

# Military Women's Memorial Fact Sheet

**Location:** Memorial Ave & Schley Drive, Arlington, VA 22202

**Established:** October 18, 1997

**Founder:** U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught

**Annual Visitors:** 200,000

**Classification:** 501c3 Nonprofit Organization

**Original Name:** Women In Military Service For America Memorial

## Historical Facts

The Military Women's Memorial is home to a digital registry aimed at documenting all U.S. Military Women's service.

The Military Women's Memorial Opening and Dedication Ceremony began with a fly-over of military aircraft, all of which were piloted by women — the first time an all-female fly-over had occurred in U.S. history.

Former First Ladies Hillary Clinton and Barbara Bush were both honorary chairs of the original Women In Military Service For America Memorial foundation.

Within the Military Women's Memorial's Hall of Honor is a block of Colorado Yule marble, the companion piece to the one used for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

## Architectural Facts

**Architects:** Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi.

**Size:** 33,000 sqft.

**Lot:** 4.2 acres (17,000 m<sup>2</sup>)

The Hemicycle is 30 feet (9.1 m) high and 226 feet (69 m) in diameter. In the center of the Hemicycle is an apse 20 feet (6.1 m) across and 30 feet (9.1 m) high.

The Great Seal of the United States is carved in granite in the center of the apse arch, while to the south is seal of the U.S. Department of the Army and to the north is the seal of the U.S. Department of the Navy.

Six circular niches (three to the south and three to the north) 3 feet 6 inches (1.07 m) deep are distributed along the facade. These niches, and the apse, are inlaid with red granite from Texas. The rear wall of these niches is carved with either oak leaves or laurel leaves, symbols of bravery and victory.

The structure in which the Military Women's Memorial is housed was originally known as the Hemicycle, and built in 1932 to be a ceremonial entrance to the cemetery. It never served this purpose. Ground was broken for the memorial in June 1995, and the structure was dedicated on October 18, 1997.

Outside the building, a fountain that empties into a circular reflecting pool, paved with black granite cobblestones quarried in Culpeper, Va., symbolizes the coming together of generations of women's voices