



A Memorial Honoring U.S. Submarine Veterans

Through the leadership of Danny Moss (USN ret.) and several members of the United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI) the organization began discussing the concept of a memorial honoring U.S. submarine veterans to be located in the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, Phoenix AZ. Enlisting the advice of local public structure designer, Renee Palmer-Jones, the group began the development of a vision for memorial structure and the feasibility of securing funding for the construction of the project.

Arizona Senator Al Melvin (R) championed the patriotic vision and introduced Senate Bill 1401 in the spring of 2014 to establish the construction of a memorial that honors all men who have ever served on a submarine in defense of the United States of America (not exclusive of those individuals from the state of Arizona). The bill was unanimously approved by the Arizona State House and Senate and passed into law by signature by Governor Jan Brewer.

The Concept Development Report (CDR) provides preliminary information relative to the suggested vision and documents ancillary information crucial to the continued progress toward making the project a reality. The purpose of the report is to provide a document that can be used as tool to garner constructive criticism and recommendations for the further refinement of the concept, site location and funding alternatives. The layouts and recommendations are conceptual and are subject to refinement based on input from the Legislative Governmental Mall Commission (LGMC) and the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission (AHAC).

The Arizona Silent Service Memorial Veterans Inc. (ASSM) approved the design concept and committed funding through various means via nonprofit organizational status through the Internal Revenue Service. It is believed that the memorial will self-finance through the sale of engraved memorial paver stones, corporate and private sponsorships, grants, and community contributions.

The USSVI vision for a submarine veterans' memorial is founded



on honoring America's "Silent Service" veterans by constructing an aesthetically pleasing and visually dramatic monument in the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza that would be dedicated to those who have and are currently serving in submarines, a uniquely challenging assignment of military duty within the United States Navy. The vision began to develop in the summer of 2013 with the help of designer, Renee Palmer-Jones. The inspiration was to develop a structure that would resemble deep blue sea water, tumultuous waves of surface water and an attack class submarine bursting through the ocean's waves in an emergency ascent. Ms. Palmer-Jones captured that requested vision by utilizing clean lines on the memorial constructed with a red, white and blue combination of materials colors.

Sketches were developed and brainstormed in order to formulate a design vision or concept of the size, layout, shape and functionality of the memorial structure. Through an array of considerations, the suggested concept was based on using red paver stones, set in sand atop a concrete pad to form the shape of the state of Arizona at the base of the memorial. Resting upon the pavers is a poured concrete, trapezoidal structured faced in 'Azul Bahia' granite that resembles water. Atop the structure rests a hand-chiseled block of white granite (or marble) resembling waves of ocean water and foam. A cradle within the white granite will support the accurately detailed cast metal (exact material TBD) submarine. Possible sources of material for the submarine include a torpedo shell, a large-scale munitions shell or, perhaps an artistically formed new material of cast bronze or aluminum.

The long sides of the memorial base will be adorned with gold and silver Naval submarine dolphin insignia (silver for enlisted men and gold for officers.) and a dedication plaque (exact verbiage TBD) The short sides of the memorial base will display the affixed Great Seal of the United States and opposing it, that of the United States Navy emblem. These colorful emblems will be created by either water jetted processes or by stone mosaic.

