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ARKANSAS DEDICATES VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILT BY SUHOR INDUSTRIES

On June 25, 2007, the 57th anniversary date of the beginning of the Korean War, the new Arkansas Korean War Veterans' Memorial was dedicated in Little Rock's MacArthur Park. This statewide memorial, designed and constructed by three divisions of Suhor Industries (SI), honors the services of all of the Arkansas Korean War Veterans and is designed to be a lasting reminder of the sacrifices of the veterans of what is often-called the "Forgotten War".

SI Construction Services served as general contractor on the project, working side by side with two of its sister companies, SI Veteran Memorials and SI Precast Concrete. The SI construction division managed five sub contractors on the project, which was completed with zero lost time accidents.

A crowd of over 600 attended the official opening to honor the Korean War Veterans. This included Mike Nuckolls, State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Fran O'Brien, Past State Commander of the American Legion in 2002-03; and a delegation from the Republic of Korea (South Korea). Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe was the keynote speaker for the event.

"The Arkansas Korean War Veterans Memorial is a wonderful tribute to the Korean War Veterans and a great addition to the State of Arkansas," stated Doyle Herndon, President of the Memorial Foundation. "Suhor Industries did an outstanding job in the design and construction of the Memorial, completing this project on schedule and within budget. Their efforts were above and beyond in everything that they did for us, including providing professional guidance and assistance in our publicity efforts. Their professional staff was a pleasure to work with and made the construction of the Memorial an easy task for the members of the Memorial Foundation."

The Arkansas Korean War Veterans Memorial is a Memorial Plaza featuring:

- A 3 ft. tall Absolute black granite pentagon bearing the emblems of the five military branches stands in the center of the front patio leading to the entryway. Several Absolute black granite benches for quiet contemplation flank this patio area.

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- A unique entryway leads to the Memorial Plaza. It contains the name of the monument and the following quote by President Calvin Coolidge: “The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten.” The names of the Arkansas Korean War Veterans’ Memorial Foundation Board Members, major contributors and individuals and organizations key to the construction of the memorial are also on the archway. The entryway consists of two frosted gray granite support columns that are 30” wide x 14” thick x 8’ 8” in height. The cap is 11’ 10” wide x 14” thick and 28” tall. All pieces are epoxied and pinned with stainless steel dowel pins.
- Three larger than life-size bronze statues stand in the center of the plaza. One statue is a combat soldier representing the fighting that took place in Korea to stop the spread of communism and to ensure freedom for the people of the Republic of Korea (South Korea). This statue is an African-American soldier symbolizing the end of racial segregation in the Armed Forces of the United States, an American human-rights action that resulted from the Korean War.
- The second statue is of two Korean children. This statue represents the suffering of the Korean people during the war and the future generations of Koreans that have rebuilt a nation that was destroyed by that war.
- The third statue honors the brave sacrifices that Combat Medics and Navy Corpsmen made to save the lives of others. The hand of friendship being extended by the combat medic toward the children represents the humanitarian work that took place during the war and the strong ties of friendship that exists between the people of South Korea and the people of the United States.
- Eight 3’ wide x 10” thick x 6’ tall Absolute black granite tablets form a semi-circle around the three statues. At the bottom of each of these tablets is sculptured the likeness of mountains, signifying the rough terrain our troops endured. Engraved on the tablets are a list the names of the 461 Arkansas servicemen and women killed in action, as well as a description of events that occurred during the Korean War and a map of Korea. The granite tablets weigh in excess of 3,000 pounds each.

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“We are so honored to be involved with the new Arkansas Korean War Veterans’ Memorial,” stated Chris Carson, Vice President of SI Construction Services. “SI has worked on nearly two dozen Korean War memorials, and we try to make each one special and meaningful to those building the memorial and those they are honoring.”

The Korean Government, Hanam City (sister-city to Little Rock) and the Korean people gave over \$400,000 for this project. The Foundation raised nearly \$50,000 more. The public can make a donation to perpetual care of the monument or learn more about the Memorial Project by visiting www.arkansaskoreanwarmemorial.com, sending an e-mail to doyleherndon@comcast.net, or calling 501-590-6936. The Arkansas Korean War Veterans’ Memorial Foundation is a 501-C (3) non-profit foundation organized for the purpose of building the Arkansas Korean War Veterans’ Memorial.

SI Veteran Memorials has created hundreds of monuments since 1968. Recent projects include the Pittsburg State University Veterans Memorial Amphitheater in Pittsburg, Kansas, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Overland Park, Kansas. SI Construction Services built approximately 25% of the new Georgia National Cemetery, located on a mountain top in Canton, Georgia. SI Veteran Memorials is the preferred provider to the VFW and is working with the American Legion on several projects. Parent company Suhor Industries, Inc, located in Overland Park, Kansas, is the nation’s largest burial vault manufacturer and one of the leading funeral service providers in the country.

The statues were designed and constructed by Light and Time Design Studio and Art Foundry in Royal, Arkansas. The statues were sculptured by David Harris.

The land for the Memorial, donated by the city of Little Rock, is located in the Little Rock Historical District near The Clinton Presidential Library, the State Capitol, and the Little Rock River Market, which are all popular tourist destinations. The park’s Historical Arsenal Building is the birthplace of General Douglas MacArthur and is the current home of the Arkansas Military History Museum. The Memorial is located approximately 150 ft. east of the Arsenal Building.

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