

# *USA Military Heroes of the Middle East*



**By Dr. R. Pletsch**

This October 25th, the Desert Shield/Desert Storm Memorial was dedicated in the National Mall of Washington, DC. It honors the US led international force of about 700,000 in 1991 and 1992 to liberate Kuwait. This memorial was funded through the efforts of the National Desert Storm Memorial Association with major contribution from the nation of Kuwait and numerous private donors.

Speakers included Scott Stump, CEO of the Memorial Association and Kuwait officials from their Defense Department and Ambassadors. They stressed the cooperation of the diverse force of 30 nations under the leadership of President George Bush and General Norman Schwarzkopf. They helped restore Kuwait's freedom after the invasion by the Iraqi Army of Saddam Hussein. Ambassador to the US, Sheikha Al-Said Al-Sabah stated, "the liberation was an historic model of international cooperation". He noted that these forces looked different, they had different cultures and religions. But they came together for a common purpose.

The Middle East again aligns with the US against an area aggressor -- Iran. I met with a small group of high school students from the Chicago area. They were not very interested in the coming election, probably because none of them are old enough to vote. But they did ask a very mature question. There seemed to be no protests against the US in the Middle East except by Iranians or their proxies. Yet we have had anti American protests in the US over actions in the Middle East. Those in the Middle East seem to be thankful for the help. What's going on? I took the easy way out with the old "what do you think?" answer. We, as adults, can come up with our own conclusions. People who have been through wars understand the hardship and pain. When visiting Normandy, I was surprised to see a well-maintained German Cemetery. I don't know why I was surprised, they had to be buried somewhere.