



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VMAQ MONUMENT TO GO TO PENSACOLA, FL

VMAQ Monument Foundation
11211 N Delbert Rd.
Parker, CO 80138
252.626.2569
<https://VMAQMonument.org>

Public Relations
Andrea Qualkinbush
aqualkinbush@gmail.com
252.626.2935

Parker, Colorado, Dec 11, 2018 -- We are excited to announce that the [National Naval Aviation Museum](#) in Pensacola, Florida has partnered with the [VMAQ Monument Foundation](#) to become the future home of our monument to be sculpted by Sandra Van Zandt. The monument will preserve and promote the legacy, history and accomplishments of the Marines who have flown and maintained the EA-6B electronic warfare aircraft for more than 40 years.

The connection between the VMAQ community and Naval Air Station Pensacola has deep roots. Many VMAQ Marines have served in Pensacola to conduct flight or maintenance training. Pilots and Electronic Countermeasures Officers (ECMOs) have been earning their wings in Pensacola for decades. The museum currently has a Northrop Grumman EA-6B Prowler, a Martin-Baker ejection seat, an AGM-88 missile, and various VMAQ squadron plaques on display – all very familiar to our Marines. "The National Naval Aviation Museum is excited to host the VMAQ Memorial monument on our campus. We look forward to honoring the great legacy of the USMC EA-6B community with yet another of Sandra Van Zandt's quality sculptures," said CAPT Sterling Gilliam, USN(ret) NNAM Director.

Van Zandt has ties to the National Naval Aviation Museum, as well. She sculpted [The Spirit of Naval Aviation](#), which has been prominently displayed in the museum's atrium since 1996. For the VMAQ Monument Foundation project, Van Zandt has been commissioned to create three bronze statues representing the Marines who served in the Marine Prowler community: a pilot, an ECMO and an aviation maintenance Marine as they are preparing to launch a flight. "We see our monument as a continuation of the aviation story Sandra began with her sculpture in 1993," said Qualkinbush, "None of the stories and sacrifices by the people represented in these sculptures should ever be forgotten."

Van Zandt was excited to take on this project. "It only takes one generation to forget about history. I think of myself as creating a platform for preserving history and helping people remember. These men and women have done so much for our country and they should be applauded for it and remembered as heroes," said Van Zandt.

The last remaining Prowler squadron, VMAQ-2, just recently returned from the final EA-6B combat deployment and will be deactivated in March 2019, thus ending an era of sustained, superior performance in support of warfighters in the air and on the ground. The Marine Corps' EA-6B Prowler has served in every named American conflict since Vietnam. We have a unique story that deserves to be preserved for posterity and our monument will do just that!

This partnership with the museum in the "Cradle of Naval Aviation" is significant for the foundation. We are thrilled to know our monument will be seen by the 800,000 plus visitors to the museum each year, including many children and adolescents. Through the Museum's Flight to Excellence program our monument should help educate today's youth about the changing face of military aviation. Our hope is to inspire young people to pursue excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), and support the three tenets of the National Naval Aviation Museum by honoring the past, inspiring the future and promoting patriotism.

The VMAQ Monument Foundation, an unpaid, all-volunteer non-profit group has been working tirelessly to make this monument a reality. To learn more about the VMAQ Monument Foundation and to donate, we invite you to visit [VMAQMonument.org](#).