

# **"OPERATION: RECKLESS"**

**Returning a US Marine Hero Home to Korea**

Presented by  
Angels Without Wings, Inc. / The Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund  
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## SSgt. Reckless: America's Greatest War Horse

*In LIFE Magazine's "Celebrating Our Heroes," listed alongside George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Martin Luther King, is a small Mongolian mare named Reckless, who became the greatest war hero horse in American history.*

Reckless was so heroic during the Korean War *SHE* was officially promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant by the Commandant of the US Marine Corps, a rank never before or since bestowed upon an animal.

During the Battle for Outpost Vegas in March 1953, on one day alone, Reckless **made 51 trips** from the Ammunition Supply Point to the firing sites, most of the time

by herself. She **carried 386 rounds of ammunition** on her back (over 9,000 lbs) and **walked over 35 miles** through open rice paddies and up steep mountains with enemy fire coming in at the rate of **500 rounds a minute**. **Wounded twice**, she never stopped. She even shielded Marines going up to the front line, and helped **carry the wounded to safety**. There's no telling how many lives she helped save, and her efforts helped change the tide of the



war, and the Armistice was signed four months later.

Reckless arrived in America on November 10, 1954, and she lived out her days and is buried at MCB Camp Pendleton, CA.

There are six monuments of Reckless around the country, and **now we feel it is time to take her back home to South Korea, where her legacy will continue to inspire**

**our service men and women who continue to serve in Korea.**

*There will never be another horse like Reckless, and her memory deserves this kind of honor and recognition.*



# Korean Monument Honoring SSgt Reckless

Angels Without Wings, Inc. dba The Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund (SRMF), a 501 (c) 3 corporation that has placed six national monuments around the country to SSgt. Reckless, has teamed up with renowned artist Jocelyn Russell, and Morning Flame Films LLC, a production company creating a documentary on this great hero, to place a monument of SSgt. Reckless in South Korea. This is the final monument in the “An Uphill Battle” edition at this size by Jocelyn Russell. The six monuments of this design are placed at 1) National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, VA (2013); 2) Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, CA (2016); 3) Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY (2018); 4) Barrington Hills Farm, Barrington Hills, IL (2019); 5) National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, Ft. Worth, TX (2019); and the World Equestrian Center, Ocala, FL (2020). (Please see Jocelyn’s other magnificent work at [www.wildlifebronzes.com](http://www.wildlifebronzes.com).)

**SOUTH KOREAN MONUMENT:** Because of her influence on her fellow Marines during the Korean War, and her inspiration to Marines today, we are hoping to send SSgt Reckless back home, and we feel strongly that this last monument of Reckless should be placed in South Korea.

**Gift to the US Marine Corps:** We are gifting Monument #1/1 AC of “An Uphill Battle” by Jocelyn Russell to the US Marine Corps to place her in South Korea. We hope to present the gift of this monument to the Marine Corps on November 10, 2024, in honor of the 70th anniversary of Reckless landing in America on November 10, 1954, where she was the Guest of Honor at the Marines Corps Ball at the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco. Because the coordination with the Army and the host nation, and construction of the pedestal would likely not be resolved before 2025, the monument would be delivered and unveiled sometime in 2025 to coincide with the Marine Corps 250th birthday (hopefully around late March to honor her most heroic battle, or July around the Armistice date). Reckless will finally be joining her Marines once again in South Korea.

**Cost of the Gift:** \$300,000 for the bronze monument. (See Appendix 1)

## MONUMENT SPECIFICS

**Monument Design & Materials:** Reckless is made of bronze and is slightly larger than life (she was 13.2 hands high and stands approximately 15 HH). The bronze monument measures approximately 8’ long X 10’ high X 3’ wide, and weighs approximately 800 pounds.

**Pedestal:** There are different designs the pedestal can take, as described in Appendix 2. Size and design will be determined where the monument will be placed. Two bronze plaques will adorn each side of the pedestal. One will describe her story, the other will be our Donors & Sponsors. (See Appendix 3)

**Patina:** As with the other six monuments, Jocelyn uses a traditional 'French Brown' patina, ranging from blacks in the recesses, to browns/bronzes in the tack/ammo, incorporating some richer reddish colors on the mare, and soft highlights on the mane/tail/markings. This particular patina was used by the masters and is perhaps the most environmentally stable long term. It is not painted, the glow of the metal is enhanced, not covered. The bronze monument will have a layer of paste wax to protect the metal and preserve the color in the patina.

## LOCATION

While we considered other sites in South Korea, we have chosen USAG Camp Humphreys/ Marine Corps Forces Korea as the perfect location for this monument. There are three new traffic circles on the base, and this monument will be placed in the traffic circle in front of US Forces Korea, which is the very first traffic circle as you come onto the base.

Why Camp Humphreys, you ask? Camp Humphreys is the largest overseas military installation in the world outside of the US. Even though it is an Army garrison, both US Forces Korea (a joint headquarters) and Marine Forces Korea (MARFORK - a Marine command element) are on Camp Humphreys. They host numerous events on the parade deck and that location would recognize and memorialize the gallant fighting our forces did in the Korean War - which ultimately led to US Forces Korea being stood up as a command in 1957. With over 30,000 service members, civilians and family members on the base from the different military units stationed there, Reckless would once again be an inspiration to all those that serve as she stands alongside her Marines, and her story and legacy will live on in the hills of her homeland.

\* \* \*

On behalf of Jocelyn Russell, and myself, may I say that we are so very excited to have this opportunity to place this incredible Monument in South Korea, at Camp Humphreys. It will be such an honor for Reckless, one that she truly deserves.

**We hope that you will consider joining us on this wonderful endeavor and be part of the celebration in South Korea in 2025 as we take SSgt Reckless back to her homeland.**

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this proposal further, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kindest regards, and Semper Reckless,



Robin Hutton

President

Angels Without Wings, Inc. / The Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund

## Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund

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Angels Without Wings, Inc. dba Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund - A 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation - #27-0992180



## **Cost for Monument - \$300,000**

### **Monument #1/1 AC: South Korea**

Because this is the very last monument in the “An Uphill Battle” edition at this size, the cost of this monument to send it to Camp Humphreys in South Korea is \$300,000.

**Every donation is tax-deductible** through our 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation, Angels Without Wings, Inc., dba Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund. Every donation, no matter how large or small, will also receive a “Certificate of Thanks and Appreciation” and posted on the Donor Wall on the Sgt Reckless website ([SgtReckless.com](http://SgtReckless.com)).

For donations of **\$5,000+**, you are guaranteed **placement on the Donor Plaque** on the Monument — size and order of placement dependent on size of donation and secured upon receipt of donation (see enclosed plaque).

**Two (2) Monument Sponsorships** of **\$125,000+** are available, where your name will be featured dominantly at the top of the plaque and mentioned (hopefully) in the documentary.

**The larger the donation, the larger your name will appear on the plaque.**

We are also taking *pledges* at this time which saves one a spot on the plaque, however not the actual placement. One can convert their pledge into a donation at any time, but actual placement is secured when the donation is received. Donors can sign a pledge (enclosed) which secures their spot on the plaque.

All donations can be made payable to the *Sgt. Reckless Memorial Fund*. You can also donate through PayPal or by credit card on our website at [SgtReckless.com](http://SgtReckless.com).

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# Donation Levels

Every donation, no matter how large or small, will receive a “Certificate of Thanks and Appreciation” for your kind and generous support of the Memorial Monument to SSgt Reckless. Every donation is also tax-deductible through our 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation, Angels Without Wings, Inc., dba Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund.

On the Sgt Reckless website on the #7-South Korea monument page ([SgtReckless.com](http://SgtReckless.com)), we will also be posting the names of contributors (unless you do not want your name listed) under the appropriate level.

## **Donors: \$1-\$4,999**

(Listed alphabetically on website and where contributors are published.)

## **Bronze Donors: \$5,000+**

(Listed on plaque and the higher donations in this level will appear at the top of the level on the plaque. Listed alphabetically on website.)

## **Silver Donors: \$10,000+**

(Larger size than the Bronze Donors on the plaque, and the higher donations in this level will appear at the top of the level on the plaque. Listed alphabetically on website.)

## **Gold Donors: \$25,000 +**

(Larger size than the Silver Donors on the plaque, and the higher donations in this level will appear at the top of the level on the plaque. Listed alphabetically on website.)

## **Platinum Donors: \$50,000 +**

(Larger size than the Gold Donors on the plaque, and the higher donations in this level will appear at the top of the level on the plaque. Listed alphabetically on website.)

## **Monument Sponsorships: \$125,000 +**

(There are only 2 spots available. Name is predominantly displayed on plaque - listed in order of size of donation if donation is more than \$125,000.)

All donations can be made payable to *Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund*. You can also donate through PayPal or by credit card on our website at [SgtReckless.com](http://SgtReckless.com).

### **Angels Without Wings, Inc. / Sgt. Reckless Memorial Fund**

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## **Proposed Pedestal Designs for Monument**

There are different designs that could be created for the pedestal based on the size and flow of the traffic circle. We propose either one of these.

### **VERSION 1: CAMP PENDLETON / KENTUCKY HORSE PARK**

The pedestal is two-tiered and constructed of concrete with a beautiful stone overlay and mahogany granite cap. The bottom level is a circular design encasing the rectangle pedestal where Reckless is mounted. River rocks fill the area of the first tier that surrounds the 2nd tier smaller base that Reckless is mounted on. (This area could be filled with rocks from the DMZ which would add to the wonderful historical significance.) Two bronze plaques will adorn the base between the tiers - one describes Reckless's heroics, the other plaque lists our Donors and Sponsors who made the gift possible. (See Plaques - Appendix 3)



Camp Pendleton



Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY



World Equestrian Center - Ocala, FL

### **VERSION 2: WORLD EQUESTRIAN CENTER**

The pedestal is a more standard pedestal with more height and grandeur than the other two above, and the two bronze plaques would be placed on both sides of the pedestal.

**Monument created by Jocelyn Russell - Friday Harbor, WA**



## APPENDIX 3

# 2 Bronze Plaques

There will be two separate bronze plaques on the Monument.

**Plaque #1** will be on the front side of the monument that describes SSgt Reckless and her heroics. This is on all six of her monuments.

### STAFF SERGEANT RECKLESS

1948-1968

5th Marine Regiment - 1st Marine Division

*"The spirit of her loneliness and her loyalty, in spite of the danger, was something else to behold. Hurting. Determined. And alone. That's the image I have imprinted in my head and heart forever."*

- Sgt Harold Wadley, USMC

SSgt Reckless was a Korean-bred horse that served valiantly with the United States Marine Corps in the Korean War. During the pivotal five-day Battle of Outpost Vegas in late March 1953, she made 51 round-trips in a single day - most of them solo - from the Ammunition Supply point to the firing sites. She carried 386 rounds of ammunition totalling more than 9,000 pounds, and walked over 35 miles through open rice paddies and up steep mountains, as enemy fire exploded at the rate of 500 rounds per minute.

Reckless provided a shield for front-line Marines, carried the wounded to safety, and was wounded twice. But she never quit until the mission was complete.

She wasn't a horse - She was a Marine!

SSgt Reckless is buried at the Stepp Stables, MCB Camp Pendleton, CA where she spent her final years before her death in 1968.

#### Military Decorations

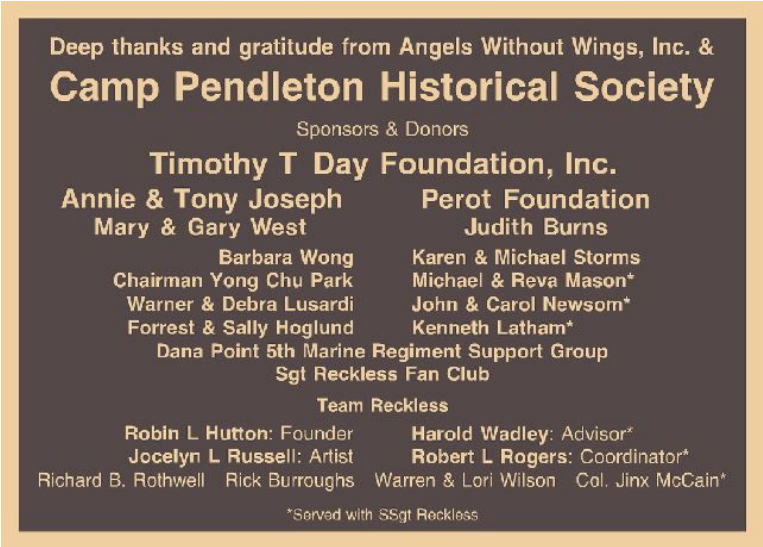
Two Purple Hearts \* Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal \* Presidential Unit Citation  
Navy Unit Commendation \* National Defense Service Medal \* Korean Service Medal w/ 3 Stars  
United Nations Service Medal - Korea \* Republic of Korea Presidential Unit \* PDSA Dickin Medal  
Animals in War & Peace Medal of Bravery #1





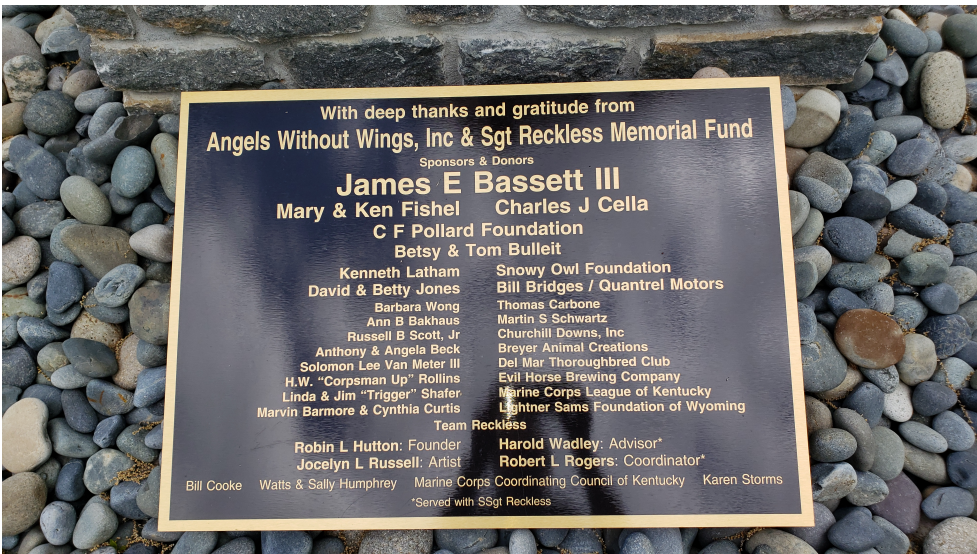
**Plaque #2:** This will be on the opposite side of the pedestal and will be a thank you to our Sponsors and Donors and all of the people who made this Monument possible. This is how the Donor Plaque looks on the monuments at National Museum of the Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, and Kentucky Horse Park, and the amounts raised for each. A donation of \$5,000 secures your name on the plaque.

National Museum of  
the Marine Corps  
\$165,000



Final names on Camp  
Pendleton Plaque  
\$185,000

Kentucky Horse Park Plaque  
\$250,000



# Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund Pledge

## *Monument #1/1 AC: South Korea*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby pledge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$\_\_\_\_\_) to the Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund for the Monument of SSgt Reckless in South Korea.

By pledging **\$5,000** or more, I am securing my spot on the Monument's plaque, however, actual placement on the plaque will be determined by order of receipt of the actual funds. If my pledge is \$10,000 or more, I will be considered a Silver Donor; \$25,000 is a Gold Donor; and \$50,000+ is a Platinum Donor and placement will be determined by size of the donation. \$125,000+ is a Plaza Sponsorship and will be determined by size of donation and order of receipt.

I can convert my pledge at any time, or when asked by the Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund to do so. When asked by the Sgt Reckless Memorial Fund to convert my pledge into a monetary donation, I will have fourteen (14) days to complete the transaction. If after the end of fourteen (14) days I have not converted my pledge into a monetary donation, I will lose my place on the plaque, and it will be given to someone else. I understand *my donation is also tax-deductible*.

I have the right to back out of this pledge at any time with absolutely no obligation.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Agreed to and signed:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sgt. Reckless Memorial Fund

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# Foreword to “Sgt. Reckless: America’s War Horse” by Gen James Amos, 35th Commandant, USMC

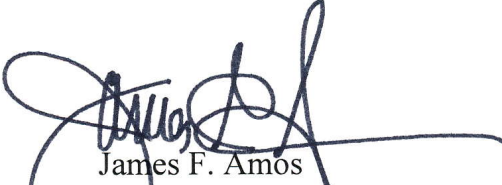


An old cowboy once told me, “In life, a man is lucky to find one good woman, one good dog, and one good horse.” In my 44 years of service in the Marine Corps, I’ve been fortunate to meet my life-long love Bonnie, and own a wonderful Black Labrador named Midi, but I can’t say that I’ve ever met a horse the likes of Sergeant Reckless. And I don’t think I ever will.

If Marines are known for one thing, it must be fidelity. This ethos of faithfulness is part of our cultural DNA and is the foundation of our motto *Semper Fidelis* – *always faithful*. When we think of faithfulness, we often think of the heroics of Marines like Sergeant Dakota Meyer or Corporal Kyle Carpenter, but we often forget the faithfulness of the animals that have served alongside Marines in war. Humans have taken animals to war for millennia, mostly horses and dogs, and in one way or another, they have served with Marines since the Revolution. The story of Sergeant Reckless clearly reminds us that we humans do not have the monopoly on virtues such as courage, selflessness, and determination.

When you consider that Reckless was a Mongolian horse, you shouldn’t be surprised by her solid performance on the battlefield – her bloodline is that of a breed that goes back to the herds of the great Genghis Kahn. Reckless certainly earned her stripes by carrying ammunition up to firing positions along the ridgelines of Korea and carrying wounded Marines back down the hill to receive medical care. She often made these trips at great personal risk under fire. The apex of Reckless’ career came in March 1953, when she made 51 trips, most of them solo, in a single day to resupply Marines fighting for OP Vegas. She was twice wounded in combat and returned to the United States in 1954 wearing the rank of Sergeant.

Few today recall how famous Sergeant Reckless was in her day. The Saturday Evening Post recorded the details of her battlefield heroism, and LIFE Magazine named her one of America’s 100 all-time heroes – right up there with George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Martin Luther King, and John Wayne. She truly was a modern day Bucephalus, but Reckless had something more – she wore the Eagle, Globe and Anchor of a United States Marine. This book does an excellent job of capturing the character of Sergeant Reckless through the stories of the Marines who served with her. Marines are famous for never leaving one of their own behind, and I’m exceptionally grateful to Robin Hutton for keeping Reckless’ story alive. Due to her efforts, Sergeant Reckless will be forever remembered as one of the greatest war horses in history.



James F. Amos  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
35<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps