

**CONCERNED MWR PATRONS**

P.O. Box 57, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

[www.concernedmwrpatrons.org](http://www.concernedmwrpatrons.org)

March 31, 2011

Senator Carl Levin  
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee  
269 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Howard "Buck" McKeon  
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee  
2184 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Levin and McKeon:

In the current economy, the Army's \$31 million 2012 MILCON project for Fort Belvoir – "Road and Infrastructure Improvements" to support the eventual construction of the NMUSA could be interpreted as a waste of vital appropriated funds at this time.

The Army Historical Foundation has been fund-raising since 2004. Its 2009 IRS Form 990 shows only \$12.6 million in the bank or pledged of the \$160-\$200 million private funds required to proceed with Phase I construction in 2013, let alone the total \$335+ million to complete the NMUSA. The real time status of AHF's museum fund-raising is not transparent to the public. However, based on its past five years performance, AHF fundraising probably has not improved since our June 2009 letters to Congress about a similar premature \$20 million MILCON project in the 2010 Army budget.

The premature 2012 MILCON Project, if allowed to proceed, will have a significant adverse impact on the "quality of life" of DOD active duty and retiree families who live in Northern Virginia. This project will close indefinitely a portion of the Fort Belvoir's Golf Courses once construction is started in April 2012. Without adequate private funding to sustain vertical construction in 2013, the 2012 MILCON project will build roads and extend all utilities on a portion of the golf course (effectively eliminate seven holes of the golf course) that will house the museum. This has all the markings of a classic "hurry up and wait" exercise where MILCON funds enable the Army to break ground hurriedly and began the early road and infrastructure work followed by waiting for incremental infusions of private funding lasting decade(s) to complete. This will probably result in adverse publicity regarding premature Congressional funding of a privately supported underfunded project, the Army management of the NMUSA project, and the Army's concern for the "quality of life" of the Soldier.

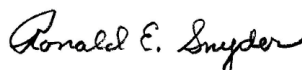
Our attached letter to the Secretary of Defense contains more detailed rationale for deleting this project from the 2012 Budget at this time.

Concerned MWR Patrons, ([www.concernedmwrpatrons.com](http://www.concernedmwrpatrons.com)), are military veterans and MWR patrons who since 2008 have made the same recommendations to the Army as the best choice to ensure that the sequential completion of the MWR golf facility reconfiguration and then the establishment of the NMUSA are done in a manner that reflects credit on the Army and supports "Quality of Life" for our military families.

Very Respectfully,  
for the Concerned MWR PATRONS



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Attached: Concerned MWR Patrons letter of March 18, 2011 to the Secretary of Defense

Copies to: Senator Jim Webb  
Senator John McCain  
Senator Lindsey Graham  
Senator Daniel Inouye  
Senator Jack Reed  
Senator Mark Warner

Representative Adam Smith  
Representative Frank Wolfe  
Representative Jim Moran  
Representative Gerald Connolly