



PROGRESS CONTRARY TO RECENT REPORTS *WASHINGTON TIMES COVERAGE OF MEMORIAL PROJECT MISLEADING*

On March 23, 2004, the Washington Times published an article with the headline “Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Delayed,” generating controversy at the expense of reporting facts.

“From the very beginning we have stated that the Pentagon Memorial project will not be driven by cost or schedule. We will not sacrifice quality to meet an arbitrary deadline or dollar figure,” stated Michael Sullivan, Director of the Pentagon Renovation and Construction Program Office. “How can we be behind schedule before the project has truly begun?” Sullivan asked.

Jim Laychak, President of the Pentagon Memorial Fund, Inc., continued the thought, “A completion date of September 11, 2004 keeps appearing in media reports without attribution. The family members want the Pentagon Memorial to honor the victims and to be a permanent place of remembrance, reflection and renewal for all who visit there. Selecting the right design, which we announced in March 2003, was the first step, and we are now well into the next phase.”

In a letter to the Washington Times, Laychak expressed his optimism with results to date. “Our initial ‘quiet phase’ of fundraising has been very successful in raising more than \$1 million before the kickoff of our public fundraising effort.” On April 22, 2004 the Pentagon Memorial Fund, Inc., a tax exempt corporation organized and led by the families to raise the money to build and maintain the Pentagon Memorial, will hold a press event



on Capitol Hill to formally announce a nation-wide fundraising and public awareness campaign.

Washington Times reporter Sean Salai sites “other relatives of victims” as reporting they are “unmoved by the Pentagon’s efforts thus far to promote and implement the memorial.”

“This is the only part of the article I found discouraging,” replied Brett Eaton, Information & Communications Officer for Washington Headquarters Services. “The efforts and dedication of the family members, the design-build team and concept designers has been inspirational. I want all of the family members to feel engaged in the process and we encourage their participation.”

For more information on the status of fundraising activities and to make a donation, visit the Pentagon Memorial Fund’s web site at www.pentagonmemorial.net (operational on 4/22/04). You can also visit the Pentagon Memorial project web site, <http://memorial.pentagon.mil>, for regular updates on design and construction activities.

<http://memorial.pentagon.mil>



PENTAGON MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER

April 9, 2004

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Pentagon Memorial News is an authorized publication of the Department of Defense, intended for the families of the victims of the 9/11/01 attack on the Pentagon. Contents of *Pentagon Memorial News* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. Material from this publication may be reproduced without permission.

RECENT EVENTS

03/26/04 - Pentagon Memorial Team Meeting

ANTICIPATED EVENTS

04/22/04 - Pentagon Memorial Fund -
Campaign Launch

04/30/04 - Pentagon Memorial Team Meeting

*Please contact George Jackson
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