





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VMAQ Monument Groundbreaking

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Pensacola, FL August 27, 2021 -- The VMAQ Monument Foundation is pleased to announce the official groundbreaking for its three-figure bronze monument "In Every Clime and Place" occurred at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida on Friday, August 27 at 1:00 p.m.

The non-profit foundation was established in 2018 with the mission of preserving the history and legacy of the EA-6B Prowler and the warriors who served in the community for over four decades. The foundation commissioned renowned sculptor, Sandra Van Zandt, to create three bronze statues representative of the people who served in the Prowler community: a pilot, an Electronic Counter Measures Officer (ECMO) and a maintenance Marine as they are preparing to launch a flight.

Van Zandt was excited to take on this project. "From the very first call from the foundation, I have been excited about this sculpture. The level of detail we have attained is stunning!" said Van Zandt. "I am truly honored to have another piece installed at this very prestigious aviation museum." Among Van Zandt's most famous aviation works are: [To the Flight Line](#) , [Hangar Talk](#) and most notably [The Spirit of Naval Aviation](#) which was installed at the National Naval Aviation Museum in 1996. Van Zandt will attend the groundbreaking ceremony.

The monument will be installed on the grounds of the museum and will stand approximately 12 feet tall and 15 feet wide. The bronze figures are wearing modern-day flight equipment, modeled by air crew from VMAQ-2 on their final deployment to Qatar in support of combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

CAPT Sterling Gilliam, USN (Ret), Director, National Naval Aviation Museum is excited about the newest addition to the museum. "The museum is thrilled to accept the exceptional VMAQ monument into our collection. Plans are to place it on display just outside our iconic Blue Angel atrium where it will be a spectacular addition to our campus. Sculptor Sandra Van Zandt's work is well known here in our museum as she brought to life our 'Spirit of Naval Aviation' monument that greets our patrons on the Quarterdeck and we are honored to have more of her superlative work on display."

Chairman of the Board, H. Wayne "Duck" Qualkinbush, USMC Maj (ret) shares Director Gilliam's enthusiasm. "Not only were we able to raise over \$400,000 in just a few short years, but we did so during a pandemic! That speaks volumes about the commitment of our community," he said. The all-volunteer foundation raised many of the funds for the monument from members of their own community. "Many thanks to the VMAQ Monument Foundation for their herculean efforts bringing this project to fruition!" said Gilliam.

To learn more about the VMAQ Monument Foundation please visit VMAQMonument.org. Follow us on Facebook @VMAQMonument to keep track of the final stages.

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