

## **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** Monday, December 5, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Veterans Memorial at Memorial Stadium

**ATTACHMENTS:** Letter: Memorial Stadium Restoration Committee

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Per the attached letter from Mr. Carl Mumpower, Chair of the Memorial Stadium Restoration Committee, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners has been asked to identify and recommend a veteran for recognition within the redesigned Memorial Plaza located at Memorial Stadium in Asheville. The details for the recognition and the Memorial are found in the attached letter, along with schematic drawings for the project.

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners authorize staff to work with the County's Veterans Services Officer, Mike Murdock, to identify a veteran for this recognition, draft his/her 'personal story' as explained in the attached letter, and ~~at~~ to present this for the Board's approval at your December 15, 2005 regular meeting.



# City of Asheville, NC

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Parks and Recreation

October 28, 2005

Mr. David Nicholson, Manager  
Henderson County  
100 North King Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

Quietly, over the past year, there has been an active movement to address a neglected regional memorial located in Asheville. Historic Memorial Stadium was originally dedicated in 1927 to honor the servicemen and women of Western North Carolina who had given their lives in military service in World War I. It was rededicated in 1948 to include those lost during World War II. Recent decades have found Memorial Stadium in a progressive state of disrepair that poorly reflects its mission of honor and respect as a regional memorial.

Today, some 78 years after that original dedication, we are pleased to announce a new beginning for this historic facility and an opportunity for your county to play a significant role in its rebirth. Asheville is proud to be associated with the men and women from our Western North Carolina Mountains who have dedicated their lives to secure the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy today. We are well on our way to renewing the overall complex and have reached a point where the regional memorial can now be brought to life. It is our wish to recognize a Veteran from each County in Western North Carolina who was killed in combat. This recognition will be in the form of a displayed personal story that serves to illustrate the background, dedication, service, and sacrifice of Veterans from all branches of military service and all major conflicts since World War I. This story will have a maximum of 500 words and should include the veteran's name, branch of service, rank, birth date and place, school attended or other education information, community recognitions or honors and the date and place and circumstances of the veteran's death. To assure the authenticity of this effort, we are requesting that your County Board of Commissioners identify and recommend a veteran for this recognition and provide the written narrative for your County's memorial.

The story you provide will be embossed on a bronze plaque and placed, along with plaques from other regional Counties, on a memorial wall which is an intricate part of the redesigned Memorial Plaza area. To insure that all branches of service and major conflicts are represented, we are requesting that you follow the recommendations below in selecting a Veteran story from your community. If your County has an exceptional circumstance, please let us know as soon as possible. Your effort to help us provide comprehensive coverage by accepting your assigned conflict and branch of service is appreciated. Organizations within your community may be interested in helping you develop your story, including your local high school Junior ROTC, Boy or Girl Scouts and various veteran groups such as the VFW or American Legion – we are placing the mechanics of this process in your good hands.

P.O. Box 7148 • Asheville, N.C. 28802 • 828-259-5800 • [www.ashevilleparks.org](http://www.ashevilleparks.org)

The counties to be recognized and their recommended branch of service and conflict are as follows:

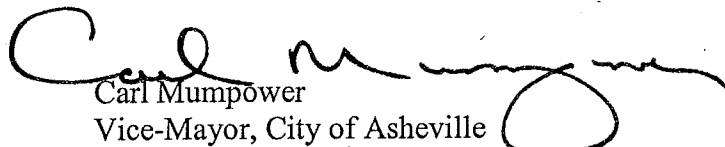
County Name	Branch of Service	Name of Conflict
Cherokee	Air Force	Vietnam War
Clay	Navy	WWII
Graham	Army	WWII
Swain	Marines	WWII
Macon	Navy	Korean War
Jackson	Merchant Marines	WWII
Haywood	Coast Guard	WWII
Transylvania	Army	WWII
Henderson	Open	Open
Buncombe	Open	Open
Madison	Navy	WWII
Yancy	Army	WWI
McDowell	Air Force	Korean War
Polk	Navy	Vietnam War
Mitchell	Navy	WWI
Rutherford	Marines	WWI

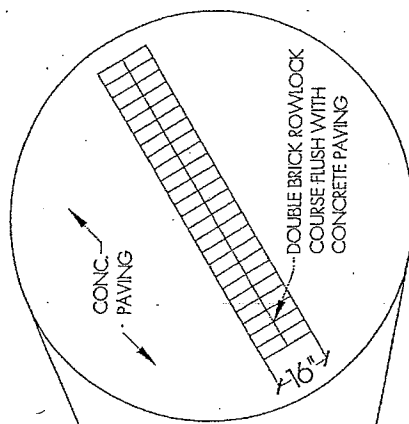
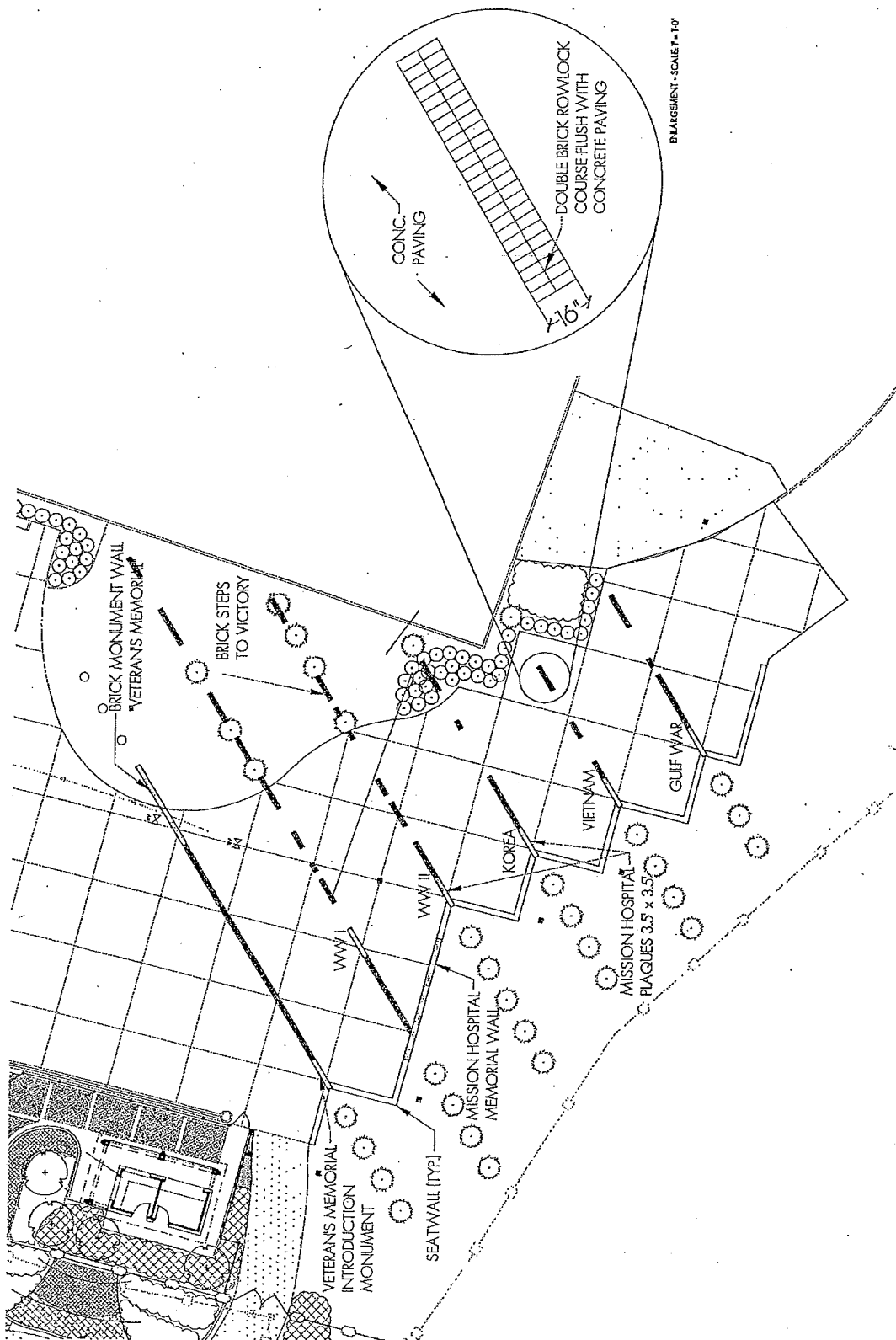
*\* We hope to recognize those killed in combat during the Gulf War and the Iraq War if there are deceased from WNC. Please submit these individuals for acknowledgment if possible.*

From the onset of this initiative, it has been the intention of the Memorial Stadium Restoration Committee to fund this effort through contributions, grants, and various fund raising strategies. We have, to date, received commitments of \$1,400,000 toward the \$2,000,000 budget for the overall project. We are prepared to assume the cost of each County's individual memorial (Approximately \$5,000-\$10,000), but we invite you to participate in this regional effort as resources allow. We are especially appreciative of any participation and support that can be stimulated with Veteran's groups in your community. There are additional amenities (such as small sculptures, benches, flags, and dedication markers) that can be added to your County's Memorial should there be a wish for a more active role in this regional initiative. To insure timely completion of the Memorial, we would ask to hear from you by January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2006.

On behalf of the City of Asheville, the Memorial Stadium Restoration Committee, and all of the good people of Western North Carolina, we are pleased to extend this invitation to help honor those men and women from our region who have given their lives in military service. Please let us know if we may provide any additional information or support. We value your participation and hope we can count on you to join with us in making Memorial Stadium a true and demonstrated tribute to those who have passed *and* those yet to serve.

With warmest regards,

  
 Carl Mumpower  
 Vice-Mayor, City of Asheville  
 Chair, Memorial Stadium Restoration Committee  
[drmumpower@aol.com](mailto:drmumpower@aol.com) (828) 252-8390



ENLARGEMENT - SCALE 1" = 10'

# VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

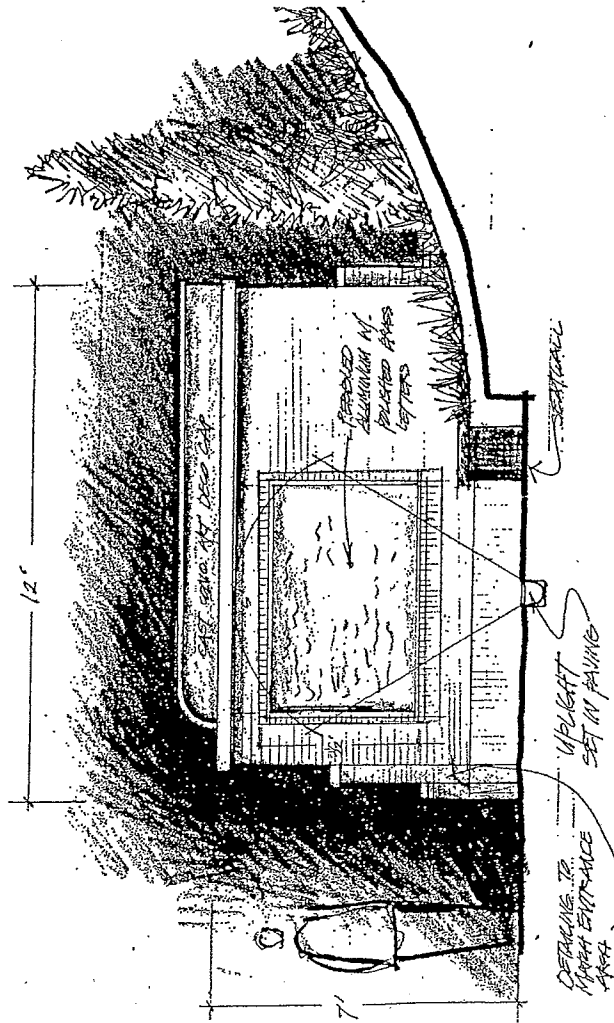
AT MEMORIAL STADIUM  
CITY OF ASHEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



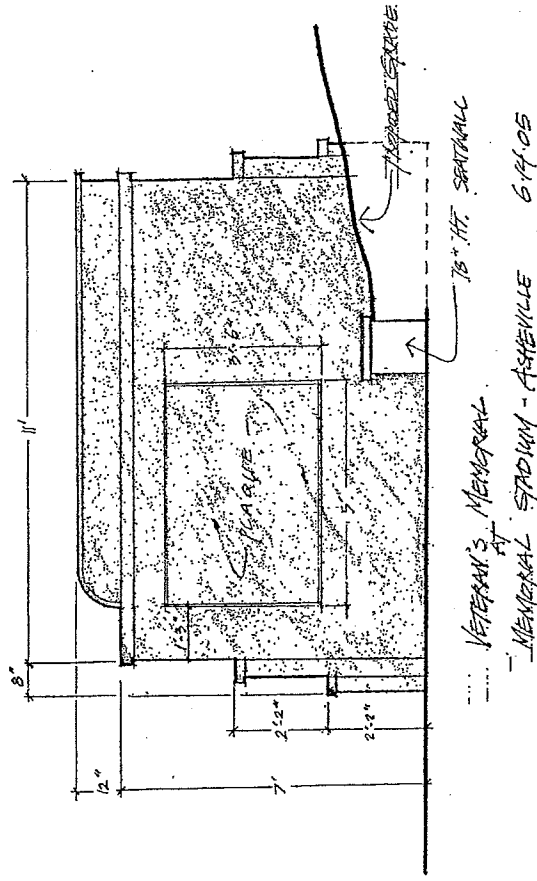
STUDIOS

SCALE 1" = 10'-0"  
0 5 10 20'

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT  
6-11-05



LAYOUT FOR Mock-up.



VETERAN'S MEMORIAL  
AT  
MEMORIAL STADIUM - ASHEVILLE 6/14/05



# VETERAN'S MEMORIAL

AT MEMORIAL STADIUM  
CITY OF ASHEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

STUDIOS

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT  
6-11-05