

commentary

from other pens...

Pondering ways to remember Sept. 11

By Lawrence L. Knutson

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Tragedy cannot be erased, but it can be remembered. Marble and bronze do not enhance valor and victory and sacrifice, but monuments can tell the story, generation after generation.

As the search begins for ways to remember the events of Sept. 11, a new exhibit exploring the language and nature of monuments may provide a starting place. An examination of real and imagined national memorials, it opened at the National Building Museum in Washington days after the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

Howard Decker, the museum's chief curator, said the plans and models submitted by members of the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects have acquired an unanticipated significance.

"There has been an enormous amount of conversation around the country about what ought to be an appropriate monument to the victims of Sept. 11," Decker said in an interview last week. "In their diversity these earlier proposals offer ... a place to begin asking questions."

The making of monuments is a process that evolves over time. The capital has become a retrospective of a wide range of frozen memory.

Civil War generals ride into action, Andrew Jackson straddles his horse in front of the White House, the mast of the battleship Maine rises at Arlington National Cemetery and the shrouded figure of "Grief" by Augustus Saint Gaudens keeps vigil in a Washington cemetery.

"It is the human soul face to face with the greatest of all mysteries," wrote Henry Adams, who commissioned it after the death of his wife. Memorials range from classical marble temples erected to Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln to a story-telling monument that describes Franklin D. Roosevelt's service to the nation in four outdoor rooms.

He pointed to architect Maya Lin's Vietnam Veterans Memorial as "the prime example" of the monument as metaphor. It employs a polished black stone chevron jutting from the earth to honor the 55,000 war dead whose names are carved row on row.

The exhibit room at the museum is filled with the sound of bells, symbolizing those rung to celebrate victory at the end of World War II. The bells are from one of five proposed World War II memorials on view.

One, entitled "Liberty," is composed of three tall supports which, like a long arm, hold a golden ball on which light would shimmer and bounce.

"I think ... by virtue of their diversity they do offer an opportunity to reflect on what an appropriate monument to Sept. 11 might be," he said.

Decker cited three proposals for Sept. 11 monuments, especially at ground zero in New York:

—Recreate the dimensions of one of the 110-story World Trade Center towers and dig down as far in the ground as it was tall "so visitors could go down to look back up and see a square of sky."

—Plant grass to cover the architectural footprint, the ground-level dimensions, of the two fallen towers.

—Erect twin towers of laser light aimed into the night sky.

There are hundreds more: Rebuild the towers exactly as they were; build a ring of four 50-story buildings and a memorial park; use part of the skeletal remains of the lower reaches of one tower as a centerpiece.

Architects are beginning to think of a memorial at the Pentagon and at the field in Pennsylvania where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed.

"The questions in all three places are what would be most meaningful, most resonant design," Decker said. "We will all watch this unfold."

A temporary touching memorial to the tragedy in New York already exists just steps away from the red-brick bulk of the Building Museum.

It is a small, laminated, cardboard sign attached to one of the two commemorative stone walls of the national Law Enforcement Memorial.

On it are photographs of 37 members of the New York Police Department, killed on Sept. 11. Their names will join the more than 15,000 names of American police officers killed in the line of duty over 200 years.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Lawrence L. Knutson has covered the White House, Congress and Washington's history for 34 years.



Island brides and money — the American dream

Be patriotic and buy stock not sell them they said. Its patriotic to have a party in the universe of the world, New York City, too.

Would it be patriotic to fight terrorism with food imports from South America? If it is would it be patriotic for the imports to come on American made and manned ships?

Can't do that it would cost too much money. You may be right but hedge funds and Dot Com stock traders don't need the Maritime Service to export their money. With a click they can send it to secret bank accounts in some off shore bank.

Farm subsidies have been around so long some think it was in the constitution. But when we hear we are losing our constitutional rights they are not talking about another free-food farm bill.

They are talking about the American dream of Money, and a friend with privileges.

Right! These said banks use both sex and money. Let me be your island bride and come see the many sexy and pretty girls.

Uhh ladies of the night and secret bank accounts? I mean that's two separate questions its OK to freeze the assets of those Islamic terrorists but we would not want to catch those tax dodgers.

So far the G 7 industrialized nations have not been able to stem the flow of money to off shore banks nor prostitution. Well now why don't you prudes just go away, that's nobody's business and you know everyone does it.

The customers of these shell banks receive no IRS form 1099, with which to report interest and dividends to the Internal Revenue Service. So look out when those money bags starts talking about their constitutional rights.

You should hear them screaming it makes one wonder what they are hiding. They just about say "give me liberty or give me death" before they would pay their taxes.

These defenders of the constitution is a strange coalition of conservatives and far-left liberals. In fact they protest too much.



wayne gattshall

• wayne's world

They evoke our founding fathers saying how there has been an erosion of our constitution, and they may be right. But they should focus on—this problem. We could have lost the White House and the Capital building.

It,s not something about what may or may not happen, sometime in the future. America is under siege to some really crazy people.

If we don't think sensibly we won't act sensibly. When they found anthrax spores on Capital Hill some couldn't wait to call the tribal council chicken when it closed down the House of Representatives but when two postal workers died from anthrax, they looked stupid.

It is just as stupid to say we want to hear what Bin Laden has to say. OK war is not by Marquis of Queensberry rules, so for those that don,t like America — and our semi-schizophrenic media might be too patriotic— they can hear Bin Laden on the Al' Jazeera net work twenty four hours a day.

This is not the Vietnam war and the Big Chief in the White Teepee is not Richard Nixon. Then it was "I would rather be red than American."

The burning of the United State flag and publishing of the Pentagon Papers was a first amendment right. It didn't matter that it was classified material to the New York Times and the Washington Post when they published them simultaneous. They said it was the people's right to know.

If government happened to fail it is because it listened to the Vietnam protests. That is when the CIA was compromised. The I won't go to your (**!!) war was afraid the CIA would have uncovered a connection to the Vietnam protests and foreign

sources.

So (THIS) Hanoi Jane — dog is chasing the wrong rabbit. While the CIA and FBI was infiltrating each other trying to catch Randy Weaver conspiring with the skin heads in Montana and Idaho they should have been putting some men on the ground looking into what this bunch of crazies was doing.

They could have used the CIA to ferret out the tax dodgers too. There is no doubt that the war on drugs has been a failure and now we know why. They call it a victimless crime and is racist but who would want to ride in a plane if the pilot was snorting coke. So go after the drug dealing and the tax dodger dogs who put their money in Secrecy-cloaked Caribbean banks.

These correspondent banks handle more than \$1 trillion in transactions daily.

A Congressional investigation revealed Bin Laden did use these shell banks, that have nothing but a funny looking geek's play thing, called a computer.

So in order for them to go after the Bin Laden.money the Big Chief will need the support of our own banking caves first.

Afghanistan was not always the robber's roost for terrorists. It once was a Constitutional Monarchy. It even had women in its legislature.

The very fact it is a mountainous nation means it probably is rich in natural resources and even oil.

Ah, ha, so that's what this is about. Maybe, or maybe not, but it's not illegal to make money in America. It was not the Big Chief that flew the 747 air liners into the World Trade Center. Go ahead freeze in YOUR caves and pay \$5.00 a gallon for gas.

So is it possible this is more than about Yassir after all?

Does anyone think that even if Israel made Yassir Arafat president they would love America?

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Trading over the Internet is risky business

Dear Attorney General Stovall:

I have seen some offers on the Internet where a person can trade merchandise and not have to exchange any money. The only money that seems to be involved is the shipping costs for each party to send the item being traded. I would think this would be a great deal because each person is giving up an item they aren't using in exchange for something they need. Attorney General Stovall, are there any guidelines or advice you can give to help me make wise decisions concerning trading over the Internet?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

The first thing you need to know is that if a transaction occurs between two individuals, my office is not able take any action should something bad occur. My office only has jurisdiction to handle complaints regarding transactions between suppliers and consumers. A supplier is defined as one who sells something in the "ordinary course of business." If a person sells or trades something over the Internet only a few times a year, this would not constitute an "ordinary course of business."

With that said, you should be extremely cautious when trading items over the Internet. If a company has established itself as a "middleman" for doing



carla j. stovall

• consumer corner

this business, it may be a safer to use the company instead to trade an item. Otherwise, as an individual trading with another individual, there is a chance you may not get the item you traded for. If you send your item expecting to receive something in exchange, there is no guarantee that the other item will be sent. And if that happens, you have little recourse. It can be extremely difficult, time consuming, and often impossible to track down an individual using the Internet for this type of transaction. Also, if you are trading with an individual, there may be no way of checking the quality of the item you are trading for.

Most people who sell and trade over the Internet are honest, but there are those who are not. It may be safer to either go through a reputable business that will offer to sell your item for a fee, or to sell your item on your own and apply that money to the

item you wanted to get. This way there is a guarantee you will receive something in return, and that peace of mind may be worth forgoing what you might have assumed was an "even trade."

Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints. For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and subject of your inquiry with the receptionist and your call will be returned promptly.

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