



GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION.

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



HONOR



HEAL



EMPOWER



UNITE

# Message from Our Leadership

**IN DECEMBER 2021**, the Foundation received authorization from Congress to construct a Memorial in the Reserve area of the National Mall. That milestone catalyzed the next stage of making the Memorial a reality. As will be described further in this report, the Foundation succeeded in three core operational areas in 2022: building the right leadership team, increasing awareness about our work, and positioning ourselves to raise the funds needed for the Memorial's construction and operation. Our first step in 2022 was to reappoint Michael "Rod" Rodriguez as our President and CEO. Thanks to all who have supported us. We continue to move forward in our mission to honor, heal, empower, and unite.



**Theodore "Ted" C. Skokos**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**2022 MARKED 21 YEARS** since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism. In that timespan, multiple generations of Americans have served in combat theaters around the world. Many will undoubtedly continue to fight terrorism in the years to come. My life's work since my retirement from the U.S. Army has been to honor all of them. In January 2022, I had the humble privilege of returning to the Global War on Terrorism Foundation as its President and CEO following my deployment in 2021. Thanks to the efforts of our team and supporters, 2022 was a remarkable year of progress for the Foundation. An increasing number of Americans now understand who we are and what we do, and have contributed their time, talent, and treasure to our cause. 2022 laid the Foundation for 2023, a year in which we have already secured permission to move forward design planning towards a specific site for the Memorial alongside an amazing design team. The best is yet to come.



**Michael "Rod" Rodriguez**

**PRESIDENT AND CEO**

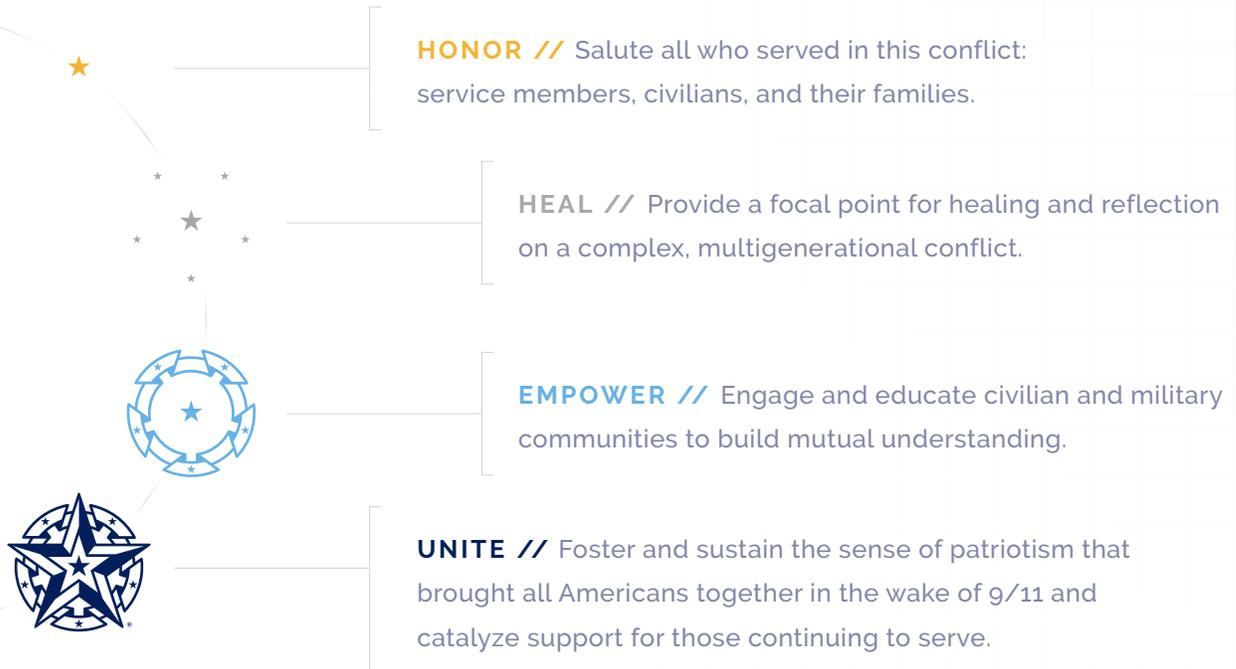
# About Us

## The MISSION

**THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION (GWOTMF)** was founded in 2015 by a group of veterans, military spouses, and supportive Americans to honor the service and sacrifice of all individuals, both uniformed and non-uniformed, who have contributed to global counterterrorism efforts since September 11, 2001.

## Our VISION

**OUR VISION FOR THE MEMORIAL** is for it to be an inclusive and reverent space for all who have served and sacrificed in the GWOT, as well as the countless civilians, family members, and others who have supported them. We also aim to recognize the ongoing nature of the war. The Memorial will:



The GLOBAL WAR  
on TERRORISM

# By the Numbers



21+

Duration of the Global War on Terrorism, in years, as of 2022.



3.7M

Approximate number of veterans who served in the U.S. military from September 11, 2001 to 2018.<sup>1</sup>



7K+

American service members killed in Global War on Terrorism overseas contingency operations since September 11, 2001.



53K+

American service members wounded in Global War on Terrorism overseas contingency operations since September 11, 2001.



3.4K+

Non-uniform service members killed in Afghanistan and Iraq from September 11, 2001 to April 2019, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.<sup>2</sup>



38K+

Civilian service members sustaining work-related injuries in Afghanistan and Iraq from September 11, 2001 to April 2016, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.<sup>3</sup>



63%

Percentage of Americans who support a Global War on Terrorism Memorial on the National Mall, according to a 2021 Ipsos survey commissioned by the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation.<sup>4</sup>



42%

Percentage of survey respondents who didn't know anyone who has served in the Global War on Terrorism. This figure highlights a national knowledge gap about the war.<sup>5</sup>

1. [www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/acs-43.pdf](http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/acs-43.pdf); 2. [sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/IF11182.pdf](http://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/IF11182.pdf); 3. [sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/IF11182.pdf](http://sgp.fas.org/crs/natsec/IF11182.pdf); 4. [www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org/americans-lack-basic-knowledge-of-gwot](http://www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org/americans-lack-basic-knowledge-of-gwot); 5. [www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org/americans-lack-basic-knowledge-of-gwot](http://www.gwotmemorialfoundation.org/americans-lack-basic-knowledge-of-gwot)

# 2022 Year in Review



The GWOTMF was proud to represent on October 7, 2022 at the Army's annual Army Ten-Mile Race and Expo.

## BUILDING *Our* TEAM

Any organization committed to success must have the right team in place, especially at the top. In 2022, the Foundation added talented and committed individuals to various leadership positions.

Key among these additions was the reappointment of Michael "Rod" Rodriguez as President and CEO, a role he had previously held from March 2018 to September 2020. Rod's commitment to service runs in his family's blood. Both grandfathers served during World War II, and his father is a Vietnam veteran. After 21 years of continuous service and ten deployments with the U.S. Army, including as a Green Beret, Rod was medically retired for numerous injuries he received while serving our great Nation.

The Rodriguez family's legacy of wearing the uniform continues to this day: Rod's eldest son is currently serving with the 82nd Airborne Division and has deployed to the same regions of Afghanistan that Rod did. The Global War on Terrorism Memorial therefore has a powerful personal significance for him. An artist and blacksmith, Rod is a passionate advocate for the power of art to heal and inspire. Most importantly, he is a proud grandfather, father, and hermano to many.

The rest of the year saw multiple new personnel additions to build a team enthusiastic about bringing the Memorial to life:

**NATE BOYER**  
ADVISOR

**CECILIA DEYO**  
BOARD TREASURER

**REV. DR. DARIUS J. HOLLAND**  
ADVISOR

**ERICA JEFFRIES PURDO**  
ADVISOR

**SHANNON SLUTMAN**  
ADVISOR

**WYATT SMITH**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

**U.S. ARMY COMMAND SERGEANT  
MAJOR ISAIA VIMOTO (RETIRED)**  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**U.S. ARMY GENERAL  
JOSEPH VOTEL (RETIRED)**  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# Spreading Our Message



*Throughout 2022, Foundation representatives traveled the country and held events on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to raise awareness about the Memorial and its progress. Below are just a few of the many highlights:*



**JANUARY 7, 2022**

Student Veterans of America awards its inaugural **Senator Bob Dole Continued Service Award** to the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation.



**MARCH 17, 2022\***

The Foundation held its inaugural **Ruck the Reserve** on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Designed to reflect the spirit of a military *ruck march*, the event celebrated the **Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act** becoming law in December 2021.



**JUNE 10, 2022**

*Gray Television News* profiles **Gold Star child, Kiki Patterson** who joined the Foundation's ruck with the Freedom Alliance. Said Patterson of the future Memorial, *"This is a place of peace. This is a place where you can finally let go of that grief."*



**JUNE 19, 2022**

Foundation President and CEO, Michael "Rod" Rodriguez, and Board Member, Isaia Vimoto, **co-author an op-ed** for Father's Day in the *Fayetteville Observer*.



"ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I LOVE THE MOST ABOUT THE GWOTMF IS THAT IT IS ABOUT EMPOWERMENT. MY GIRLS FEEL LIKE THEY ARE CHANGING THE FUTURE. THEY ENJOY BEING A PART OF THE FOUNDATION BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT THEY ARE BEING EMPOWERED. IT IS WONDERFUL FOR THEM TO BE PART OF THE FOUNDATION AND TO FEEL THAT THEY ARE SEEN AND HEARD."



**Shannon Slutman**

BOARD OF ADVISORS



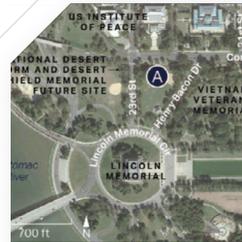
**JULY 2022**

Michael "Rod" Rodriguez addresses the **Gold Star Wives of America Convention** in Boston, Massachusetts.



**AUGUST 2022**

Michael "Rod" Rodriguez addresses the **103<sup>rd</sup> annual American Legion National Convention** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Speaking to the Legion's members, "*We need to provide an opportunity for the current generations that are fighting in a war—a war with no end in sight—the opportunity to tell their stories.*"



**OCTOBER 18, 2022**

The Foundation appeared before the **National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission (NCMAC)** to present and review the Foundation's site selection plan. The meeting also provided an opportunity to reinforce the importance of the Memorial to our GWOT heroes, their families, and all Americans.

★ **RUCK the RESERVE**

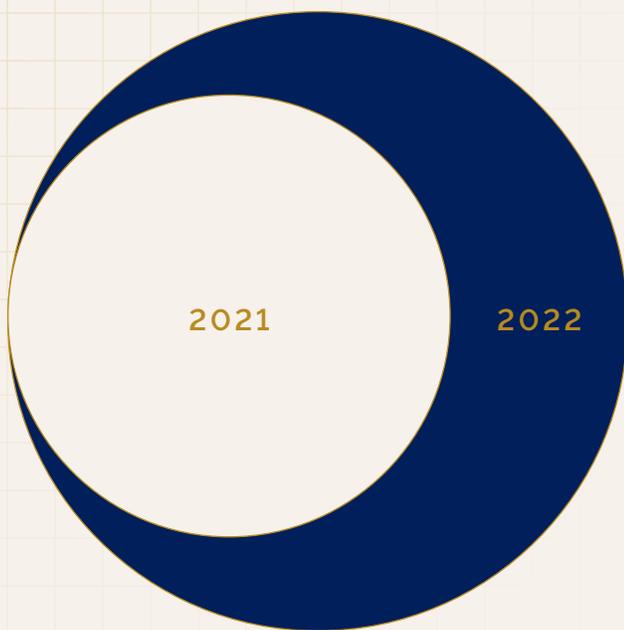
The Foundation continued to hold rucks throughout the year to raise awareness for the Memorial. Joining us to participate in the inaugural event were:

- Secretary of Veterans Affairs **Denis McDonough**
- Co-sponsors of our legislation in the Senate, **Senator Joni Ernst** (R-IA) and **Senator Maggie Hassan** (D-NH)
- Co-sponsors of our legislation in the House, **Representative Jason Crow** (D-CO) and **Representative Mike Gallagher** (R-WI)
- **Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks** (R-IA)
- **Representative Bruce Westerman** (R-AR)

# Funding the Memorial



*The Foundation's current projected fundraising goal for the Memorial's construction and maintenance is \$110 million. By law, no federal funding will be used to construct the Memorial, so we depend on contributions from our supporters. Throughout 2022, we received many donations of all sizes, for which we are supremely grateful.*



*In 2022, the Global War on Terrorism Foundation saw a 40% INCREASE in organizational giving.*

$$\begin{array}{rcccl} \$2,695,769 & - & \$1,176,108 & = & \$1,519,661 \\ \text{CONTRIBUTIONS} & & \text{EXPENSES} & & \text{NET ASSETS IN 2022} \\ \text{AND GRANTS} & & & & \end{array}$$

For more information and to view our 990, please visit [GWOTMemorialFoundation.org](http://GWOTMemorialFoundation.org)

## INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN OUR MISSION?

Contact our Vice President of Development, Wyatt Smith, at [wsmith@gwotmf.org](mailto:wsmith@gwotmf.org).

# Top DONORS

SERVANT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL: \$1M+



LIBERTY GIFT: \$25K+



STAR GIFT: \$10K+

Debbie Williams

SHIELD GIFT: \$5K+

Baker Hostetler  
Baker Distributing Co.

B.E. Meyers & Co.  
Columbia River Knife and Tool

Freedom Alliance  
Sorinex

ARROW GIFT: \$1K+

Shannon Slutman  
Leonardo DRS  
Donald Workman

LeeAnn Gilman  
Paul Krause  
Joseph Votel

VFW Ohio Charities  
Aurora Post 2629  
Lyla Kohistany



The generosity of **MISSION BBQ** has been crucial to the progress of the GWOTMF and we are thankful for their partnership. Not only is Founder Bill Kraus an active GWOTMF Board Member, but MISSION BBQ is a member of our Servant Leadership Council and raises awareness for the Memorial throughout the year, such as hosting us to ride on their National Memorial Day Parade float and inviting us to speak at new location openings across the country, where proceeds of each American Heroes Cup purchase benefit the GWOTMF.

**1.5M = \$3M+**  
cups raised



# Executive LEADERSHIP



**HONORARY CHAIRMAN**  
**GEORGE W. BUSH**  
43rd President of the U.S.



**PRESIDENT AND CEO**  
**MICHAEL "ROD" RODRIGUEZ**  
Retired U.S. Army Green Beret  
GWOT Veteran



**CHAIRMAN**  
**THEODORE "TED" SKOKOS**  
Desert Storm Veteran;  
Dallas Business Leader



**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
**KENNETH A. HERSH**  
President & CEO, *George W. Bush Presidential Center*



**SECRETARY**  
**RYE BARCOTT**  
U.S.M.C. GWOT Veteran;  
Co-Founder & CEO, *With Honor*



**TREASURER**  
**CECILIA DEYO**  
U.S. Navy GWOT Veteran;  
CEO, *D-DEY Response Group*



**BOARD MEMBER**  
**JOSEPH VOTEL**  
GWOT Veteran; Retired U.S. Army General & Commander, *U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Ops Command*



**BOARD MEMBER**  
**BILL KRAUS**  
Co-Founder, *MISSION BBQ*



**BOARD MEMBER**  
**ISAIA VIMOTO**  
GWOT Veteran; Retired U.S. Army Command Sgt. Major;  
Gold Star Father;



**DIRECTOR EMERITUS**  
*(In Memory)*  
**EDWIN "SPIKE" WAHLEN**

# ALLIES



## AMBASSADORS

### AMBASSADOR

**BRENDAN DIGNAN**

GWOT Veteran

### AMBASSADOR

**MAGGIE DUSKIN**

Gold Star Widow

### AMBASSADOR

**JAMES HOWARD**

GWOT Veteran

### AMBASSADOR

**M. LYLA KOHISTANY**

GWOT Veteran

### AMBASSADOR

**BERT SORIN**

### AMBASSADOR

**GANPAT “GUNNER” WAGH**

GWOT Veteran

## BOARD OF ADVISORS

### ADVISOR

**NATE BOYER**

U.S. Army GWOT Veteran; Former Green Beret; Philanthropist; Humanitarian

### ADVISOR

**JOSEPH DEPINTO**

President & CEO, 7-Eleven

### ADVISOR

**MATT GANNON**

Head of Federal Affairs, Farmers Insurance

### ADVISOR

**REV. DR. DARIUS J. HOLLAND**

U.S. Army GWOT Veteran; Pastor & Captain, U.S. Army

### ADVISOR

**JARED LYON**

GWOT Veteran; National President & CEO, Student Veterans of America

### ADVISOR

**SUSANA MARTINEZ**

Former Governor of New Mexico

### ADVISOR

**ERICA JEFFRIES PURDO**

GWOT Veteran; North America Pharmacy Channel Leader, Strategic Customer Group

### ADVISOR

**SHANNON SLUTMAN**

Gold Star Widow; Mother of three

### ADVISOR

**KEVIN SULLIVAN**

Sr. Advisor for External Affairs, George W. Bush Presidential Center

### ADVISOR

**JENNIE TAYLOR**

GWOT Veteran; Gold Star Widow; Mother of seven

## CURRENT OPERATIONS STAFF

*As of September 2023*

### GOLD STAR FELLOW

**JENNIFER R. BALLOU**

GWOT Veteran

### CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

**DAVID BEARDEN**

### VP OF COMMUNICATIONS

**MEGAN FUENTES**

### SR. ADVISOR & COUNSEL

**MICHAEL MCMAHAN**

### MANAGER, SPECIAL PROJECTS

**MARY CATHERINE MORRIS**

### VP OF OPERATIONS

**ANDREA RYANT**

### VP OF DEVELOPMENT

**WYATT SMITH**

### COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIST

**DAVID WILEZOL**





**GLOBAL WAR ON  
TERRORISM MEMORIAL  
FOUNDATION**

Ronald Reagan Building  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20004



**[GWOTMemorialFoundation.org](http://GWOTMemorialFoundation.org)**

Tax EIN: 47-3700489

*The Global War on Terrorism Memorial  
Foundation is a registered, tax-exempt  
501(c)(3) organization.*