

November 16, 2008

Dear Judging Panel,

I apologize for having a late submission. I've had an idea from the time that Nancy Olson told me that she wanted to start a committee to do a tribute at the Highground in memory/honor of all soldiers who were involved in the most recent wars like "Operation Iraqi Freedom" that her husband and my son were deployed in 2004/2005, but unfortunately both were Killed In Action. Nancy had told me of her idea of an amphitheatre and that it could be used for many different functions. I'm not an artist, but the idea was there. A friend of our family who lives out of state was in the area for a visit a few weeks ago and I showed him my very rough draft and other ideas I had for a tribute and asked if he would draw a better draft and could enhance it with any ideas he had also. He agreed to do so and has sent it to me so that I can share it with all of you.

The submission is a rough draft as I stated. I consider it a possible floor plan for the future "Persian Gulf Tribute". The committee has decided to include many conflicts/wars for the tribute which I agree is very important. The plan could include parts of other submissions. The platforms shown with the maps could have raised statues on them. Sand could be included from the different areas of conflicts and the wording can also be different in areas and "Persian Gulf Tribute" should be placed somewhere in the design. A projector and screen could be added. The possibilities are endless.

In our design we wanted to include tired Soldier's boots to show the many miles and hours that are walked in them for our Freedom and the Freedom of others. We felt that all branches should be supported and that's why the symbols for each branch are included. For each platform a conflict/war can be depicted by putting the country flag, map, sand, and/or pictures or statue of significance for that conflict/war. The platforms can be placed in any order or in year order with America first or in the middle. On the American platform I thought of having the Twin Towers, Eagle, map and our American Flag. I would like "In God We Trust" or "One Nation Under God" placed some where's in the tribute whether it be on the amphitheatre or on the American platform. The names of Soldier's fallen and living of these conflicts/wars could be placed on the two back sides of the amphitheatre with a mural or a screen for the projector for educational purposes. The benches for seating could also have names on them in honor and/or memory of a Solder.

The reason that I wanted to be on the "Persian Gulf Tribute" committee is to honor our son and all Soldiers, their families and to help educate others from young to old. The Highground and the committee is a very important part of my life. Both are helping in the healing process of our loss. I know that I'm not alone. By being a part of the committee, I have listened to what some have conveyed that they would like to see in a tribute. I hope that I have listened well enough to portray their vision also.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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