



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Jill Etter
Director of Communications
PHONE: (210) 508 9953
EMAIL: jill.etter@ndswm.org

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY CONFIRMED: NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD MEMORIAL

Veterans and honored guests will gather at the National Mall for the ceremonial groundbreaking for the memorial that will honor those who, as members of the Armed Forces, served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

Washington, D.C. - The National Desert Storm Memorial Association (NDSMA) is pleased to announce the details for the groundbreaking ceremony.

CEREMONY IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DATE: Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 10 am ET

LOCATION: SW corner of Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street NW

Kyle B. Leggs, LTC (R), of the NDSMA said, "As the Director of the Planning and Design Team, I along with the rest of our organization, am ecstatic to advance through the final phase of design approval in collaboration with our architectural and creative team. Most notably, we are exceedingly grateful to the National Park Service for allowing us to ceremoniously break ground prior to final design approval, which we aim to obtain in less than a year."

In 1991, the United States of America sent a powerful message of international unity and cooperation to Saddam Hussein by opposing and ejecting Iraq's occupying forces and liberating the peaceful nation of Kuwait. The mission, undertaken by the United States Armed Forces during Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield was a remarkable example of American leadership, values, and sacrifice in the pursuit of freedom.

In December 2014, President Obama signed the Memorial's enabling legislation. In March 2017, President Trump signed the law authorizing the Memorial to be built near the National Mall in an Area 1 location. In June 2018, a site located in close proximity to the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial received approval.

The Memorial's design will commemorate the historical significance of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm while honoring the service and the sacrifice of the United States of

America and Coalition military personnel who liberated Kuwait from Iraq and defended Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula from further invasion.

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Since 2011, the NDSMA has worked to achieve its singular mission, construction of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial. The NDSMA's goal is the completion and dedication of the memorial by 2024.

The NDSMA is a federally recognized, tax-exempt, 501(c)3 structure led by an all-veteran board of directors.