

# *A Memorial Salute to Valor's Selfless Heroes*

Our Medal of Honor recipients' selfless bravery in the face of mortal danger, often sacrificing their own lives to save others, is the embodiment of our cultural definition of hero. The character traits of courage, commitment, integrity, citizenship, sacrifice and patriotism are the underlying virtues embodied in the award of the Medal of Honor, and the most highly admired cultural and societal standards of our great nation. Let us learn and be inspired by the lessons these great men pass onto us.

The design of the Minnesota Medal of Honor Memorial visually and symbolically connects the Capitol building and the adjacent and surrounding military commemorations. The divergent walkways of the memorial portray the moment of choice that each Medal of Honor recipient has faced, choosing selfless heroic action. Those divergent walkways also symbolize the Medal of Honor neck ribbon as it cuts through the sloped planes of blue juniper. The character virtues of courage, commitment, integrity, citizenship, and sacrifice are inset on one walkway wall and the humanitarian consequence of actions of love, life, family, community, and peace are reflected in relief on the opposite walkway wall. The pentagon shaped reflecting pool is symbolically associated with the five pointed inverted star hung by the ribbon with gathered ends portrayed by the triangular shaped and sloped bronze plate walls protruding out of the ground. The Minnesota Medal of Honor Memorial logo consists of a stylized, simplified Medal of Honor medal with ribbon that is further symbolized by the Medal of Honor star in the form of the pentagon that draws the connection to our country and the symbolism our flag projects.

You will find in the painting artistically hidden images associated with the Medal of Honor, its history, the memorial site, the medals of valor, and the tradition of honorable service:

President Lincoln in 1863 initiated the awarding of the Medal of Honor for uncommon valor above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of life itself.

Cass Gilbert, as architect of the Capitol building and grounds, envisioned that the memorials to wars, military service, and sacrifice should be in the place of greatest prominence at the main entrance to the Capitol grounds at the opposite end of the Mall from the Capitol building.

Medals of Honor and Medals of Valor are our most honored symbols of selfless courage and sacrifice.

Battle Crosses represent the battlefield tributes paid by service members to their fallen comrades.

Prisoners of War and the missing still await return to their families.

Cannons used in war to secure the peace are also used ceremonially to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans.

Bugles sound the call to arms and honor our heroes.

Character virtues and values, as the legacy of our Medal of Honor recipients, are taught to our students to insure the perpetuation of our culture, society, and nation.

Branches of Service are represented by the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard seals with additional recognition of the Merchant Marine.

Wars are represented by the symbolic head gear covers of the time.

State of Minnesota outline represents the inclusiveness of the state in the recognition of our heroes.

Translations and Associations: Non Sibi Sed Patriae (Not for self, but country) USN, Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful) USMC, Uno ab Alto (One over all) USAF, Semper Paratus (Always Ready) USCG,

This We'll Defend USARMY, In Peace and War USMM

Contrails represent the groundbreaking and dedication flyovers and anticipated future commemorations.

Reflections of the Capitol building in the Medal of Honor reflecting pool connote the connection with the memorial across the width and breadth of the state and our nation.

Kilroy was here is the historic caricature of those who are always to the objective before anyone else.