

Enduring Heroes

Enduring Heroes

Mr. Charles Peretz
Parks and Natural Resources Administrator
Department of Public Works
City of Pasadena

February 5, 2015

Dear Charles:

We are honored to submit our letter of intent for our "Enduring Heroes" Memorial project. We have greatly appreciated the opportunity for a number of productive meetings during the Fall of 2014 with you and other City leaders, including Mayor Bogaard, regarding our desire to establish a meaningful, artistically impactful memorial to our "Enduring Heroes" of the Iraq-Afghanistan Wars. These meetings have helped crystallize our plans and enabled us to evaluate multiple sites.

The overall goals for the "Enduring Heroes" memorial are to

- Pay permanent honor to our local military heroes—special tribute for Pasadena's five fallen warriors as well as broad recognition for all who have served in Iraq-Afghanistan and for those who have fought against terror.
- Provide Pasadena with a significant work of art created by a noted local artist that will have timeless meaning and excellent visibility on a site that is appropriately named Defender's Parkway.
- Enable Pasadena to take an even stronger leadership role in building awareness, education, and gratitude for our Armed Services members.

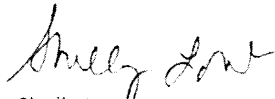
The proposed site for this memorial—a bronze figure of a soldier proudly displaying an American flag—is on the east side of Defenders Parkway, a gateway to Pasadena. The specific site will be comfortably away from the Rose Parade grandstands and in a place that will garner excellent visibility. The historic World War I memorial flagpole at the corner of Orange Grove and Colorado will be visible from our proposed location and will provide a powerful link among soldiers of all eras.

Our Committee could not be more enthusiastic about our "Enduring Heroes" project, and we are fully committed to partnering closely with you and the City. We are targeting a dedication by no later than Veterans Day 2016. In watching this year's magnificent Tournament of Roses parade we were struck by the many tributes to our military. These salutes were in recognition of Louis Zamperini, the posthumous Grand Marshal, as well as for the increasing realization of the criticality of our Nation's military in today's fragile world. All of this makes our "Enduring Heroes" project very timely. Furthermore, based on our early discussion with donors and other citizens, our project resonates strongly with people from many backgrounds.

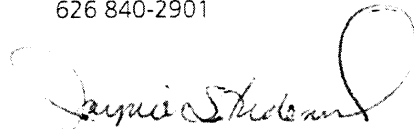
The following pages provides preliminary information, including the inspiration for this project; why increasing military awareness is a worthy goal for Pasadena; biographical information about artist Christopher Slatoff; preliminary design for the statue; and our funding plan.

Charles, it'd be most helpful if you let us know right away if additional information is needed at this stage, as we'd like to get "Enduring Heroes" off to a fast start in 2015. We look forward to discussing key next steps and timing. Many thanks in advance.

Most sincerely,



Shelly Lowe
626 840-2901



Jaynie Studenmund
626.359.1563

cc:

Mayor Bogaard

Rochelle Branch, Cultural Affairs Manager

Jennifer DeVoll, Executive Director, Pasadena Community Foundation

INSPIRATION

Pasadena lost a genuine patriot on June 9, 2014 when Green Beret Staff Sergeant Scott Studenmund, 24, was tragically killed in combat in Afghanistan. Mayor Bogaard requested all flags to be flown at half-staff for a week. The City Council meeting on June 16 adjourned with a meaningful tribute in honor of Scott with remarks by Mayor Bogaard and Police Chief Sanchez. Each underlined the fact that Scott had the intellect and capabilities to be a success at whatever he wanted in life, but Scott believed that his true calling and highest honor was to defend our Nation as a Green Beret soldier. Scott is beloved by all who knew him and inspires all who have heard his story.

The City Council and others had previous discussions about the need for a memorial for native daughters and sons who have fought in Iraq-Afghanistan, our Country's longest war. The recent loss of Scott, the first Pasadena citizen to die in Afghanistan, has galvanized city leaders, family friends, and citizens to form a Committee to work on a memorial to our fallen and surviving Iraq-Afghanistan warriors, recently named our "Enduring Heroes "

Fallen Warriors from the Pasadena Area

On the statue the names of Pasadena's fallen soldiers will be listed with a personal remembrance of the family's choosing. Insignias for all five branches of the US military will be included as well to honor all soldiers who have fought and will fight in the future.

Pasadena's fallen warriors are:

- Marine Second Lieutenant JP Blecksmith, 24, Fallujah, Iraq, 11/11/04
- Marine Lance Cpl, Sergio H. Escobar, 18, Rumadi, Iraq, 10/9/05
- Army Specialist, Adam J. Rosema, 27, Baquba, Iraq, 3/14/07
- Marine Lance Cpl, Rogelio A. Ramirez, 21, Al Anbar Province, Iraq, 8/26/07
- Army Green Beret SSG, Scott R. Studenmund, 24, Gaza Village, Afghanistan, 6/9/2014

Education and Awareness Opportunities for Pasadena

Today less than one half of one percent of US citizens are on active duty in the military and less than 9% of all US citizens have ever served. Yet, as the tragic daily headlines throughout the world constantly remind us, we live in a world where the United States' military strength is increasingly important.

California has lost over 700 women and men in Iraq-Afghanistan and the related wars against terror, far more than any other state. Further, more Californians have served in the military than any other state. Pasadena is known all over the world. How fitting it will be for Pasadena to take a strong leadership role as other California cities, such as Irvine and San Marino have, to recognize our nation's heroes.

Enduring Heroes

Inspiration Realized

Noted sculptor and Arroyo Seco resident Christopher Slatoff has been inspired by Scott's story. His passion for this project is exceeded only by his incredible talent, experience, artistry, and skill. His participation will ensure the artistic integrity of this monument which will honor our Enduring Heroes, create greater awareness and appreciation of all who serve in the wars on terror, and enhance the beauty of our city

Project Funding

The "Enduring Heroes" Memorial will be funded by grants and donations raised by the Memorial Committee. Donations will cover the sculpting and installation of this work, and an endowment will provide funding for maintainance. A fundraising leadership committee is in place and work has begun on the planning phase of the campaign. Once city approval is granted, active fundraising for the quiet phase of the campaign will begin by seeking leadership gifts from foundations, local organizations, corporations, and individuals. Then, a broader, more vocal campaign for grassroots donations will commence. The Committee is working with the Pasadena Community Foundation to manage the fund.

Enduring Heroes

THE SCULPTURE

This clay model depicting a combat soldier triumphantly holding the American flag will be cast into a 7-8 foot bronze sculpture. Designed in a style and scale that fits well with its historic neighborhood and is complementary to the memorials that already exist, this bronze sculpture will honor all of the soldiers who have been lost in the current wars from the Pasadena Area. Thoughtfully placed at Defenders Parkway, the statue will share the intersection with the WWI memorial flagpole creating a symbolic link between the Iraq-Afghanistan soldiers and the WWI soldiers.



Design highlights of the memorial demonstrate the sculptor's attention to detail and his appreciation of the viewer. The bronze figure will be installed on a pedestal which will also serve as a seat. The flag features cut-out stars enabling light to shine through.

The names of each fallen soldier will be cast in bronze and placed on the inside surface of the flag. Inspired by the post 9/11 bulletin board notes for lost family members, the artist will work with the families of fallen soldiers to incorporate their stories into the Memorial. The public will be able to learn about our "Enduring Heroes."

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THE SITE



Above: Proposed Defenders Parkway site for "Enduring Heroes" Memorial on the southwest corner of W. Colorado Blvd. and S. Orange Grove. The placement and visibility of the statue at this most important intersection in the City of Pasadena gives due honor to these heroes.

Defender's Park is a passive park consisting of approximately 1.8 acres on the southwest corner of West Colorado and South Orange Grove. The 7–8' tall "Enduring Heroes" Memorial will be located approximately 25' from the northwest edge of the monument honoring our City's founding fathers and approximately 15' in front of the landmark oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) to be framed by its majestic branches. The sculpture—a standing soldier holding a magnificent flag—has been designed by master sculptor Christopher Slatoff.



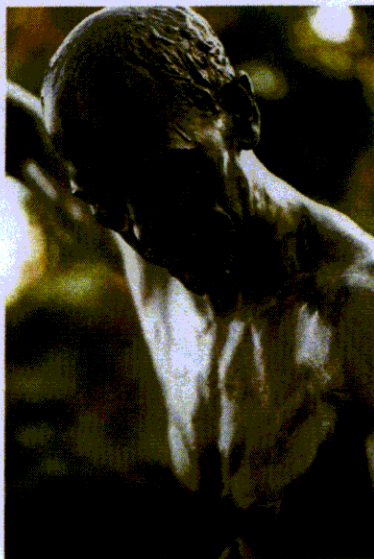
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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Christopher Slatoff, sculpture chairman of the California Art Club, is the son of an Art Professor. He studied in both the United States and France, ultimately earning a Bachelors of Fine Arts Degree in Sculpture from California State Long Beach where he has taught life sculpture. Slatoff also teaches sculpture at Art Center College of Design and holds workshops and lectures at the Getty Museum.

Specializing in art for the public sector, Slatoff is experienced in partnering with government agencies and citizens committees to create beautiful, impactful works of art, all while bringing projects to fruition on time and on budget. His work is prominently displayed in a variety of locations around the country; local examples include the University of Southern California, The Church of our Lady of the Angels, and Pepperdine University, to name only a few. Slatoff has had numerous solo exhibitions and has participated in many group exhibitions. His current project, "Fr. Electrico," is in collaboration with the writer Ray Bradbury. The ½ life size version of this concept, recently won the Gold Medal for sculpture at the "97th Annual Gold Medal Juried Exhibition" at the Pasadena Museum of California Art. The sculptor is recreating the image on the monumental scale of eight feet in height.

Deeply committed to providing art education for underserved segments of the community, Slatoff was the recipient of a State of California Artist in Residence Grant to work with special needs children in the Public Schools. He has helped set up after-school art programs and has worked as an Artist Facilitator at Metropolitan State Hospital.



Christopher Slatoff
Sculptor

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CURRENT PROJECTS

USC Monument, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

COMPLETED PROJECTS (partial)

2013

The Spiritual Exercises, Loyola High School, Los Angeles, CA

2012

Crucifix, USC Caruso Catholic Center, Our Savior Catholic Chapel, Los Angeles, CA

The Illustrated Man, Private collection, created in collaboration with Ray Bradbury

2006–2010

Adoption, The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles, CA

Monument to George Pepperdine, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA

St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Therese of Carmel Church, San Diego, CA

Felicitas and Perpetua, Felicitas and Perpetua Church, San Marino, CA

St. Brendan, St. Brendan Catholic Church, Los Angeles, CA

2001–2005

The Via Dolorosa (life size Stations of the Cross)
Commissioned by The Via Dolorosa Society

Jesus Being Nailed to the Cross, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA

Jesus Falls the First Time, St. Marks Episcopal Church, Glendale, CA

The Pieta, Mission San Diego, San Diego, CA

1996–2000

Angels, Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church, Los Angeles, CA

La Placita, Los Angeles, CA

St. Peter Preaching at Pentecost, St. Peter Catholic Church, Fallbrook, CA

Sheltering Wings, Commissioned by the Port District of San Diego
Shoreline Park, Coronado Island, San Diego, CA

AWARDS AND GRANTS

State of California, Artist in Residence Grant 1986

Gold Medal Award for Sculpture, 97th annual gold medal juried exhibition
California Art Club, Pasadena Museum of California Art

Artist in Residence: Brehm Center for the Arts, Fuller Theological Seminary,
Pasadena, CA

Sculpture Chairman, California Art Club