

Written Testimony from Scott C. Stump

H.R. 503 (Roe), the "*National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act*"

President, National Desert Storm War Memorial Association

Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation

1334 Longworth House Office Building

February 26th 2014

February 25th 1991, exactly 23 years ago yesterday, was the 30th Anniversary of Independence for the state of Kuwait. Instead of celebrating to mark the occasion, dramatic and tragic events were unfolding which would reshape and change the future of not just Kuwait, but the entire world!! On that day in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia a SCUD missile fired by Iraqi forces slammed into a makeshift barracks housing U.S. Army Troops, killing 28 soldiers 15 of them women and wounding 100. Exactly 23 years ago today February 26th 1991 the Tank Battle of 73 Easting was raging, in which U.S. and British troops destroyed 160 Iraqi tanks. At the same time, retreating Iraqi troops set fire to 737 Kuwaiti oil wells which sent forth thick, acrid, black smoke, across Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain. Finally on February 28th 1991, Kuwaiti troops raised the emirate's flag in Kuwait City and President Bush 41, declared a suspension of offensive combat.

I mention these historic events to put things into perspective regarding Operation Desert Storm or as many have come to call it, the "100 Hour War". You see the blessing and the curse of Operation Desert Storm was that it's rapid and overwhelming success has made it's recollection no more than a fuzzy distant memory for most. A blip on the radar screen of history. The majority of American children born after 1991 have no idea what Desert Shield & Desert Storm was, or what it accomplished!! If you all can think back to January & February of 1991 things were VERY perilous and uncertain. The constant threat of biological and chemical warfare

was on everyone's mind and gas masks and MOPP Suits became the uniform of the day. We also led a coalition of 34 nations from across the globe, including Egypt and Syria, which was the largest coalition since WWII. That type of teamwork is something we will probably NEVER see again in our lifetimes. The ultimate sign of uncertainty were the tens of thousands of body bags which were at the ready in the event of mass casualties. By the grace of God, all of the careful planning came together, our troops performed admirably, and we accomplished our mission of liberating Kuwait much quicker and with far fewer casualties than anyone expected.

So, why should there be a Desert Shield & Desert Storm Memorial? There are many reasons, however, for the sake of brevity I'll focus on three.

- 1) First of all, Desert Storm was a large-scale war. There were close to 600,000 American service members who deployed to Southwest Asia which represented 73% of the total number of troops in theatre. The Marine Corps alone deployed over 92,000 Marines which was their largest deployment since Vietnam. The biggest tank battles since World War II occurred in Desert Storm, and the coalition flew over 100,000 air sorties and dropped 88,500 tons of bombs. However of highest importance is making sure that we honor the 600,000 Americans who served and make sure that the almost 300 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice are NEVER EVER Forgotten!!!
- 2) Secondly, we liberated Kuwait, a peaceful country that was invaded and whose citizens were held captive for close to 7 months and endured much suffering and unmentionable atrocities at the hands of the Iraqi aggressors. Liberating Kuwait and shielding Saudi Arabia from invasion sent a powerful message not just to Saddam, but to the world. That message was that we still believe in fighting for what's right, and for upholding our values, ideals, and principles. NO MATTER WHAT THE RISK OR POSSIBLE COST!! If you ever wonder whether

liberating Kuwait was important or made a lasting difference, just ask any Kuwaiti, young or old. Even those who are too young to remember or born long after 1991 will tell you, just as they have told me, "If it weren't for the U.S. we'd be Iraqis now." It IS a big deal and we have effected the ongoing history of Kuwait into eternity.

- 3) Lastly, but of NO less importance. During Operation Desert Storm we liberated Kuwait, but at the same time we also liberated the United States of America! Desert Storm Occurred around 15 years after the fall of Saigon. Our country carried around a lot of collective guilt and shame for the way many of our Vietnam Veterans were treated upon returning home . I served with some of those veterans and I heard the stories they told, like walking through an airport here in the U.S. after graduating Boot Camp and being spit on. Just for having the AUDACITY of serving their country and wearing their uniform PROUDLY. Desert Storm was a MAJOR turning point in our country and it allowed those raw and open wounds left over from Vietnam to finally heal. America FINALLY felt good about itself again, and our men and women in uniform were supported and admired for their sacrifice and their service. On our flight home from Saudi Arabia, we were told by our commanding officer that we would be marching in a welcome home parade. We DIDN'T want a parade. We were reluctant participants since we felt that we had just done our job. I remember riding in the bus to the beginning of the parade route when a gentleman stepped in front of the bus and flagged us down. He climbed aboard and identified himself as a Vietnam Veteran. He asked if it would be alright if he rode with us because he never had a parade when he came home and he wanted to see what it felt like. During the parade as we marched in formation we received a heroes welcome. The streets were overflowing, flags were everywhere, and people were cheering, some even crying. We stopped in front of a podium where our C.O. delivered his remarks, none of which I have ANY recollection of. EXCEPT at the very end when he

dedicated "OUR" parade to the Vietnam Veterans who NEVER had one. At that point, I knew that Desert Storm touched Americans in many different ways. I firmly believe that if it was not for Desert Storm and the change of attitude toward our military it brought about, our men and women in uniform who are currently serving and who have served in Afghanistan, and Iraq, would not be treated with the dignity and respect that they absolutely deserve.

In closing, ladies and gentlemen, the importance of a war should NEVER be judged or based solely upon it's number of casualties or it's duration. If the cause was just, noble in purpose, and lasting in effect, then that war deserves to be memorialized. Operation Desert Shield & Storm fits all of those criteria. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Public Lands and Environmental Regulation Sub-Committee I am asking each of you on behalf of the over 600,000 Desert Shield & Desert Storm Veterans, their family members, and the 33 other coalition countries, to send HR503 out of committee, and to vote YES on the house floor so that Desert Shield & Storm's legacy and importance will not become a mere footnote in our nation's history, but rather be ensured a lasting place of honor. Thank You.



National Desert Storm & Desert Shield WAR MEMORIAL

www.NationalDesertStormWarMemorial.org

OR

www.ndswm.org

Any further questions please contact:

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Architectural rendition of proposed memorial



Special thanks for the rendition to R. Randall Schumacher, AIA, LEED A.P., *Principal*
CSO Architects, Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution for the memorial from The American Legion

NINETY-FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Houston, Texas - August 27, 28, 29, 2013

Resolution No. 16: National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial

Origin: North Carolina

Submitted by: Convention Committee on Credentials and Other Internal Matters (Section II)

WHEREAS, The over 500,000 U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines who dutifully answered the call to serve our country in uniform from August 1990 through March of 1991, bravely and aggressively expelled Iraqi Forces from the kingdom of Kuwait, and in so doing, liberated that sovereign nation from extreme violence, occupation, and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, Over 300 of those brave men and fifteen women served and died as a result of their commitment to freedom and democracy and the above stated goals; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 503 introduced by Congressman David (Phil) Roe TN-1 seeks congressional authority for approval to construct a Desert Shield/Desert Storm War Memorial on federal land to forever remember the significance of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm for not just our current citizens but for future generations of Americans and citizens from around the globe; and

WHEREAS, The National Desert Shield/Desert Storm War Memorial, located in Washington, D.C., will commemorate the service of those 500,000 plus U.S. servicemembers who served our country honorably throughout this campaign, as well as memorialize the over 300 Americans who paid the ultimate price in pursuit of this just cause; and

WHEREAS, The National Desert Shield/Desert Storm War Memorial Association will bear all of the burden of raising 100 percent of the proceeds for The National Desert Shield/Desert Storm War Memorial through private sources and donations, with the goal date for the completion of the memorial to be in the year 2016 in order to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Houston, Texas, August 27, 28, 29, 2013, That The American Legion will endorse and support building the National Desert Shield/Desert Storm War Memorial, without financial obligation on behalf of the national organization, as a lasting tribute to the bravery, courage, commitment, service, and sacrifice exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces living and deceased; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will publicize the status of the memorial to departments, posts and members so they might decide on an individual basis if they choose to support the campaign to build the National Desert Shield/Desert Storm War Memorial to honor and remember the veterans who answered the call to serve in this epic and pivotal event in United States and world history.

Board of Directors



Scott C. Stump - President

Scott C. Stump served as an Infantryman in the U.S. Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves from 1987-1992. Scott's unit was deployed to Saudi Arabia and Southwest Asia and was attached to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force for 5 months in support of Operation Desert Shield and Storm.

Scott lives in Waynesville, North Carolina with his wife Robin and their two children, a son, Scotty and a daughter, Emmy. Scott is a partner with IllustrateMyLife.com and likes to spend his occasional down time outdoors hiking and biking and serving as an adult leader with the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Scott is also a member of the American Legion, AMVETS, The Marine Corps League, and is a life member of the VFW.



Bob Adams - Vice President

Bob Adams, MBA, MSP, has worked in project management since the mid 1990's. Currently he works as the Senior Project Manager/Work Flow Coordinator for the International Technology Services branch of the United States Department of Agriculture. Bob served honorably in the U.S. Navy during Desert Storm and is a life member of the VFW. In addition to being a proud parent of a medical school student (daughter), Bob also donates his time to non-profit organizations focusing on feeding those that do not have available food and also the St. Louis yearly '100 Neediest Families' Christmas drive. Currently, Bob lives in St. Louis, MO and enjoys his free time by helping others, hunting, and/or fishing with friends and family.



Brenten T. Byrd - Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer

Brenten T. Byrd, M.S., CPS, has worked in the mental health field since the mid 1990's. He currently works as a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist for the Veterans Administration in their Psychiatry Department. He manages the Transitional Work Program under the Compensated Work Therapy programs for the Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks located in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

His professional interests include facilitating recovery from severe mental illness, addictions, and traumatic events, as well as community integration initiatives that focus on creating employment opportunities, ending homelessness and isolation. He holds degrees from Purdue University and Southeast Missouri State University.

Brenten served honorably in the Marine Corps Reserves in the infantry as a noncommissioned officer and as an officer in the Army National Guard. He is a life member of the VFW and is a veteran of Desert Storm. He volunteers as an emergency responder for his hospital's Decontamination Team and as a staff trainer for the prevention and management of disruptive behavior. He also serves on the board of directors as President for the VA Employees Association. He lives with his two sons in the Fayetteville, Arkansas area and spends much of his free time boating with family and friends on Beaver Lake.



Kent A. Shively - Secretary

Kent A. Shively served in the United States Marines Corps and Marine Corps Reserves from 1985 through 1991. On 1 January 1991, his unit, 3rd Battalion 24th Marine Regiment, was deployed to South West Asia as part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force for Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Upon returning to the United States, Kent received an

Honorable Discharge from the Marine Corps in June 1991.

Currently, Kent resides in Kokomo, Indiana with his wife Trisha. They have two children, a daughter, Lauren, and a son, Andrew, who graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Training in the fall of 2010. Kent is the owner of Shannon Door Company, an interior door and architectural millwork supplier located in Carmel, Indiana.





Tim Brown - CIO & Technology Chair

Tim served in the U.S. Army for thirteen years. His first duty assignment was with the 3rd Armor Division in Germany with the 369th Personnel Services Company. In November 1990 his unit was assigned to the 7th Personnel Group to support the VII Corps mobilization to the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Shield. During Desert Storm, Tim was attached to the 410th Evacuation Hospital as a Casualty Report Liaison. After Desert Storm, Tim enjoyed assignments to Ft. Hood Texas and SHAPE Belgium. Tim was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 2000.

Tim was born at Martin Army Hospital, Ft. Benning Georgia. Both of his parents were military, his mother was in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and his father was in the Air Force. He now serves as CEO and co-founder of UPC3, a cloud based marketing services company in Tampa Florida. He and his wife, Susan have two sons; Devin and Liam. Tim is a member of the American Legion, Life Member of Disabled American Veterans and a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



John Rolf Jordan - Communications Chair

John served in the Marine Corps for six years and his reserve unit was called up in active service in November, 1991. His unit, 3rd Battalion 24th Marine Regiment, was deployed to South West Asia as part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force for Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. John was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in 1993.

John was born in Heidelberg, Germany with parents who worked for the Department of Defense. He has completed a master's of divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a master's of arts degree in marriage and family therapy. He is currently a partner at IllustrateMyLife.com in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is married to his wife, Stephanie, and they have two girls named Jenna and Jillian.



Scott Stump second from left and John Jordan second from right, back row



Kyle B. Leggs - Design Chair

Kyle B. Leggs is a retired United States Army Lieutenant Colonel who served 21 years as a Transportation Corps Officer in the United States Army Reserves from 1986 to 2007. He is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and was deployed to and served in South West Asia

from September 13, 1990 to May 25, 1991. He served as a First Lieutenant with the 200 TC Detachment and supervised Movement Control Operations for thousands of soldiers. For his service he received the Army Commendation Medal, The South West Asia Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars, The Liberation of Kuwait Medal, and his unit received the Meritorious Unit Commendation Award. Kyle also served in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and during the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Social Science from Coppin State University in 1986 and a Master's degree in Transportation from Morgan State University in 1989. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He is a native of Baltimore, MD where he is a City Planner, and is married with one son who is a Flight Medic in the Air National Guard, has one daughter, and one granddaughter. He is also a member of the American Legion, VFW, NABVETS, and a lifetime member of the MSU ROTC Alumni Association.



Dr. Enrique "Rick" Durazo

Dr. Enrique "Rick" Durazo Enrique E. Durazo served in the United States Army as an Armor Crewman from 1988 to 1992. During that time he was deployed to and served in Operation Desert Storm/Shield in 1991 with the First Armored Division, 2nd Brigade, 2/70AR Bravo Company which was based in Erlangen Germany. During Desert Storm, Dr. Durazo held the rank of Sp4 and was the Driver of the Company XO's tank, B-65. He participated in the Battle of Al Busayyah and received the Army Commendation Medal for his participation in the Battle of Medina Ridge where the Unit engaged and defeated the 2nd Brigade of the Medina Division of the Iraqi

Republican Guard. The Unit, 2/70AR received the Valorous Unit Award for their participation in this engagement.

He received his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from the University Of Arizona College Of Pharmacy in 2001. He is also a Licensed Pharmacist in the state of Arizona.

Upon receiving his PharmD. Degree, Dr. Durazo became the Director of Scientific Affairs for Konec, Inc. His duties included overseeing the manufacturing and QC operations for Nitroglycerin Sublingual Tablets, USP. He has been listed on issued 2 patents pertaining to pharmaceutical drug purification and formulation. In 2010, he became the President/CEO of Konec, Inc, a position in which he holds currently as well as working in the community as a retail Pharmacist.