



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Desert Shield: 1990 - 2020**

The USA successfully leads coalition effort which will eventually liberate the State of Kuwait.

Washington, D.C. – The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association announces the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Desert Shield.

On Aug 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Within 24 hours, Iraq's military occupied its southern neighbor and controlled nearly 30% of the world's oil supply. Iraq's brutal leader then set his eyes on Saudi Arabia.

On Aug 6, 1990, the USA initiated OPERATION DESERT SHIELD and began deploying troops to shield Saudi Arabia and the entire Arabian Peninsula from Iraq. From Aug 1990 – Jan 1991, the USA would deploy nearly 600,000 troops to the region.

President Bush issued a mandate to Saddam Hussein stating that all Iraqi troops must leave Kuwait by January 15, 1991. The deadline passed with Kuwait still occupied by Iraqi forces. On January 17, 1991, the United States led coalition forces in OPERATION DESERT STORM in the successful liberation of Kuwait. This was the largest military alliance since World War II. A ceasefire was declared on February 28, 1991.

### **National Memorial to be Constructed in Washington D.C.**

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 Shield and Operation Desert Storm was a remarkable example of American leadership, values, and sacrifice in the pursuit of freedom.

The U.S. lacks a national memorial dedicated to the courage and sacrifice of the service members who served during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

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 Washington, D.C., 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 estimated cost to build the Memorial is \$40 million. The Association has raised roughly \$9.2 million to date, not including 10.2 million in financial pledges. The goal is to begin construction on the memorial in 2021, the 30th Anniversary of Operation Desert Storm.

The Memorial's design will commemorate the historical significance of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm while honoring the service and sacrifice of the United States of America and Coalition military personnel who liberated Kuwait from Iraq and defended Saudi Arabia. The Memorial is projected to be completed by 2022.

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Since 2011, the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association (NDSWM) has worked to achieve its singular mission, construction of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial. All efforts are backed exclusively by private sources. The law that authorizes the Memorial to be built prohibits the use of federal funds to pay any expense to establish this commemorative work.

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