

## New monument honors The Old Guard

8/1/2008

The Old Guard Monument Foundation – a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization – has been formed to recognize the contributions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> United States Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and its unique role in our nation's history.

"The foundation," Col. James Laufenburg, USA, Ret., said, "has been established to pay tribute to the thousands of past, present and future Old Guard soldiers by raising funds to construct a monument to the United States Army and the regiment."



*Centered on the monument will be a replica of the traditional grave marker used at Arlington National Cemetery and an American flag.*

come from private donations."

For more information on the Old Guard Foundation, donation information and pictures of the sculpture, go to [www.theoldguardmonument.org](http://www.theoldguardmonument.org).

Laufenburg, the foundations' executive director and a former Old Guard regimental commander, said the 11-foot monument will be cited on the grounds of Fort Myer, Va., where the unit is headquartered, adjacent to Summerall Parade Field, near the old post theater and next to Sheridan Ave.

The secretary of the Army approved this project in August 2007.

The Old Guard, established on June 3, 1784, is recognized as the Army's most prestigious and historic unit.

It is the nation's oldest active duty infantry unit that 24 hours a day, 365 days a year guards the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery; provides honor guards and horse-drawn caissons for military funerals; is the senior ceremonial unit at White House welcoming ceremonies; has a military mission to, when needed, guard the nation's capital, its monuments and the White House; provided search and rescue operations to recover victims at the Pentagon after the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001; and has deployed soldiers to the Horn of Africa to support the global war on terrorism.

Laufenburg said the nine-foot sculpture, positioned on a two-foot pedestal, was created by B.J. Mungenast, from St. Louis, Mo., and will feature three soldiers representing the regiment's triple mission: ceremonial duties, security missions in the greater Washington area, and as a combat ready unit trained and ready to deploy quickly to the world's trouble spots.

Centered among the monument's three statues of Old Guard soldiers will be a replica of the traditional grave marker used at Arlington National Cemetery and an American flag – paying tribute to our nation's fallen heroes.

The foundation is now ready to begin its fund raising program for the \$1.5 million dollars required to make the monument a reality.

"All funds," Laufenberger said, "expended to make this monument happen will