

Green Beret Foundation Establishes Sentinel Fund to Protect and Preserve America's Response Monument

Initiative marks the 25th anniversary of the Special Forces insertion into Afghanistan and commits to overwatch of a symbol of courage, service, and sacrifice

SOUTHERN PINES, NC, UNITED STATES, October 19, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The [Green Beret Foundation](#) today announced the establishment of [the Sentinel Fund](#), a dedicated initiative to protect, preserve, and safeguard America's Response Monument in New York City. Launched on the 25th anniversary of the October 19, 2001, Special Forces insertion into Afghanistan, the fund establishes a lasting commitment to the monument's physical integrity, public presence, and the history it carries forward.



Riding alongside Afghan partners in unfamiliar terrain, Green Berets became an enduring symbol of the war's first days. Today, America's Response Monument, the Horse Soldier statue in Liberty Park, honors their courage overlooking the 9/11 Memorial in NYC.

The designated fund has been established through the generosity of an anonymous donor who previously served in the 5th Special Forces Group. This founding gift reflects a deeply personal commitment to preserving the legacy of the warriors honored by the monument and ensuring their service and sacrifice remain visible in the heart of New York City.

"Twenty-five years ago, Green Berets entered Afghanistan carrying the resolve of a nation wounded by September 11," said Charles P. Iacono, President and CEO of the Green Beret Foundation. "America's Response Monument gives lasting form to their courage and to the service and sacrifice of all who answered that call."

Standing in Liberty Park overlooking the National September 11 Memorial, America's Response

Monument depicts a Green Beret on horseback, honoring the extraordinary courage and resourcefulness of the Special Forces soldiers and their fellow special operations and interagency partners who answered the nation's call following the September 11 attacks. Known widely as the "Horse Soldier" monument, it connects the memory of that day with the resolve of those who went forward in its aftermath.

The Sentinel Fund will provide an enduring overwatch of this significant memorial through support for preservation, restoration, advocacy, and protective efforts. Its purpose is to address threats to the monument's condition and continued public presence, including deterioration, vandalism, defacement, and any future efforts to remove, diminish, or compromise its place of honor. The initiative also seeks to preserve the monument's role as a place of remembrance, reflection, and education for generations to come.

The Green Beret Foundation's name appears on the monument in recognition of its support for the effort that brought it into being. Its creation required a herculean undertaking, uniting the vision, determination, and generosity of those committed to ensuring America's response to September 11 would have a lasting place in the nation's memory. Having helped make that vision a reality, the Foundation considers it both fitting and necessary to step forward again to safeguard its future.



Made possible by an anonymous donor who served in the 5th Special Forces Group, the Green Beret Foundation's new Sentinel Fund will safeguard America's Response Monument through long-term preservation, restoration, advocacy, and protection.



Your support of the Sentinel Fund will help protect the monument and preserve the history it represents.

"Our Foundation's name is on this monument because Scott Neil and the leaders of the Green Beret Foundation helped bring it into being," said Iacono. "Their vision and determination carry forward a responsibility that does not end with its dedication. Through the Sentinel Fund, we are stepping forward to provide enduring oversight, protect its place in our national memory, and ensure future generations understand who these warriors were, what they did, and why their service must never be forgotten."

The anniversary serves as a reminder that remembrance requires continued action. By establishing the Sentinel Fund, the Green Beret Foundation is extending its commitment to the Special Forces community to include safeguarding a monument that tells an essential part of its story.

The Foundation invites individuals, families, corporate partners to support this effort and help ensure America's Response Monument remains protected, cared for, and accessible to the public.

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