



LOCAL NEWS

A memorial design is chosen to remember the 17 who died in Parkland school shooting



(Carline Jean/South Florida Sun Sentinel)

Tony Montalto, who lost his 14-year-old daughter, Gina, in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, is seen on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, at the site of a planned memorial dedicated to the victims. The memorial is located on a one-acre site at the former Heron Bay Golf Club, on the border of Parkland and Coral Springs. (Carline Jean/South Florida Sun Sentinel)



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A public memorial forever will have the names inscribed of those who died in the Feb. 14, 2018, shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

The seven-year mark of the shooting will be this Friday, when [community gatherings will be held](#) in honor of the 17 students and staff who died. A design was recently selected for the memorial, which will be as much for the 17, as it will be for the community.

Those who died are Alyssa Alhadeff, Scott Beigel, Martin Duque Anguiano, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jaime Guttenberg, Christopher Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen Schentrup and Peter Wang.

An additional 17 people were wounded in the shooting.

Gina's father, Tony Montalto, is vice chairman of the Parkland 17 Memorial Foundation. He envisions a beautiful place with sunset views. The memorial will have a circular theme, since "everyone is still interconnected," he said.

After all, "we can all use a little more remembering."



Gordon Huether + Partners 2023/Courtesy

Artist Gordon Huether's memorial design is circular with a central fountain with seating, surrounded by 17 limestone obelisks. (Courtesy Gordon Huether + Partners 2023)

The memorial's location will be a 1-acre site on the border of Parkland and Coral Springs at the [former Heron Bay Golf Club](#).

Gordon Huether, of Gordon Huether Studio in Napa, Calif., has been selected to create a memorial of concentric circles with a central fountain and seating area, surrounded by 17 limestone-clad obelisks, like a pillar, with each honoring one of the 17.

It will include their name and other information, such as a short description provided from the families about their lives. A poem will be engraved into the surface of the plaza.

Shade structures will be added and the design features "laser cutouts that create unique shadows as the sun moves throughout the day."

There also will be 17 royal palm trees and an outer seating wall form the border of the memorial.

The plaza will be about 90 feet in diameter.

"It's there to comfort, there to inspire, there to remember," Huether told the South Florida Sun Sentinel. "The memorial is not only inspired by love for the victims, for their families and for the Parkland community, it's inspired by the beautiful site."



(Parkland 17 Memorial Foundation/Courtesy)

Gordon Huether, of Gordon Huether Studio in Napa, Calif., has been chosen to create the memorial to the 17 students and staff who died in the Parkland school shooting in 2018. (Parkland 17 Memorial Foundation/Courtesy)

Last February, the design was [one of six final proposals](#) intended to create a place for peace after such sorrow. That was [narrowed down to three last summer](#) and the public was asked to weigh in with a vote.

The memorial serves as a “powerful symbol of unity, respect, and remembrance,” the Parkland 17 Memorial Foundation said in a prepared statement.

Now that the design is chosen, the fundraising begins to pay for it all.

Foundation Chair Michael Moser, the Coral Springs deputy fire chief and the first responder representative on the foundation, said last year that any of the three final designs would be at least \$1 million, but would vary based on fountains and stones and other details.

The final cost has not been unveiled, but Moser said Wednesday it is “significantly more than original expectation because the design is more intricate and more well-suited to honor the victims.” He said it would be a multimillion-dollar project, “but the final price is not yet known due to the construction cost variations that are common with large projects like this.”

Donations are being accepted at <https://parkland17.org/donate/> for the memorial. Moser said after the money is raised, it will be about 18 months for construction.

There will be community gatherings Friday.

The city of Parkland will host a [Community Commemoration](#) to honor the 17 victims at 5 p.m. Friday at the Amphitheatre at Pine Trails Park at 10561 Trails End.

Another event will be the [annual "Forever in Our Hearts" commemoration](#), which supports the healing of survivors. There will be therapy dogs and ponies, a candle lighting and dove-release ceremony at Eagles' Haven Wellness Center, 5655 Coral Ridge Drive in Coral Springs.

While the event will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, the center operates year-round to provide services for both school survivors and anybody impacted including their families and anyone in the community who needs help, said Rebecca Jarquin, director of Eagles' Haven.

"We are still seeing the impact and impacts of the shooting, we absolutely still have students that are coming in just now seeking services where maybe they got some initial therapy or initial intervention but they are finding as time goes on it's impacting other areas of their life and they are not sure why and it relates back to this trauma," she said. "PTSD is not something that just magically goes away."

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