Military Memorials
A Sculptor’s Reflections

Having an opportunity to add to the uniqueness of place is always a special challenge. Public military memorials are special. They need to pay close attention to content -- thinking deeply about their iconology.

Doing that, we can successfully create a “landmark” that inspires, rallies and speaks to the public about serious subjects -- enabling the public to respond with thanks and understanding.

There is always a wonderful level of success in projects when collaboration is dynamic, contains the essentials of community participation, public professionals, community values and design leaders.

Bold artistic expression reflective of a community’s core values produces a “language of space” that is unique and timeless.

To be a part of the effort to strengthen a community’s proper tribute to the tireless service of her first-line defense personnel and especially to be a part of a singular memorial that pays respect to the selfless sacrifice made by a community’s military corps is a tremendous privilege.

To this end, I offer my eager participation to help achieve the goal. I believe my past military-related work in the public realm has shown sensitivity to the values and an understanding of purpose that is shared by the members of our Nation’s military personnel. Successful projects to date emphasize a uniqueness of place, reflecting collaborative skills of guidance, sensitivity and thoughtful design since 1974.

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National Prisoner-of-War Memorial
(Andersonville, Georgia)
project design in collaboration with the National Park Service (Denver CO office), the superintendent of the Andersonville National Historic Site and members of the American Ex-Prisoners of War (private group)

Price of Freedom: Capture, Incarceration, Isolation encapsulates the POW experience. Sited in a dedicated plaza between the National POW Museum and the Andersonville prisoner-of-war interment camp enables the sculpture to connect the POW experiences of both past and present.

Liberty Veterans Monument
(North Richland Hills, Texas)
commissioned to recognize the interdependent service of all military branches, this project was designed in collaboration with private citizens, military veterans, city landscape architects and city officials as a part of a new municipal park

Soaring With Daedalus Flight Memorial
(Randolph Air Force Base, Texas)
commissioned by the Order of the Daedalians as an integral part of their new national headquarters at Randolph Air Force Base to honor the history of military flight.

George M. Ulloa Jr., USMC
(Austin, Texas)
private Marine memorial commission commemorating the fallen. In collaboration with Tejanos In Action and U. S. Congressman Lloyd Doggatt, this work served as the centerpiece of the Service & Sacrifice Veterans Exhibition held at the Austin History Center until January 2008. It is now on permanent display at the Austin Diocese Cathedral.

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Fortis et Robustus® and Sine Terminis®
(Colorado Springs, Colorado)
sited in the Academy Chapel, these works were commissioned by the United States Air Force Academy to commemorate the motivational themes of the graduating classes of 2001 and 2002.

Carolina Plaza: The Military®
(Columbia, South Carolina)
an artist residency project that guided high school and middle school students in the creation of sculptures that centered on their interests. The Military was 1 of 4 chosen themes. The resulting work is sited on the grounds of the Richland County Administration Building.

Air Corp Legacy®
(Lackland Air Force Base, Texas)
an exterior Review Grandstand Sculpture completed for Lackland Air Force Base

Philip A. Ricks Memorial®
(Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas)
a Flight Memorial Commemoration commissioned by Laughlin Air Force Base

Washington & Lafayette®
(Mundeville House, New York)
commissioned by the Perry Gething Foundation to commemorate the military and personal relationship of these two generals and their importance to New York

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Donna L. Dobberfuhl is a member of the National Sculpture Society and holds her M.F.A. degree from The New York Academy of Art Graduate School of Figurative Art.

She has been a finalist in a number of military-related commission competitions, including the Memorial Park Veterans’ Memorial in Plano TX, the Tuskegee/Rickenbacker Memorial in Columbus OH, the Moody Foundation’s Vietnam Memorial in Galveston TX and The 10th Mountain Division Memorial in Lake Placid NY.

Donna enjoys working with the dictates of the site and client to find the best possible project answer for the specific context of the proposed site, making my recommendations based upon my collaborations with project participants. A large part of her artistic success is due to her ability to listen closely to her client’s vision and helping to successfully interpret that vision into a sculpture that continues to reflect and inspire her client’s aspirations.