



For Immediate Release

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SI Memorials Begins Erecting Piatt Plane Crash Memorial

Thursday, June 28, SI Memorials will begin erecting the Piatt Plane Crash Memorial in the Piatt Memorial Park, 20th and Piatt St. in Wichita, Kansas. The memorial commemorates the tragedy which occurred January 16, 1965, when a KC-135 Tanker plane crashed into the Piatt neighborhood, killing the air crew and many innocent civilians.

The memorial is made of Imperial Black Granite and consists of a capped entry with round columns, flanked by wings on either side. The 12-ft. high x 22-ft. wide x 1-ft. thick granite tablets will bear the names of the 30 victims. A contrasting paver area surrounds the memorial, with benches placed in the park for quiet reflection.

As part of the same project SI Memorials will install the refurbished recognition plaque for Lynette Woodard, female basketball star at KU, who went on to star for the Harlem Globetrotters. She grew up in this Wichita neighborhood and had been recognized previously for her achievements. The original recognition plaque had become tarnished and was in need of repair. The plaque was refinished and mounted to Imperial Black Granite that duplicates the original design, which was made of concrete. A new ceramic color photo will also be added.

SI Memorials of Parsons, Kansas, one of the nation's leading monument builders began construction of the concrete base on Friday, May 18, 2007. SI Funeral Services of Wichita assisted in this project. The \$86,000 monument construction project is expected to be completed in early July, with the dedication date to be announced soon.

Funding for the monument came in large part from a federal Community Development Block Grant controlled by the city that totaled more than \$70,000. Community donations totaled about \$25,000, according to the project committee's treasurer, Inga Taylor. State Representative Oletha Faust-Goudeau is chairman of the monument committee.

"We are so honored to be to be given the opportunity to create the Piatt Memorial," stated Mike Forbes, Regional Manager for SI Memorials. "SI has worked on hundreds of memorials, and each one is special and meaningful."

SI Memorials has created hundreds of monuments since 1968, including the Pittsburg State University Veterans Memorial Amphitheater and over 20 Korean War Veterans Memorials including Little Rock, Arkansas and Overland Park, Kansas. Parent company Suhor Industries, Inc. is the nation's largest burial vault manufacturer and one of the leading funeral service providers in the country.

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