

CLOSE UP

WRITTEN IN STONE

Goldwater memorial set to open

By Wendy Miller
Independent Newspapers

"Arizona welcomes you. It's home to me, where my family is, where my heart is, where I belong."

The words Sen. Barry Goldwater said later in his life begin the journey for visitors to a memorial being dedicated to him this Saturday. Starting in the flag plaza, a quotation band with text from the man known to many as Arizona's favorite son takes visitors on a yellow-brick-road-style journey to a 10-foot bronze statue of the man himself.

The 184-foot winding pathway is made of Arizona onyx from Mayer, Ariz., one of only three places in the world to quarry the heavily marbled, natural material. Like every detail of the memorial, it has meaning beyond sheer physical beauty and durability.

"It is a metaphor for Barry Goldwater's journey through life," said Michael Dollin, landscape architect for Urban Earth Design, the company hired by the Town to create the memorial garden. "If you do the path, you'll turn in all four directions, starting facing east toward Washington, D.C., and ending up with Barry Goldwater's statue facing to the southwest, because he migrated to the Southwest."

Sandblasted lettering in the quotations at the beginning of the polished band is depicted in 4.5-inch-tall capital letters. However, the letters increase to 6 inches tall after a brief break in the band. The change indicates an older, bolder Barry Goldwater.

"We like to think of him speaking with greater



Photo by Wendy Miller/Independent Newspapers

Michael Dollin, landscape designer for Urban Earth Design, oversaw the installation of bronze medallions and plaques at the Goldwater Memorial site last week. The large Arizona State flag medallion marks the start of a quotation band revealing some of Barry Goldwater's insights about his life in Arizona. The smaller discs commemorate milestones and events in his life, such as his loves of flight, ham radio operation, photography and the Native American community, as well as political achievements.

emphasis," Mr. Dollin noted.

While the memorial is filled with an array of features commemorating Mr. Goldwater's life and loves, three are must-sees, Mr. Dollin said.

The first is the quotation band. Next are the 12-inch diameter bronze medallions.

"Inspired by Native Amer-

ican construction techniques and designed to resemble coins, the medallions are mounted onto the stone wall. They are not noticeable from the street," he said, "but they are inscribed with historical milestones and significant events in his life."

Among them are Mr.

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Goldwater's loves of aeronautics, photography, the Native American community, ham radio operation and politics.

Interspersed between the medallions along the stone wall are view windows. Created in varying heights and widths, the windows have been strategically located to provide "snapshots" of the surrounding landscape and geography. A saguaro cactus with its newly settled resident bird family, Camelback Mountain and water features are just a few of the landmarks that are framed by the windows.

A cascading water feature in stone, reminiscent of the Grand Canyon, marks the third feature. Located near a footbridge, the walls are made from schist rock and hold four water spouts. A flat wall below the bridge is made from high-compression sandstone. It is banded with flat moss creek stone, a technique found in Anasazi Indian formations.

"When people come, they'll see the water feature, but we hope they'll stop and read the quotations and medallions," said Melanie Voelker, a landscape designer in training for Urban Earth Design. "We put a lot of time and thought into each detail for their enjoyment and to stay true to Barry Goldwater's love of Arizona."