

**Draft Press Release:**

**September 28, 2008**

**Old Guard Monument Details Outlined For Former Members**

Former members of the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment, The Old Guard, ended their 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the Old Guard Association in Washington today, returning to their homes with renewed memories of their active duty, and with new information about a major monument planed to honor their service to the nation as well as that of all past, present and future members of this historic Army unit.

Col. James Laufenburg, US Army (Ret), Executive Director of The Old Guard Monument Foundation, informed reunion participants that the Secretary of the Army has approved a plan to place a sculpture on the grounds of Ft. Myer in Arlington, Virginia, the Old Guard headquarters. It is to be dedicated when the Old Guard Association meets for their 12<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2009. Laufenburg, a member of the Association, is a former Regimental Commander of the Old Guard.

Armed with a display depicting the nine-foot high bronze sculpture that will be mounted on a pedestal in a place of prominence adjacent to the parade grounds of the historic fort, Laufenburg told attendees that the three- figure sculpture, created by B.J. Mungenast of St. Louis, MO, will recognize the triple mission of the regiment: to perform both ceremonial and security duties in the Washington DC area, while maintaining itself as a combat ready unit, able to quickly deploy as needed to the world's trouble spots. The display also portrayed a model of the plaza planned to surround the sculpture, tracing ceremonial gateways into the site and graceful pathways leading to the monument itself.

In sharing his own active duty experiences in the Old Guard, Laufenburg told attendees that the idea for the monument came to him as he commanded 3<sup>rd</sup> United States Infantry Regiment soldiers at the scene of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on 9/11. His troops were charged with sector security and removing the dead and injured from the smoldering rubble left by the passenger plane directed into the building by the hijackers. "As I watched these dedicated men and women discharge their tasks with the same professionalism that they daily display in their ceremonial duties, I resolved to promote the idea of a memorial to the Old Guard."

Since that time, pro bono services and cash donations have moved the monument project to its present state. Laufenburg estimates the approximately \$1.2 million dollars will be required to see the project to completion.

Many attendees signed the Old Guard Memorial guest book and asked to be put on an email roster to receive periodic updates on the monument's progress. All expressed the desire to be a part of the grand ceremony planned when the Old Guard Monument is dedicated in October, 2009.