



Executive Director's Recommendation

Commission Meeting: October 1, 2020

PROJECT Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Graphics Package National Mall Independence Avenue and Daniel French Drive, SW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 8107
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.71(73.10)45196
REVIEW AUTHORITY Commemorative Works per 40 U.S.C. § 8905	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of final site development plans
	PROPOSED ACTION Approve final site development plans with comments
	ACTION ITEM TYPE Consent Calendar

PROJECT SUMMARY

The National Park Service, on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation (KWVMF), has submitted the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance graphics package for final review. The Commission approved the Wall of Remembrance (WoR) at the May 7, 2020 meeting after providing comments on the concept review at the October 2, 2019 meeting.

The proposed graphics package is the final element of the WoR and includes a representative sample of the proposed layout of names on the new WoR panels, a new dedication panel adjacent to the existing one, as well as the planned renovations to the existing UN Curb and Casualty Curb.

The approved Wall of Remembrance addition to the existing Korean War Veterans Memorial honors the 36,574 members of the Armed Forces of the United States killed or missing in action in the Korean War. In addition, the wall will list approximately 8,000 members of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA). The applicant intends to organize the names on the new engraved granite wall by service and rank. The font for the text panels will be Syntax based on exhaustive search of the original font.

Dedicated on July 27, 1995, the anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, the existing memorial is located to the southeast of the Lincoln Memorial on West Potomac Park. The memorial occupies 7.5 acres within Ash Woods. It is surrounded by Ash Road to the north, the US Park Police Stables to the east, Daniel French Drive to the west, and Independence Avenue to the south. The Korean War Veterans Memorial site has a symmetrical relationship to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site located on the north side of the Reflecting Pool.

On October 7, 2016, Congress enacted the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act” (Public Law 114–230). This legislation authorized the KWVMF to construct

a Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The Act required that the wall include a list of names of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who died in the Korean War, as determined by the Secretary of Defense. The wall may include other information about the Korean War, including the number of members of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army, the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, and the other nations of the United Nations Command who were prisoners of war, killed, wounded or missing in action.

KEY INFORMATION

- The Commission reviewed the concept design at its October 2, 2019 meeting, and approved the final “low wall” design at the May 7, 2020 meeting.
- The proposed graphics package includes a sample of the WoR panels with names, a new dedication panel, and refurbishments to the existing UN curb and Casualty curb to improve their longevity and reduce potential tripping hazards.
- Construction will begin in April 2021. The project will be completed on July 27, 2022, the 69th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. NPS will keep portions of the memorial open to the public during the 15-month construction period.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission:

Approves the final site development plans for the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance graphics package, located on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

Finds the proposed Wall of Remembrance graphics package is consistent with the memorial design and minimizes safety hazards at the memorial.

PROJECT REVIEW TIMELINE

Previous actions	<p>June 24, 1993 – Approval of final plans for the Korean War Veterans Memorial, West Potomac Park (Ash Woods Site), Independence Avenue and Daniel Chester French Drive, SW (NCPC File No. 2815)</p> <p>October 2, 2019 – Approval of comments on concepts for the Korean War Memorial Wall of Remembrance.</p>
-------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	May 7, 2020 – Approval of preliminary and final site development plans for the Korean War Memorial Wall of Remembrance.
Remaining actions (anticipated)	– None

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

The approved Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance will honor the 44,574 service members from the US forces and the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army killed or missing in action from the Korean War by adding their names to the existing memorial. The proposed graphics package articulates the font, layout and organization of panels as well as important safety and durability updates to the existing UN and Casualty curbs. Overall, staff finds the proposed graphics package design appropriately completes the approved Wall of Remembrance. The project is generally consistent with the policies included in the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital*. In particular, the Urban Design, Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, Visitor and Commemoration, and Parks and Open Space Elements. Therefore, staff recommends the **Commission approve the final site development plans for the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance graphics package, located on the National Mall in Washington, DC.**

Analysis

The existing memorial is composed of two simple geometries, a triangle, and a circle. The key memorial elements include the Field of Service, the Mural Wall, the United Nations curb, and the Pool of Remembrance that includes the Casualties curb. The approved low wall panel design consists of a low angled wall encircling the existing Pool of Remembrance. The proposed graphics package includes representative examples of the panel layouts with the proposed text. NPS is also proposing to modify the existing country names and UN emblems on UN curb and lettering on the Casualties curb with stainless steel letters and medallions. NPS will also decrease the individual curb pieces of the UN curb to align with the new WoR to avoid a tripping hazard. Staff believes the proposal is consistent with the existing and approved memorial elements and will add to the improved commemorative impact and suggests that the **Commission finds the proposed Wall of Remembrance graphics package is consistent with the memorial design and minimizes safety hazards at the memorial.**

CONFORMANCE TO EXISTING PLANS, POLICIES AND RELATED GUIDANCE

Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

As noted above, this project meets basic goals of the Comprehensive Plan. In particular, the Urban Design, Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, Visitor and Commemoration, and Parks and Open Space Elements.

The Historic Preservation Element encourages federal agencies to protect the settings, including viewsheds, greenspaces, and tree canopies, of historic properties, as integral parts of the property's historic character. The proposed graphics package for the approved Wall of Remembrance is compatible with the qualities and character of the existing memorial and the National Mall. The Visitors and Commemoration Element encourages agencies to enhance visual and functional connections to visitor attractions through well designed pathways, streetscaping, and programming. The proposed curb wall refurbishments will improve access and circulation. In addition, the project is consistent with policies that encourage agencies to design commemorative works with durable materials.

Lastly, the Parks and Open Space Element contains policies that aim to consider the original design intent when making adaptations or improvements to designed landscapes and maintain and improve a strong physical and/or visual connectivity with the surrounding context. The proposed graphics package for the Wall of Remembrance is consistent with the original memorial design.

Commemorative Works Act

The Commemorative Works Act (CWA) states that in considering site and design proposals, NCPC shall be guided by the following criteria: 1) surroundings, 2) location, 3) material, 4) landscape features, 5) museums, 6) site-specific guidelines, and 7) donor contributions. The applicable criteria for this proposal relate to materials and site design. Based on the CWA, a commemorative work shall be constructed of durable materials suitable to the outdoor environment. Staff evaluated the design against these criteria.

National Historic Preservation Act

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is a contributing site to the National Mall Historic District and is also within the boundaries of the East and West Potomac Parks Historic District. Both districts are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. NCPC and NPS each have an independent responsibility to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NPS determined that the project does not result in adverse effects to historic properties. The DC SHPO concurred with the determination of no adverse effect on January 17, 2020.

National Environmental Policy Act

NCPC and NPS each have an independent responsibility to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); NCPC's responsibility stems from its approval authority over the project. Pursuant to Section 601.12 of NCPC's NEPA Regulations, staff has determined that the project may be categorically excluded from further environmental analysis based on categorical exclusion #2, which pertains to the "approval of the installation or restoration of minor site elements, such as but not limited to identification signs, sidewalks, patios, fences, curbs, retaining walls, landscaping, and trail or stream improvements." Prior to applying this categorical exclusion, NCPC staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances were present as required by the Commission's NEPA Regulations under § 601.11. NPS is also using a categorical exclusion to meet their NEPA compliance responsibilities.

CONSULTATION

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its September 9, 2020 meeting. Without objection, the Committee forwarded the proposed graphics packages to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the US General Services Administration; the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, and the District Department of Energy and Environment.

U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts approved the final graphics package design for the Korean War Memorial Wall of Remembrance at its September 17, 2020 meeting.

ONLINE REFERENCE

The following supporting documents for this project are available online at www.ncpc.gov:

- Submission Package

Prepared by Jamie Herr
09/25/2020

POWERPOINT (ATTACHED)

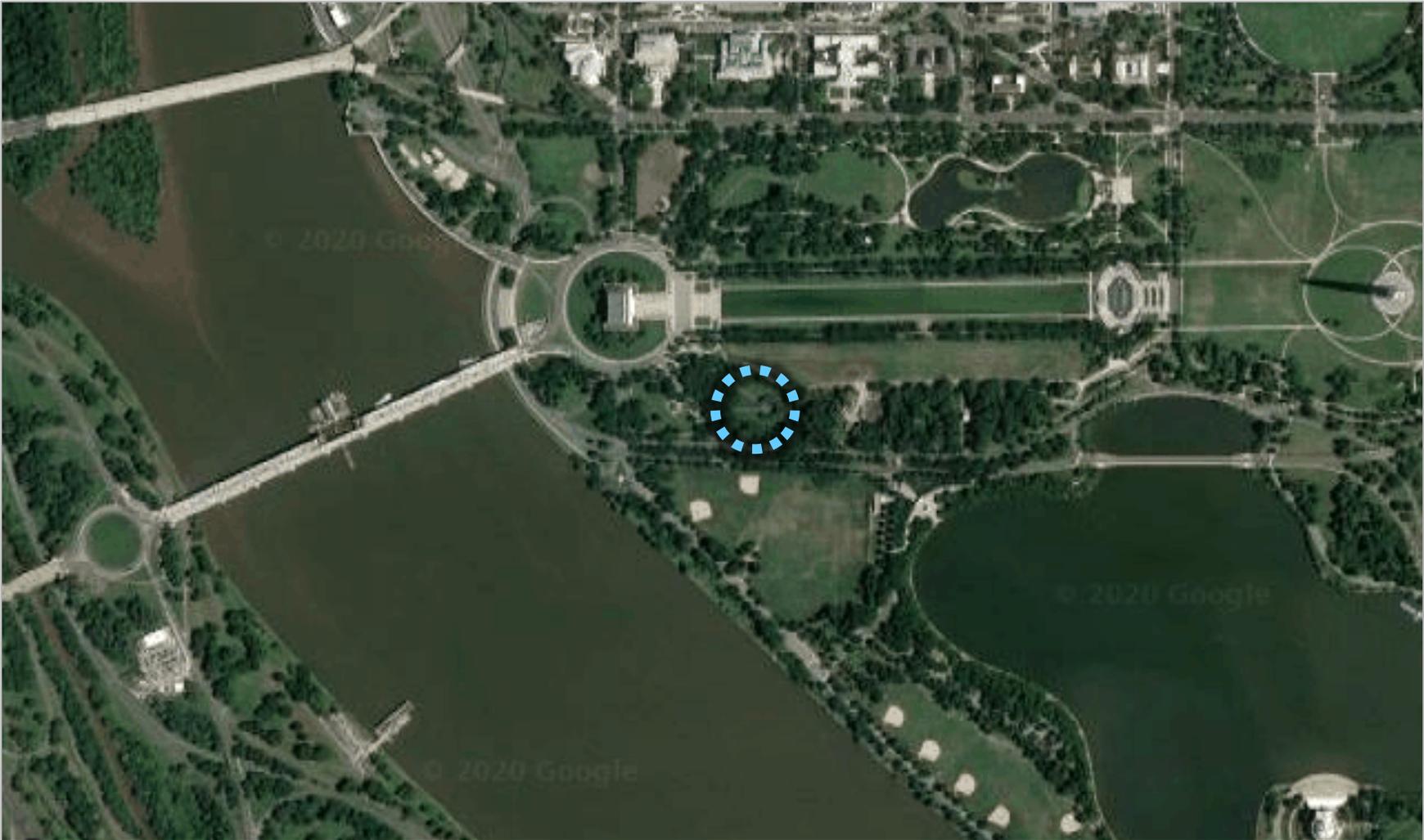
Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance - Graphics Package

Independence Avenue and Daniel French Drive, SW, Washington DC

Approval of Final Site Development Plans

United States Department of the Interior

Site Location



Location Map

Korean War Veterans Memorial WoR Graphics Package



Updated Dedication Panel

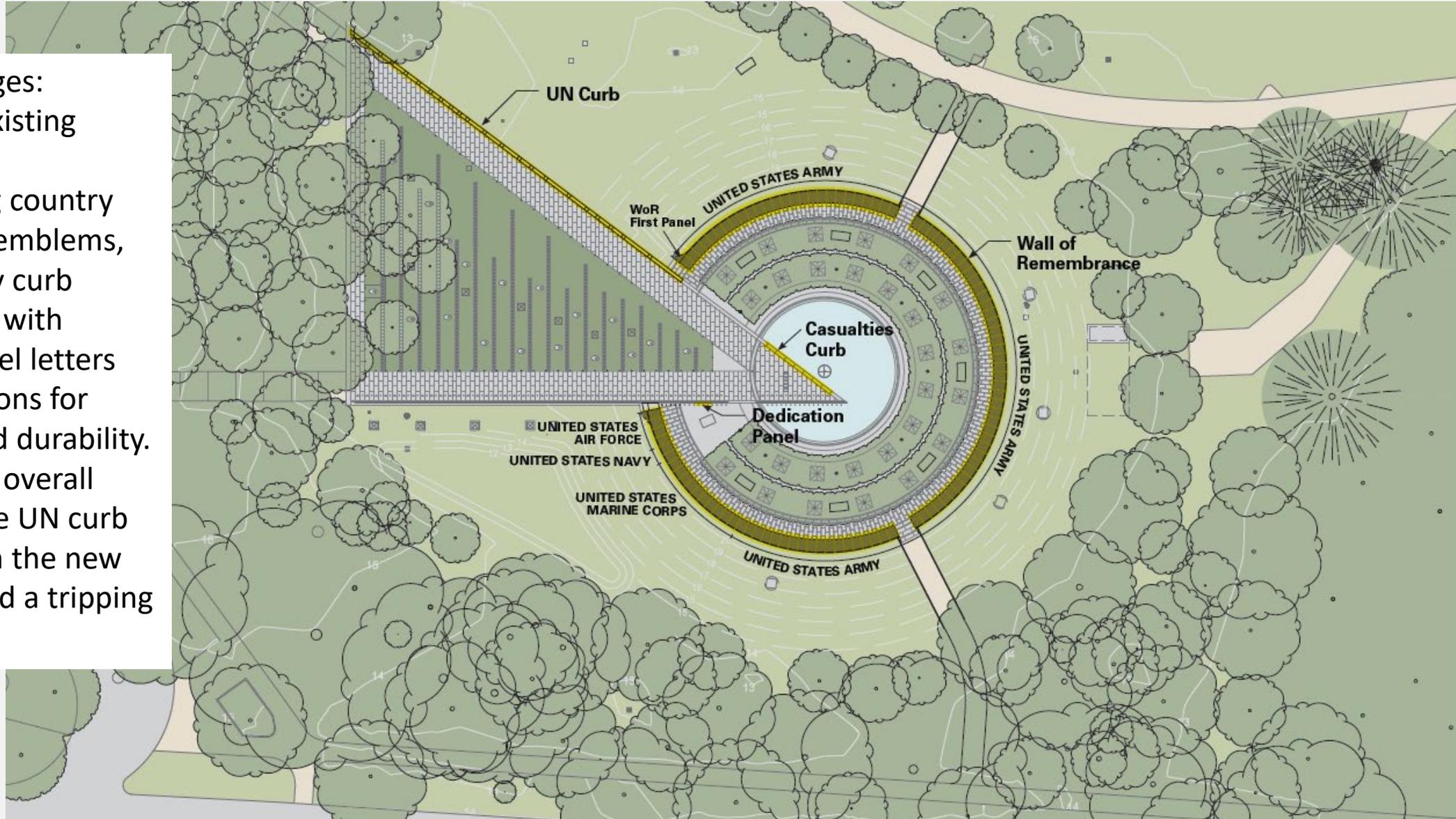
Updated UN curb and WoR panels



Korean War Veterans Memorial WoR Graphics Package

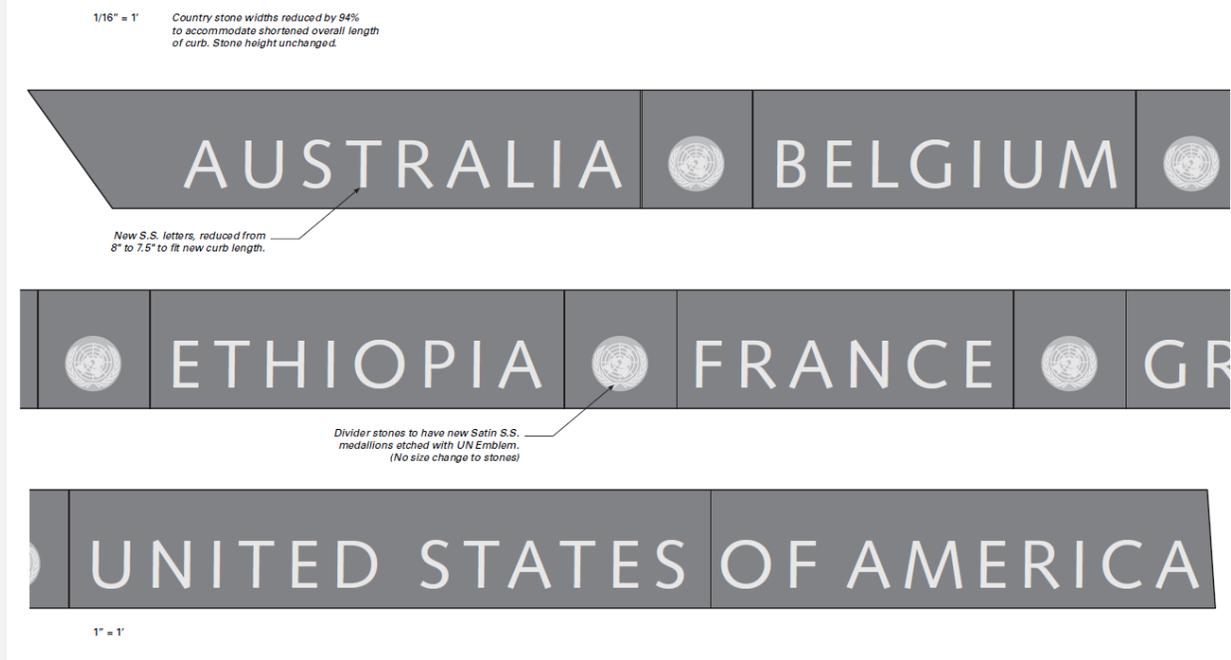
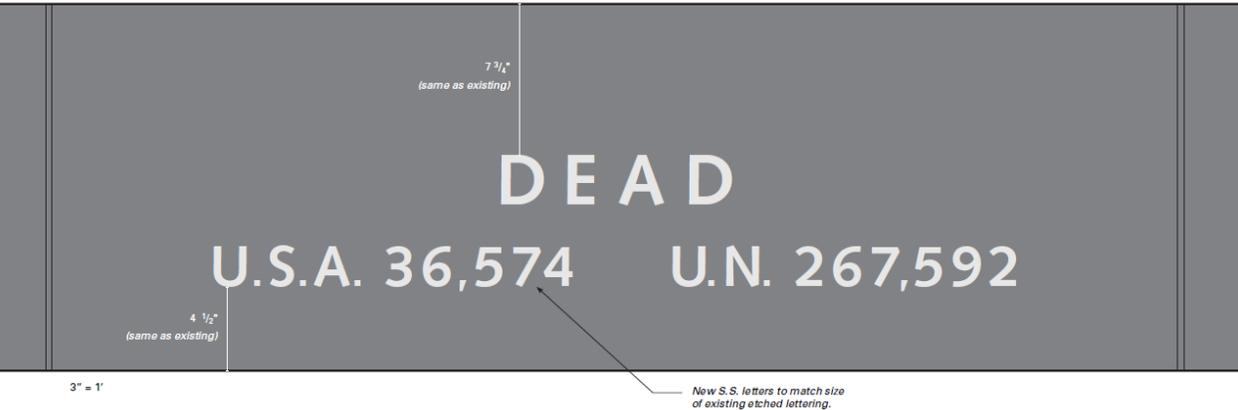
Proposed Changes:

1. Replacing existing sandblasted contributing country names, UN emblems, and casualty curb information with stainless steel letters and medallions for legibility and durability.
2. Shorten the overall length of the UN curb to align with the new WoR to avoid a tripping hazard.



Korean War Veterans Memorial WoR Graphics Package

Casualties Curb Stainless Steel letters



UN Curb Stainless Steel letters and emblems