



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### *In Every Clime and Place Dedicated in Pensacola*

VMAQ Monument Foundation

<https://VMAQMonument.org>

Public Relations

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Pensacola, FL Nov 11, 2022—The Marines have landed! The VMAQ Monument Foundation is thrilled to announce the dedication of its three-figure bronze monument “In Every Clime and Place” at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida, honoring those who served in the Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons.

The non-profit foundation commissioned renowned sculptor, Sandra Van Zandt from Owasso, OK, to create three bronze statues representative of the people who served in the now-retired Marine EA-6B Prowler squadrons: a pilot, an Electronic Counter Measures Officer (ECMO) and an aviation maintenance Marine as they prepare to launch a flight. The ECMO depicted is a female Marine, making “In Every Clime and Place” the first bronze statue depicting a female Marine Corps aviator in the country. With this art piece, Van Zandt continues the timeline she began with “The Spirit of Naval Aviation” in the atrium of the museum.

The monument stands approximately 12 feet tall and 15 feet wide, displayed on an etched granite base. The nine feet tall, 700-pound, bronze figures were modeled after air crew from VMAQ-2 on the final EA-6B deployment to Qatar in support of combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria in 2018.

The foundation was formed in June 2018 and raised over \$400,000 to complete this monumental project – and did so despite the pandemic! The fundraising was a grassroots effort and supported by many who are closely tied to the VMAQ community, including former Assistant Commandant to the Marine Corps, General John R. Dailey (Ret). “The Marines, of all ranks in the VMC, VMJ and VMAQ community have never ceased to impress me, no amaze, is a better word, as to what you can do as a team when you decide to take on a challenge. The monument tells the story, about an outfit that most have never heard of, even though their lives may have depended on it. Bronze has a long shelf life even in a salt air environment, so it will be around to tell the story of a gang who knew how to get the job done.” Dailey was also the director of the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum, making him a truly unique partner in the foundation’s efforts.

The completed monument is a sight to behold, both for its historical significance and as a towering piece of art. While viewing “In Every Clime and Place,” visitors to the Museum can also examine an EA-6B Prowler, a Martin Baker ejection seat, an AGM-88 high-speed anti-radiation missile (HARM) and many other historic Navy and Marine aircraft. “Due to our incredible volunteers and donors, we now leave a legacy that not only honors our veterans but will inspire future generations to serve our nation – and maybe even take to the sky!” said foundation Chairman of the Board H. Wayne “Duck” Qualkinbush, USMC Maj (Ret).

Marlin “Kuato” Benton, USMC Col. (Ret), is among the dedicated volunteer board members and the foundation’s Director of Museum, Affairs. When asked why he participated in such a monumental effort, he said, “This was my last chance to give back to the VMAQ community that gave me so many opportunities to grow personally and professionally.”

CAPT Sterling Gilliam, USN (Ret), Director, National Naval Aviation Museum is excited about the new bronzes. “Today is a great day for our Museum! The VMAQ monument is a spectacular addition to our campus and will serve as the cornerstone for our ‘Walk of Honor’ project. God bless the Marine Corps!”