



**NEWS RELEASE  
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**CONTACT:** Jill Etter, Director of Communications  
**PHONE:** (210) 508-9953  
**EMAIL:** [jill.etter@ndswm.org](mailto:jill.etter@ndswm.org)

# **Alan West to Host Fundraiser for The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Association**

## **Former U.S. Representative and Desert Shield Infantry Officer to MC fundraiser supporting Memorial**

Washington, D.C. – The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association is pleased to announce that Lieutenant Colonel Alan B. West, USA, Retired will emcee the Memorial's fundraiser in Washington, D.C. in late February.

Stott Stump, President/CEO of The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association, said, "I am grateful to Colonel West for his commitment to our vision and honored that he will serve as host to our fundraising event. His unparalleled passion and energy champions the Memorial's mission and will propel us beyond our funding requirement. Our goal to dedicate the completed National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial on Veterans Day of 2021 is within reach because of his ongoing support."

LTC West served the United States in uniform for 22-years, including two combat tours. In 1991, CPT West deployed with the United States Army as an Artillery Officer in support Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. LTC West commanded combat operations to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. In 2010, he won election as a member of the United States House of Representatives from Florida's 22nd Congressional District and served his constitutions until 2013. Today, West is an ardent supporter of veteran and armed forces concerns, a contributor for Fox News and author of *Guardian of the Republic*.

LTC West stated, "It is an honor to serve as the host for this very important evening. Our cause is a just and noble one to recognize all who served during Operation Desert Shield or Desert Storm. At a critical time for our nation, a resounding military victory was needed to reinvigorate our national pride. For me, this is truly a blessing that a memorial will be raised remembering my first combat tour."

### **EVENT ATTENDANCE BY INVITATION ONLY**

Achievement of the Association's mission requires significant resources. We are deeply grateful for the support we have received thus far. However, far greater support is still necessary to bring this tribute to life.

The estimated cost to build the Memorial is \$40 million. The Association has raised roughly \$8 million toward our financial goal. Individuals, businesses and Veteran Service Organizations have donated \$2

million. The Memorial's site award's value is \$6 million. Our goal is the completion of the memorial by 2021, the 30th Anniversary of Operation Desert Storm.

In 1991, the United States of America sent a powerful message of international unity and cooperation to Saddam Hussein by opposing and ejecting Iraqi's occupying forces and liberating the peaceful nation of Kuwait. The mission undertaken by the United States Armed Forces during Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield was a remarkable example of American leadership, values, and sacrifice in the pursuit of freedom.

The Memorial's design will commemorate the historical significance of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm while honoring the service and sacrifice of the United States of America and Coalition military personnel who liberated Kuwait from Iraq and defended Saudi Arabia. The Memorial is projected to be completed by 2021.

In December 2014, President Obama signed the Memorial's enabling legislation. In March 2017, President Trump signed the law authorizing the Memorial to be built near the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in an Area – 1 location. In June 2018, a site located in close proximity to the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial received approval.

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Since 2011, the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association (NDSWM) has worked to achieve its singular mission, construction of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial. Our task is the completion and dedication of the memorial on Veterans Day, 2021. All efforts are backed exclusively by private sources, zero taxpayer funds are accepted. NDSWM is a federally recognized, tax-exempt, 501(c)3 structure led by an all-volunteer board of directors.