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**U.S. Soldiers Kick off Tour to Save 75-Year-Old War Memorial:
Just Home from Iraq, Join Battle to Stop ACLU from Tearing Down Monument**



Six American soldiers kicked off a cross-country tour yesterday to bring awareness to the plight of the Mojave Desert War Memorial, a 75-year old monument the ACLU is fighting to tear down because it is in the shape of a cross and sits on federal land in 1.6 million acres of desert in the Mojave National Preserve. Today, the memorial is boarded from view in a wooden box on the orders of a federal judge in California as the 10-year legal battle continues to the U.S. Supreme Court on Oct. 7, 2009.

The soldiers (**Front** LtR: Sgt. James Kelly, 27, Buna, TX; Sgt. Zachary Thomson, 26, Sierra Vista, AZ; **Back** LtR: SPC Christopher West, 20, Houston, TX; SPC Aaron Ebbenga, 23, Ogden, UT; SPC Adam Pena, 21, Hutto, TX; PFC Branden Gooshaw, 19, Elmir Heights, NY) started their journey the day they were released from Fort Polk, LA and stopped in Dallas to meet with Rep. Sam Johnson and gather signatures of support for the memorial. They will travel on to Sierra Vista, AZ; Kingman, AZ; Laughlin, AZ; and to the memorial in California where they will lay a wreath and read the names of fallen soldiers. For more information, visit www.DontTearMeDown.com or contact Jennifer Grisham.

Liberty Legal Institute is a non-profit legal organization that represents Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and American Ex-Prisoners of War in the battle to save the memorial.

Interviews and B-roll of memorial are available. Visit www.DontTearMeDown.com for photos, detailed trends, and background information. For interviews with the soldiers, Liberty Legal Institute attorneys, the memorial caretakers, and others, contact Jennifer Grisham, director of media, at 972.423.3131, extension 102 or 202.297.1290.