



DMS design
Architectural Design Services

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As a first generation Portuguese American, and someone who has relatives and friends that served in the United States Armed Forces, it was a great honor to develop a design for this Veterans' Memorial. I was very surprised to learn that the service men and women of Portuguese descent did not yet have an appropriate memorial to honor their dedication and commitment to the American people.

The Order of Christ Cross was my inspiration for the main body of the memorial as it has served as a clear Portuguese symbol since the 1300s and will continue to do so for future generations. It has also served as a symbol for the Portuguese military and a traditional symbol used to recognize significant services by soldiers and civilians. The cross itself is a simple geometric shape and is timeless in its design, with its clean lines and powerful presence. I then broke the cross down into an abstract form in attempts to make the monument secular in appearance. The monument is constructed of New England Granite as required and each "arm" of the memorial could be constructed separately or in a solid block according to availability and costs.

The memorial in plan reflects the Order of Christ Cross but at 8' tall the memorial will not be viewed in plan. The memorial as it would be viewed allows for an engaging perspective in all 360 degrees. The geometry provides 4 equal sides which serve as the main display surfaces of the memorial. The arms of the memorial raise at an angle of 23.5-degree which represents the correct position that an armillary sphere should be oriented when being used to record measurements utilizing a celestial body. This framing draws the viewer to the center of the monument and the armillary. I chose to emphasize the Portuguese Armillary as it represents Portugal's significant accomplishments and contributions related to maritime navigation, exploration, and role in connecting the world. Although the armillary is a prominent feature in Portugal's flag, and one of the most notable of the Country's symbols, I have always felt that the 2-dimensional representation did not fully articulate its actual design and was a feature inaccessible to those unfamiliar with the tool itself. It is for this reason that I chose to incorporate it in 3-dimensions. A semi-circular recess in the center of the memorial serves as a home for the armillary and embodies Portugal's age of exploration as a core its history.

The base of the memorial, constructed with complementary colored stone and is in the shape of the Nine of the faces of the base have a copper star to symbolize the islands of the Azores and the tenth face contains a copper Order of Christ Cross representing the island of Madeira. The circular walkway around the memorial is constructed of cobblestone to echo the historic roads of Portugal, Madeira, and the Azores.

The south face of the memorial depicts the forming of a keel or arch. The west and east

faces represent the forming of the hull of a ship or the buttress of a building. The north face represents the deck of a ship or a buttress as well. The south, west and east faces will prominently display military seals for each of the six branches of the United States Armed Forces constructed in bas-relief from copper. Two seals will be on each facade with the north face providing the appropriate location for the epitaph paying tribute to those that have honorably served our country. Each face will be dramatically lit with landscape lighting located inside triangular copper housings. These lighting fixtures will also serve to signify the four cardinal directions, as indicated on a compass. The memorial is intended to be situated with the epitaph side facing directly north.

The landscape elements are comprised of lavender which is the official flower of Portugal, hydrangeas which embodies the Azores and the island of Madeira as well as native grasses all situated within a mulch edged area.

The memorial, as conceived, is well represented at any scale, but the design submitted has it at the maximum allowable height of 8' with the epitaph and military seals at traditional eye level range. This also puts the width of the memorial itself at the maximum width of 6'.

Again, I am pleased and honored to have the opportunity to submit this design recognizing my heritage and memorializing the past, present and future contributions and sacrifices made by all Portuguese and Luso-Americans in the U.S. military. Should my design be chosen, I would be pleased to be part of a collaborative effort to develop a final product based on this submission.

Best regards,

Sid Silveira