

Symbolism throughout the NWL Veterans Memorial

SETTING

The Memorial design and setting in the park provide a quiet peaceful area for reflective thoughts about loved ones and the freedoms we enjoy as American citizens. Benches offer a place to sit and reflect upon our inheritance from one generation to the next. Trees surround the Memorial providing shade and natural beauty so prevalent in America's landscape.

NAMES

The names of all veterans who served since the Revolutionary War are engraved in alphabetical order on granite panels that identify the war or time period in which they served. Names are listed without rank or branch of service to embody the common bond each veteran has with each other in the defense of our nation's freedom.

QUOTES

Historical quotes edify our children, neighbors, family and friends of our Founding Fathers vision of freedom for America and the sacrifices by our veterans to preserve our freedom and liberty.

CIRCLE

The circular ring of *eleven* granite panels with Veterans names from our Nation's birth to the present with blank stones into the future represent the ongoing struggle to preserve our freedom. The eleven panels signify the first Armistice signed on the 11th month, 11th day 11th hour in 1918, later to be celebrated as Veterans Day. The circular orientation of the panels symbolizes the continuous protection provided by America's Veterans whose names are inscribed on the surrounding panels. The "spoked" orientation of the panels has no front or back displaying all names in equal setting.

STAR

The white five-pointed star symbolizes our national heritage of individual states on US flags in our nation's growth throughout history. It symbolizes the highest rank of Generals and Admirals in our military services. Stars are integral on American Insignias and Seals, the Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Bronze Star. The hub of the star signifies the five branches of military service and the Pentagon in Washington, DC, our National Defense headquarters. The 21 ft. diameter of the star symbolizes the twenty-one-gun-salute, the highest military tribute.

EAGLE

The American Bald Eagle was chosen by the founding fathers as the symbol of the United States of America on June 20, 1782 because it symbolized strength, courage, freedom and immortality. The Eagle stands guard to protect the memorial as our veterans have done to protect us.

FLAG

The center of the Memorial features the American Flag that all of our Veterans fought under and followed, through battles and wars, to preserve and protect the Constitution and our freedom.

ENTRANCE

The open gate and paved walkway invite all to enter the solemn Memorial and welcome all who treasure the freedom our Nation provides and the protection against tyranny that has threatened freedom throughout our history.

FENCE

As our U.S. Military protects our homeland, the slat fence surrounding the memorial provides an open view of the solemn area while providing continuous security, as our Veterans have done for us.