

WARRIOR'S WALK  
A HISTORY OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEMORIAL AT  
COTTRELL FIELD, FORT STEWART, GEORGIA

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The Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) legislation enacted by Congress in 1996 authorizes the privatization and redevelopment of Family housing at military installations throughout the nation. The Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) is the innovative program developed and managed under the oversight and direction of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Environment), OASA (I&E), on behalf of the Secretary of the Army to pursue the privatization of Army military Family housing.

On 17 December 2002, OASA (I&E) announced its twelfth RCI Installation (Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, GA) Communities Development and Management Plan (CDMP) Award to GMH Military Housing, L.L.C

In March 2003, Mr. Gary M. Holloway, owner of GMH Military Housing, L.L.C. learned of 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom via the news media. Mr. Holloway, profoundly moved by the tremendous courage and ultimate sacrifice of the fallen heroes and genuinely concerned for their Families, contacted the Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield RCI Program Manager, who established an initial meeting between GMH and then Garrison Commander.

Mr. Holloway's generous offered his assistance in creating the "Warriors Walk" a living memorial. Mr. Holloway established a private personal fund to pay for the design as well as construction of the walk way, trees, lights.

The Eastern Redbud Tree was selected to represent the life of each fallen hero as these trees bloom each April in Georgia, approximately the same time as the first casualties were reported from the Division's theater of operations. The initial dedication of the living memorial was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2003. Thirty four trees were dedicated in remembrance of the "first 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Soldiers killed in action".

As of 3 October 2011, there are 439 Eastern Redbud Trees planted with commemorative name markers with brick pavers that include the rank, name and campaign of each fallen Soldier, light assembly, two US flags with flag holders, tree ring with rubber mulch, and sidewalks. Also formal entrances were constructed with lighted brick pillars and bronze plaques at Warrior's Walk.

The following commemorative expression offered by Mr. Gary Holloway is anticipated to be inscribed on the formal entrance.

**"Where Warriors Walk"**

This walkway is dedicated to the Soldiers and attached units of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Over the years on this field, Fort Stewart has honored dignitaries

and held special events. For decades, many brave soldiers have marched here prior to going to battle and this is where they are welcomed when they return home from battle. It is this field where warriors walk. And it is here on this walkway that we remember our courageous soldiers who demonstrated exceptional valor, honor and respect for their army, their country and their belief in their cause during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Eastern Redbud trees along the walkway are a symbol of life and will be a living tribute to the brave soldiers who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

“God Bless Them and God Bless the United States of America”.

On 6 May 2008, GMH Military Housing sold ownership to Balfour Beatty Communities. Balfour Beatty Communities will continue to fund (through their own operations) the Warriors Walk living memorial project.