



Title: Willie McCool Memorial

Catalog Number: LPA13

Artist: Eddie Dixon

Date: Dedicated 5/7/2005

Location: Huneke Park, 82nd Street and Nashville Avenue, Lubbock, TX.

Description: A large bronze statue of astronaut commander Willie McCool sitting on a marble base with his left arm extended skyward. A young boy stands to his right holding a toy airplane and following McCool's gaze up. Willie McCool is wearing a full astronaut's suit.

History: Eddie Dixon currently works and resides in Lubbock, Texas. His first commissioned piece of artwork was a sculpture of the only Black Fighter Pilot during WWI, Eugene Bullard and it was for the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. It was declared “Eddie Dixon Day” in Washington D.C. and New York City on October 16, 1993, as well as March 28, 1994 in Lubbock, Texas. He has won many awards including the NAACP George Woods award and “The Arts,” for Outstanding Services in Art. Eddie and his art have been featured on the Arts and Entertainment Channel, The Discovery Channel, Texas Country Reporter, Good Morning America, CNN, CBS News, USA Today, the Washington Post, The New York Times, and Dallas Morning News among others.

William “Willie” McCool graduated from Coronado High School in Lubbock, Texas and he became a test pilot for the U.S. Navy. Commander McCool became an astronaut candidate and went to Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas in 1996. He was a pilot for STS-107, a mission that featured more than 80 experiments. He and six other crewmates were killed with the Space Shuttle Columbia broke up during its re-entry over the Texas Panhandle on February 1, 2003. “From our orbital vantage point, we observe an Earth without borders, full of peace, beauty and magnificence, and we pray that humanity as whole can imagine a borderless world as we see it, and strive to live as one...in peace.” Cmdr. William “Willie” McCool, January 29, 2003.

Other artwork by artist/places exhibited: Buffalo Soldier Monument, Fort Leavenworth, KS. The Pentagon, West Point, U.S. Department of Interiors, U.S. State Department, the Smithsonian Air and Space museum, and Smithsonian Natural History Museum. Privately owned pieces can be found in these collections: Colin Powell, Morgan Freeman and Danny Glover among others.

Works Cited: Kerns, William. “Tribute to McCool Looms Large.” *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, May 8,

2005, Local.

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: 15’ and 7’

Condition: 1

Owned By: The City of Lubbock, P.O. Box 2000, Lubbock, TX 79457; (806) 775-3000.

Commissioned By:

Entered by: Victoria Beles

Date Entered: 5/19/2007