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VETERANS OFFICE

Mayor

**Possible Renovations to the Veterans Memorial on Sgt. Alfred Drive**

**I. Most Elaborate Renovation**

1. Move current monument back 15-20 feet.
2. Create a mound approximately 3 1/2' high and put the monument on top of that. Cover the mound in grass.
3. Design a proportionately appropriate reflecting pool to be situated in front of the mound. Install a pump to keep the water circulating and have many fountains (nozzles) at various points in the pool.
4. On each side of the pool place appropriate paving material and on top of that put benches parallel to the fountain and perpendicular to the monument itself.
5. At the end of the pool place another bench facing the monument.
6. Behind the monument plant five Italian Cypress trees, representing the five branches of the Armed Forces. (Italian Cypresses grow straight up like candles making them exceptionally appropriate for this kind of use.
7. Surround the entire memorial with appropriate flowers.

**II. A Less Elaborate Renovation**

1. Move the monument as indicated above.
2. Eliminate the mound. Keep the monument at grade level.
3. Eliminate the pool. In its place create a proportionately appropriate paved area, using decorative paving material, to take the place of the pool. Place appropriate potted plantings at various points on the pavement.
4. Place benches in the same manner as indicated above.
5. Plant Italian Cypresses as indicated above.
6. Surround the entire memorial with appropriate flowers.

**III. A Minimalist Renovation of the Memorial**

1. Move the monument back as indicated above. Keep it at grade level.

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2. Place benches near it as indicated above.
3. Plant Italian Cypresses behind it as indicated above.
4. Create no paved area, but landscape that area as well as we can. Surround entire area with appropriate plantings.

### **Features Applicable to Each of the Above Renovations**

1. In each case use appropriate, old style, decorative lighting around the entire monument.
2. In each case have designed and built a name monument saying simply: Veterans Memorial Park on both sides of the named monument. Place one of them at some point along Sgt. Alfred Drive. Illuminate it. Place the other one somewhere along Cleveland??? Ave. Illuminate it.
3. Place flagpoles in the best place possible to fly the US flag, the flag of the State of Louisiana, the flag of the City of Slidell, and the flags of each of the Armed Services.

For now that's it. If I think of something else I will let you know.

I remain in strong support of some kind of improvement to the Veterans Monument.

I remain adamantly opposed to either: a) moving the monument to Heritage Park or b) placing another duplicate monument at Heritage Park. (This last suggestion is ridiculous. Reasonable iconography does not increase honor by pointless replication. Even in Washington D.C. there are not two Washington monuments. There is one. And that singularity adds to its importance. The same is true for the monuments/memorials to Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the monument to the Korean Veterans, and the monument to the Vietnam Veterans themselves).

*Sam Caruso by Wanda Belman*

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Councilman, District E  
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1985-2002