LEDERMAN MEMORIAL AND SITE DESIGN AT LEDERMAN PARK

Dr. Melvin Lederman

Site Design Team
The Cecil Group | Jacobs | PAL

Artist
David Phillips
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Dr. Melvin Lederman
DESCRIPTION

• A permanent memorial and landscaped setting to commemorate Dr. Melvin Lederman and his life

• Sited within Boston’s Charles River Esplanade, in a park that was named in his honor.

• An outstanding surgeon and Commander in the Naval Medical Corps

• Served heroically during the Vietnam War

• Volunteer for service in the conflict and to bring his skills into combat, where he was killed while participating in field rescue operations.

Dr. Lederman’s exceptional character inspired the admiration of those he served and the dedication of his medical colleagues, friends and family who remember him.
DESIGN CONCEPT

• A sculptural monument in keeping with the simplicity and clarity of other monuments along the Charles River Esplanade

• A profile in silhouette, symbolizing a kneeling medical officer in field dress who has been lost in war, cut from a sheet of solid, brushed stainless steel

• A granite base with the inscriptions located along its sides and horizontal surface

• The cut-out figure of the officer, laid down onto the horizontal surface of the base, symbolizing the shadow of the fallen

• A horizontal surface will contain etched images associated with Dr. Lederman and his service, and a field surgeon’s medical kit from the Vietnam era - with its implements - reproduced as a stainless steel casting

• A comfortable, quiet stopping point within the park, oriented towards the spectacular views of the Charles, the Longfellow Bridge, and the Cambridge riverfront.
LOCATION AND SITE

View of the site from the North

Site Context: View from West

The Cecil Group/Harriman | Jacobs | PAL
David Phillips, Artist
SITE VIEWS

LEDERMAN MEMORIAL and SITE DESIGN at LEDERMAN PARK ON THE ESPLANADE

The Cecil Group/Harriman | Jacobs | PAL
David Phillips, Artist
The memorial will be composed of a small paved area adjacent to the existing pathway along the Charles River. A walk will connect the pathway to the memorial, centered between two existing oak trees. The site plan orients the seating area towards the monument and the River panorama beyond, and is backed by low berming and plantings to distinguish it from the surrounding lawn areas. The site is below the canopies of the two existing trees, which will frame the view looking towards the Charles River.

The relocated memorial stone will serve as a marker identifying Lederman Field and will have a landscape setting at the southern end of Park, near the Longfellow Bridge. Several trees that are in poor condition or that provide excessive shade of the lawn will be removed, creating a better balance of open areas and tree cover.
Dr. Lederman was an exceptional surgeon and medical officer who became a Commander in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps.

He volunteered for service in Vietnam and served aboard the hospital ship USS Repose, attending to wounded Marines including those brought to the ship by Med-Evac helicopters.

He decided that his services were needed closer to combat to provide earlier intervention. He voluntarily accompanied helicopter crews into the combat theaters, exposing himself to risk. He became known as “Super Doc” by his compatriots. He received three Purple Hearts for the multiple wounds he received during his actions.

Two days before his scheduled discharge, he was killed when the helicopter in which he was riding was shot down by enemy fire.
Someone had to do the job of taking care of these kids and it is obvious that I am it. So by conscience I have been doing the best that I know how.

- Letter from Dr. Melvin Lederman to a friend

Melvin Lederman M.D. (1928-1969)
Surgeon, Massachusetts General Hospital Commander, Naval Medical Corps
Volunteered for service in Vietnam
Killed while participating in voluntary field rescue operations

It is difficult to believe that his work on this earth is done and we shall think always that in some way his light will yet shine.

- Letter to Dr. Lederman’s parents from Crawford Bost, M.D.
MEMORIAL COMPONENTS

Description

The memorial components consist of the memorial sculpture, two special benches designed in concert with the memorial, and the landscaped setting.

The memorial sculpture will include a light gray granite base. The silhouetted profile will be cut from a solid sheet of brushed stainless steel. The cover will be engraved with images, and the translucent material will allow light to be diffused through those images. Mounted on the translucent sheet will be the brushed stainless profile of the fallen officer and the reproduction, in stainless steel, of the medical kit.

The benches will be composed of the same granite material as the memorial base, durable hardwood seating surfaces, and stainless fittings and armrests.

The landscaping will be composed of a low berm with shrubs and ground cover, and three ornamental trees. The walking surface will be crushed stone; granite has been considered as an alternative.
MEMORIAL COMPONENTS

The expressive outline representing a kneeling medical officer will be created with attention to the outline of the helmet and uniform features of the Vietnam-era field equipment that would have been worn by Dr. Lederman. This figure will be posed as though attending to the wounded. The profile will be cut from solid steel using laser technology.
MEMORIAL COMPONENTS

In the design concept, the solid portion of the silhouette cut from the steel sheet will be retained and then “folded down” onto the horizontal surface of the base. The shape mirrors the vertical, cut out profile. A stainless steel casting of a field surgeon’s kit will then be placed next to the fallen figure.
MEMORIAL COMPONENTS

The inscriptions text will be distributed in various locations. The identifying description will be oriented towards the visitors’ approach to the monument. Additional inscription text will be located on the granite base or on the other surfaces.
Sketch Idea for Image within the Translucent Surface

Vietnam-era Field Surgeon’s Kit
MEMORIAL COMPONENTS

Samples of Translucent Surface Material
MEMORIAL COMPONENTS

The benches will be composed of three materials and assembled with an aesthetic design that complements the nearby memorial sculptures. Shaped granite bases will support horizontal hardwood members that will form the seats. The thick wooden slats will be assembled using concealed stainless steel hardware. Brushed stainless steel will be used to form armrests at the ends of the benches.
MEMORIAL COMPONENTS

10"（H）
5'
1'-0"
1'-0"
1'-0"
1'-0"
1'-0"
1'-0"

Bench Design

The Cecil Group/Harriman | Jacobs | PAL
David Phillips, Artist
The landscape design is intended to create a sense of orientation and distinction from the surrounding lawn. The paving will provide a simple, flat surface surrounding the memorial and extending beneath the benches. A low berm and low plantings will be used to create a simple visual boundary for the memorial, so that it is comfortable as a place to sit. However, the landscape will employ grouped plant materials and spacing so that the memorial area can be readily seen from nearby sidewalks and Storrow drive.
The planting materials will be consistent with the Charles River Esplanade master plan and complement the plantings along the improved approaches to the Longfellow Bridge. The three ornamental trees will be of a variety that will be relatively short and low-spreading. These trees, as they mature, will provide secondary canopy below the nearby, tall oak trees that line the Charles River pathway. Shrubs and grasses will be chosen from the adopted palette of materials being used in the adjacent landscape improvements for the Longfellow Bridge.

Recommended plant material include:

**Trees**
- Red Maple (Acer rubrum ‘Franksred’)
- Snow Cloud Service Berry (Amelanchier laevis ‘Snow Cloud’)

**Shrubs**
- Red Twig Dogwood (Cornus stolonifera ‘Farrow’)
- Summer Sweet (Clethra anifolia ‘Hummingbird’)
- Shamrock Inkberry (Ilex glabra ‘Shamrock’)
- Red Sprite Winterberry (Ilex verticillata ‘Red Spite’)

**Groundcover**
- Lily Turf (Liriope muscari ‘Big Blue’)
- Red Fescue (Festuca rubra)
The design concept provides for adequate spacing so that visitors can walk entirely around the monument with adequate separation from the benches so that other individuals will be comfortable in the space.
This cost estimate is for the proposed memorial and landscape improvements in the immediate vicinity. It also includes an estimate for the relocation of the existing granite boulder marker and the landscape setting around it.

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Notes:
1. Costs based on design concepts prepared 2/17/2016
2. All itemized costs include materials, fabrication, and installation
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