies their recommendations. Those recommendations, if implemented, will continue to enhance Maryland's commitment to veterans. It is the recommendation of the Task Force that action be taken during the 2006 Legislative Session.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Task Force members for the time and effort that they devoted to the mission of the Task Force, as well as to the staff of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to participate in this most important endeavor. We look forward to continuing our work to ensure that in Maryland, women veterans are recognized for their contributions to our nation's military history.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Wanda L. Story
Co-Chair
HB 523 Task Force

Rona E. Kramer
Maryland Senate
Co-Chair
HB-523 Task Force

STATE OF MARYLAND

**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON

WOMEN VETERANS MONUMENT

AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 556, LAWS OF 2005

DECEMBER 31, 2005

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**TASK FORCE ON
ESTABLISHMENT OF A WOMEN VETERANS MONUMENT**

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

JULY 1, 2005 – DECEMBER 31, 2005

Rona E. Kramer	Co-Chair, Member, Maryland Senate
Wanda L. Story	Co-Chair, Woman Veteran
Laurie E. Atherholt	Secretary of Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs <i>Designee</i>
Mary R. Boyd	Woman Veteran, <i>Representative</i>
Joan Cadden	Member, Maryland House of Delegates
Cathy S. Hampton	Maryland Veterans Commission, <i>Representative</i>
Janet L. Holland	Woman Veteran, <i>Representative</i>
Kenneth L. McCall, Sr.	Maryland Veterans Commission, <i>Representative</i>
Pamela J. Scarbro	Woman Veteran, <i>Representative</i>

Staff

Catherine M. Watts	Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
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TASK FORCE ON WOMEN VETERANS MONUMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as of October 2005, there are approximately 463,000 veterans in Maryland, of whom approximately 43,666 are women. Although there are approximately 400 monuments and memorials to veterans in Maryland, none has been dedicated solely to women who served or are serving in the uniformed services of the United States.

The charter of the Task Force was to study the establishment of a monument to honor the role, past and present, of all Maryland women who have served in the uniformed services of the United States. It differs from a memorial that honors those women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The Task Force recommends that the State of Maryland:

- (1) appoint a Commission to proceed with the design, construction and placement of an appropriate monument dedicated to all women from Maryland who are currently serving and have served in the uniformed services of the United States of America;
- (2) charge the Commission with the responsibility to provide a comprehensive educational component to the monument, and use a combination of private and State funds for construction;
- (3) proceed with the project, as suggested herein, at Fort George G. Meade or other location, thus providing cost effective space, the site for the museum/educational component of the project, visibility, existing traffic and easy access.
- (4) recommend a two-year phase-in for planning and funding. Subsequent construction will be the responsibility of any future Commission charged with the project.

I. Background and Scope of the Report

The Task Force, comprised of nine members, met during the summer and fall of 2005. Its deliberations resulted in this Report, which responds to the General Assembly's inquiries and makes recommendations for the establishment of a monument to Maryland women who served in the uniformed services of the United States.

Specifically, the Task Force was charged with answering three inquiries:

- Elect the chairperson from among the Task Force members.
- Identify and recommend funding, design, construction and placement of an appropriate monument dedicated to the women of Maryland who served in the uniformed forces of the United States of America.
- Report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 31, 2005.

Definitions:

*Uniformed Services*¹: (A) the armed forces;
(B) the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and
(C) the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service

Armed Forces: the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard

II. Inquiry One

Elect the chairperson from among the Task Force members:

The Task Force elected Co-Chairs:

Senator Rona E. Kramer, Maryland General Assembly
Wanda L. Story, Woman Veteran Representative

¹ U.S. Code Title 10 Part A, Part I, Chapter 1, Sec. 101. Part (a) 5.

II. Inquiry Two

Identify and recommend funding, design, construction and placement of an appropriate monument dedicated to the women from Maryland who served in the uniformed forces of the United States of America:

Funding - The Task Force recommends a combination of State bond issue and private funding. Since Maryland does not have any military monument(s) to women, it is believed that private fund-raising would be readily accomplished.

It is anticipated that private funding would be a combination of contributions from veteran's service organizations, grants, philanthropic organizations and fundraisers.

It is further recommended that future Task Force or Commission members include at least one grant writer and one private fundraiser.

For background purposes, State funding for the following memorials is shown below:

- Vietnam Memorial \$2,250,000 bond - dedicated May 1989
- Korean Memorial \$750,000 bond- dedicated May 1990
- World War II Memorial - \$200,000 bond for Commission and \$1,700,000 contract - dedicated July 1998

Design and Construction -- Overall design preferences were discussed, with unanimous preference to educate the public about the past and present role of women in the uniformed services.

The original legislation initially called for a "Women Veterans Monument." However, the bill was amended to reference "Women of the Uniformed Forces." The Task Force recommends that the monument represent women of the uniformed services, per the Title 38 definition shown above.

Further, the Task Force recommends that the monument be dedicated to all women who *have served* and *are serving* in the uniformed services.

Final design is also predicated upon site location and funding. The next Commission will be responsible for final design selection. The Task Force would encourage a walk-through monument as a significant component and if the location is outdoors, and does not allow for the museum, it should have

cover, such as in a gazebo, along with panels to include information, photographs and a bench.

The Task Force further recommends that a design contest with a prize be initiated in schools, colleges and universities, once the site is selected. The Maryland World War II Memorial Commission used this technique successfully.

Research was done on women veteran monuments and memorials around the United States. The results are included as an addendum to this report, as background for the follow-on Commission.

Placement - The Location Committee visited six potential sites after reviewing numerous locations proposed by various community leaders, assessing each based upon the following criteria:

- Accessibility and parking
- Current land ownership
- Availability of land and whether it would be donated or require purchase
- Zoning (if applicable)
- Degree of preparation required for construction
- Proximity to a museum or facility to display artifacts
- Whether the organization (owner) is interested in or willing to help fund or support the project

Those sites were:

- Fort George G. Meade in Anne Arundel County
- Glasva School on Route 301 in Charles County
- Rowe Boulevard at Memorial Stadium in Annapolis
- Park & Recreation (former) USO Building with a small park at Compromise and Newman Streets in Annapolis
- Firefighters' Memorial in Annapolis
- Whitmore Garage Quadrangle in Annapolis

The collective first choice recommendation of the Task Force is Ft. Meade, based upon the central location and accessibility, site availability, willingness of the Base Commander to work with the State of Maryland on this project, Fort Meade's broad history with all services and women over the last century, and an existing facility for the museum. Such a project would further enhance the many changes which will be occurring at the base and surrounding area with the upcoming Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) relocations. The two-acre property is located at MD Route 175 and 20th Street, immediately outside the entrance to the military facility.

The site is easily accessible from I-95, I-97, US Route 1, MD Routes 32 and 295, and will have unlimited free parking. The two-acre plus site is federally owned, with long-term leasing available at a minimal fee of \$1.00 per year. Museum space would be granted without charge. The grounds surrounding the monument would be maintained by the military installation; the State of Maryland would have the responsibility for maintaining the monument. There would be minimal site preparation and security would be provided by the installation. Area attractions include the Cryptologic Museum, Arundel Mills Mall, Laurel Race Track, Annapolis, Baltimore and Washington, DC. Another point of interest is that a new United States Army Reserve Center is being built nearby.

The Task Force was divided concerning three other sites: Glasva School in Charles County and the Rowe Boulevard and Whitmore sites in Annapolis. The former USO Building and the Firefighters' site were eliminated from consideration. The other Annapolis sites have the limitation of no museum space and most have severe parking limitations, other than the stadium site, although it is not free parking. There would be a moderate degree of site preparation for these locations as well. While the Glasva School is available and the anticipated site for a Veterans Memorial in Charles County, it will require extensive renovation and is not as centrally located in the State of Maryland.

Comprehensive notes and survey details concerning all of the sites which were considered, are on file and available for review in the Secretary's office of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs. A schedule of the various sites visited by the Task Force subcommittee is attached.

IV. Inquiry Three

Report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 31, 2005.

Women Veterans Monument Task Force ADDENDUM A

Known Women Veteran Monuments -- March 2005

State of Illinois (1)

This monument honors all women veterans of the US. Each side is dedicated to various branches of the military.



State of Louisiana (2)

Dedicated in 1943, this statue is the first of a female service woman in the US. It is called MOLLY MARINE, dedicated to the women Marines.



Dedicated May 30, 1962, this monument in New Orleans was unveiled and dedicated solely to military women, by the New Orleans Chapter of the WAC Veterans' Association.



State of Massachusetts (2)

Dedicated to Deborah Samson, who fought disguised as Robert Shirtliffe in the Continental Army. She served for three years and was awarded a pension for her military service.



This Monument honors those nurses who served so bravely during the Civil War in Massachusetts.



State of Michigan (1)

This monument honors Ellen May Tower, the first woman to die on foreign soil in service of this country - Spanish American War - and the first woman from Michigan to be honored with a military funeral.



State of New Hampshire (1)

This is the “Cathedral of the Pines” with its “Altar of the Nations” and the Memorial Bell Tower. The Bell Tower is the first memorial for women who sacrificed their lives for our country.



State of New Jersey (2)

This monument honors Mary Ludwig Hayes who kept her husband’s cannon firing after he fell in the battle of Monmouth, New Jersey.



Dedicated June 6, 2003, this monument shows a colonial era “Minute woman” wearing traditional Revolutionary War period clothing, carrying a weapon in one hand and holding a lantern in the other, while shielding a child.



It sits atop a black pentagonal monolith, with each side representing one branch of the military displaying insignias of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. The words “The Spirit of the American Woman Veteran” are inscribed on the bottom of the granite base.

State of New York (3)

This statue is dedicated to the daughter of a New York militia officer. Sybil Ludington was with her family when an exhausted messenger reached the Ludington home with news of a British attack and burning of Danbury, Connecticut, where munitions and supplies for the entire region were stored.



Sybil leapt to her horse and galloped off to rally the surrounding patriot and call out the volunteer militia to repel the British raid. She was only 16 years of age at the time.

This monument is dedicated to Margaret Corbin. During the Revolutionary War in 1776 at the battle of Fort Mifflin, Margaret Corbin manned her husband's cannon when he was killed, until she was wounded.



She was the first woman awarded a pension by Congress for her service and disability.

This is a bronze sculpture symbolizing Liberty standing on the crown of England and breaking free from the bonds of colonization.



It does not represent a woman veteran, but rather is symbolic of the spirit, strength and commitment of women to defend our nation and its principles.

State of Ohio (2)

This statue was raised in 1903 by the school children of Martin's Ferry to honor Elizabeth Zane, who in 1782 volunteered to fetch a keg of powder known to be in her brother's house sixty yards outside the gates of the fort.



Fort Henry was under attack at the time by hostile Indians. She walked past the Indians unnoticed and got the

First Lt. Sharon Lane was killed by hostile fire in Viet Nam. William F. Cody Garrison #50 of the Army/Navy Union dedicated a statue to Sharon in front of Aultman Hospital on May 29, 1973. It is one of the first Vietnam memorials constructed in the America.



State of Pennsylvania (1)

This monument was dedicated November 7, 1999. It honors past, present and future women veterans.



State of Virginia (2)

This monument is dedicated to Jane Delano and all of the military nurses who died during WWI. It stands watch over the nurses' section of Arlington National Cemetery.



Women in Military Service for America

WIMSA is the only major national memorial honoring women who have served in our nation's defense during all eras and in all services.



Maryland Women Veterans Monument Task Force
Site Visits

ADDENDUM B	Ft. Meade	Glasva School	Navy Marine Corps Stadium	Department of Recreation and Parks Annapolis	Firefighter's Memorial	Whitmore Quadrangle
Site Name & Location	Nike Hdqtrs., 20th St. and Route 175	Charles Co. Veterans Memorial Route 301 and Glasva Rd.	Rowe Blvd. and Farragut Rd. Annapolis	Compromise and Newman Streets	Rowe Blvd., NW St., Calvert St.	Calvert and Clay Streets
Visit Date	22-Sep-05	22-Sep-05	9-Nov-05	9-Nov-05	9-Nov-05	9-Nov-05
Proximity to Other Public Points of Interest	Cryptologic Museum, Fort Meade Museum, Arundel Mills Mall	Maryland Visitors Center, Allen Fresh Overlook	Memorial Stadium, Court House, State House, Naval Academy	Downtown Annapolis, Naval Academy	Downtown Annapolis, Naval Academy	Downtown Annapolis, Naval Academy
Accessibility & Parking	Free, unlimited	Free, unlimited	Paid, unlimited	Paid, limited on site	Paid, limited	Paid, limited
Current Ownership	Federal Government	Charles Co. Government	Naval Academy Athletic Association (NAAA)	City of Annapolis	Anne Arundel Co. & City of Annapolis	Anne Arundel Co.
Availability of Land	Lease	Purchase	Negotiate with NAAA and City of Annapolis	Negotiate	Negotiate	Negotiate
Zoning	N/A	Agriculture	Commercial Improved	Commercial Improved	Commercial Improved	Commercial Improved
Degree of Preparation for Construction	Minimal	Minimal	Moderate- could affect parts of park and walking trail	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Maryland Women Veterans Monument Task Force
Site Visits

ADDENDUM B	Ft. Meade	Glasva School	Navy Marine Corps Stadium	Department of Recreation and Parks Annapolis	Firefighter's Memorial	Whitmore Quadrangle
Proximity to a Museum for Displaying Artifacts	Future museum within 100 yards	Proposed site for Charles Co. Veterans Memorial	None	City Dept. of Parks and Recreation building	None	None
Other points of concern/interest	Site will be adjacent to a park, Anne Arundel Co. Fairgrounds	La Plata Charles Co. Fairgrounds	None	Current office building and community center, restricted for expansion	Construction should not disrupt Fireman's Memorial	Parking Garage
Will they help fund project?	No	No, seeking funds for their project	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown