



Report to the Governor and General Assembly

From: Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

FINAL REPORT - Status of the Maryland Women in Military Service Monument (Chapters 537 and 538, 2009 Regular Session)

October 2, 2014

The purpose of this law was to reestablish the Commission on the Establishment of a Maryland Women in Military Service Monument, and to authorize the commission to enter into an agreement regarding the construction and placement of an appropriate monument.

Here is a final summary of the monument. As the monument is complete, there are no further recommendations included in this report.

2014 Active Commissioners on the Establishment of a Women in Military Service Monument

Senator Katherine A. Klausmeier, Chair
Secretary Edward Chow, Jr., Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Rebecca A. N. Bahm, Col, USAF (Ret)
Joan M. Cadden, Department of General Services
Bernice J. Chase, CSM, USA (Ret)
Kenneth L. McCall, Sr., SGM, USA (Ret)
Denise E. Perry
Karen F. Smith, SMSgt, USAF (Ret)
Irene M. Zoppi Rodriguez, Ph.D., COL, USA

Staff: Jerry Boden, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Renee Smith, Office of Senator Klausmeier

MARYLAND WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE MONUMENT

DEDICATED: 2014

PURPOSE: HONORING WOMEN FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND, PAST AND PRESENT, WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION HONORABLY AND PROUDLY, IN WAR AND PEACE

HISTORY OF CREATING THE MONUMENT:

- THE TASK FORCE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A WOMEN VETERANS MONUMENT, CO-CHAIRLED BY STATE SENATOR RONA E. KRAMER AND WANDA L. STORY, PREPARED A REPORT RECOMMENDING THAT THE GOVERNOR APPOINT A COMMISSION TO PROCEED WITH THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND PLACEMENT OF AN APPROPRIATE MONUMENT DEDICATED TO ALL WOMEN FROM MARYLAND WHO ARE CURRENTLY SERVING AND HAVE SERVED IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
- THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSED LEGISLATION IN 2006 TO FORM THE COMMISSION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARYLAND WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE MONUMENT
- THE COMMISSION WAS APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR O'MALLEY IN 2007; STATE SENATOR KATHERINE KLAUSMEIER WAS ELECTED CHAIR
- IN MARCH 2008 THE COMMISSION PROVIDED A FINAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS
- THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSED LEGISLATION IN 2009 TO REESTABLISH THE COMMISSION IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD ON RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 2008 REPORT FROM THE PREVIOUS COMMISSION; STATE SENATOR KATHERINE KLAUSMEIER WAS ELECTED CHAIR
- VARIOUS MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE FROM 2009-2012
- IN MARCH 2013, SIX PUBLIC FORUMS WERE HELD AROUND THE STATE TO OBTAIN INPUT FROM WOMEN VETERANS ABOUT THE LOCATION, CONCEPT AND DESIGN OF A MARYLAND WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE MONUMENT
- RESULTS FROM THE FORUMS WERE SHARED WITH THE COMMISSION
- THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION AND THE SECRETARY OF THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MET WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MTA) TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A MONUMENT AT ONE OF THE NEW TRAVEL PLAZA'S OPENING ON I-95
- AS THE TRAVEL PLAZA PROJECT WAS A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP, MTA THEN OBTAINED APPROVAL FROM ARCHITECTS, AYERS SAINT GROSS, AND CONSTRUCTION FIRM, AREAS USA, LLC, TO CONSTRUCT THE WOMEN'S MONUMENT AT THE CHESAPEAKE TRAVEL PLAZA IN CECIL COUNTY
- THE COMMISSION PROVIDED INPUT TO THE ARCHITECTS AND CONSTRUCTION BEGAN ON THE MONUMENT IN THE SUMMER OF 2014
- THE MARYLAND WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE MONUMENT IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 31, 2014