# VETERANS

A NATIONAL TRIBUTE

# NEVADA STATE VETERANS

#### A NATIONAL TRIBUTE

This memorial and park is a national monument recognizing the service and sacrifice of American veterans and their families. The two-acre memorial and park features 18 larger-than-life statues, from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror.

The reverential park-like setting provides a quiet and introspective atmosphere. This memorial is a place to contemplate the common bond of service, a place for reunion, reflection, and healing. This memorial expresses our debt of gratitude to all generations of American veterans and their families for their sacrifice and dedication.

The memorial serves as a reminder that we should forever honor the proud principles upon which our nation was founded, and that we will never forget the spirit and heroism of those who have, and will, answer the call of duty.

American Shooters, Inc., a local veteran-operated business, initiated the project in 2009. The leadership of American Shooters defined the vision and scope of the memorial and subsequently created the Las Vegas Memorial Foundation under which the project was managed. This national tribute to our veterans was 100 percent privately funded by the generous contributions of businesses and individuals from around the country.



# NARRATIVE WALK-THROUGH

You enter the memorial area through visual "doorways." This doorway is formed by large, dramatic walls on one side and trees on the other; it is a formal walled entrance. Upon transiting these entryways, the space opens up exposing the entire site.

Borders of sloping desert surroundings and dramatic walls serve to ensure an appropriate contemplative atmosphere for this "hallowed ground."

You immediately notice the landscape architecture is a groundbreaking mirror of the surrounding desert geology. Desert-inspired angles and planes interplay with a carefully sculpted landscape, creating a cutting-edge setting for this world-class memorial. Walking along desert-hued pathways, you approach a central plaza where stands a dramatic bronze vignette of three modern soldiers rescuing an injured warrior. Full of emotion, movement and drama, these accurately detailed figures stand seven and a half feet tall. One soldier half-carries his fellow warrior up an inclined ramp towards a flag to which he stares, while two soldiers from various branches valiantly assist. They stand atop a plinth formed of angular, disjointed granite blocks suggesting the rubble of battle. The scene encapsulates the contradicting aspects of heroism, fear, honor, terror and dedication that are inherent in war.

Behind this sculpture group, asymmetrical steps rise to a "stage-like" area back- dropped by five large staggered granite walls upon which are etched powerful quotes from throughout history which help communicate the essence of the veteran experience and powerfully set the backdrop for the entire memorial.

# REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The Revolutionary War soldier stands boldly, as if facing an uncertain future in a time of rebellion and change. In his eyes we see determination and focus. He cradles his musket carefully, as it represents the instrument of his liberation. His stance is open and strong. The Revolutionary War soldier expertly achieves its goal of representing those first and few who dared to dream of a free and independent nation.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

The American War of Independence marked the birth of a great nation. The war, fought between 1775 and 1783, would test the ability of the world's greatest military power, Great Britain, to maintain control over its vast North American colonies and land claims. In opposition to Great Britain was a rag-tag collection of colonial settlers that opposed the king's expanding influence in their lives.

Under the command of General George Washington, these colonists would be organized into a Continental Army. During the course of the war, the Continentals would often find themselves in desperate need of clothing, shoes, food, arms and gunpowder, yet their fighting spirit sustained them. They have become a timeless image of the ideals of independence, perseverance and courage. Their eventual victory in 1783 would mark the end of the Colonial States of America and the beginning of the United States of America.



# REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The Revolutionary War Native American is a proud man. In his face we see a man who is wise and wiry. His clothing suggests a merging of his traditional culture and the culture of those who have displaced many of his people. This fusion of contrasts reflects the struggle within these warriors as they fought alongside those who, in the end, would threaten their very own existence.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

Many Native Americans participated in the American Revolution. However, the vast majority of these warriors sided with the British. Two of the central reasons Native Americans fought on behalf of the British were the British ability to supply the Indians with trade goods, including silver and weapons, and a shared goal of defeating the colonists who the natives viewed as invaders.

There is evidence of a handful of tribes who sided with the colonists. One of the outstanding examples is the Stockbridge Indians who were of Mohican heritage. They had moved to northern New York State from Stockbridge, Massachusetts before the French and Indian War and fought for the British in the French and Indian War. In particular, they had worked with Rodger's Rangers, forming a company in that unit. In the conflict they were known as skilled scouts, warriors and light infantry.

When conflict erupted between the British and the colonials, the Stockbridge Indians sided with the Americans. They were the first tribe to pledge loyalty to the American cause. Their service was noted for skill and gallantry.





# **CIVIL WAR**

The Civil War soldier is a testament to those who were tempered in the fires of a conflict that tore the nation apart at its seams. The rigid stance of this soldier suggests obedience to the cause, yet his head is turned away. Is he looking toward the next battlefield upon which he will fight? Or, does he look to a future where all battles have been fought and the wounds of a nation are healed?

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

The United States Civil War was a conflict that pushed our nation to the brink of destruction. The war would pit the largely agrarian society of the South against the more industrialized states of the North. The existence, or abolition of slavery, the power of a central government and the future of this young nation would be decided upon the fields of this Civil War.

From 1861 to 1865 more than three million Americans would soldier, from the riverbanks of the Mississippi, to the swamps of the Carolinas, to the wheat fields of Pennsylvania. Prior to the war, many of these men had never ventured beyond the valleys and cities they called home. In four years of bloody conflict they would come to know home as a place they hoped and prayed to see once again. By the time General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House in April of 1865 brought an end to the war, more than 600,000 Americans had lost their lives in the great Civil War. The difficult process of reconstruction following the war would lay the foundations of a truly united, United States of America.







### SPANISH AMERICAN WAR



The Spanish American War soldier leans upon his rifle. His stance suggests the exhaustion that has come with his journey — a journey not only to the fields of Cuba, but also a journey to gain the acceptance and respect of a nation and army stained with racism and discrimination. While he appears tired, he also projects determination to surrender to no enemies at home or afar.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

The Spanish American War was a brief military conflict fought in the Spanish-held territory of Cuba in 1898. The entire war lasted a little more than three months. However, this brief conflict resulted in a loss of Spanish control of Cuba and would lead to the Philippine Insurrection. Combined, these events would position the United States as a more global power with a strong military presence in the Pacific. Less than forty years after the end of hostilities, this positioning would be a significant factor in United States involvement in WWII.

The roots of the Spanish American War are found in the struggle between indigenous Cubans and the Spanish government who controlled the island. By 1898, the Spanish authorities had established a record of human rights abuses against the Cubans. In the United States, the press seemed to adopt the Cuban cause as their own. Spain was portrayed as a sinister overlord enslaving the helpless Cubans. Parallels between the Cuban cause and the American Revolution were also drawn. On April 25, 1898, the United States Congress declared war on Spain.





# WORLD WAR I

The World War I soldier stands as if braced against the storm of a conflict that would introduce the world to a new level of destruction and inhumanity. He appears windswept. He is bundled up against the elements. His tired arms remain strong, holding his rifle at the ready. His projecting, open stance suggests his willingness to stand as a last line of defense against those who would dare threaten the promise of liberty.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

World War I was the first war of its kind. It marked the beginning of the end of "classical warfare," that is great armies of men and horses plodding across the fields and through the cities of Europe. It marked the beginning of a new mechanized warfare, showcasing terrible new weapons including high explosives, poison gas, machine guns, tanks and aircraft. The war to end all wars would not succeed at doing just that – ending armed conflict. Indeed, it would ignite embers that would, a few decades later, grow into the fires of WWII.

The United States Army arrived late to the battlefields of Europe. The great armies of Europe had been at war since 1914. The United States maintained an isolationist strategy throughout most of 1914, 1915 and 1916. On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany and fought in Europe for little more than a year; however, that year would feel like a lifetime to many of the men who endured the horrors of the European battlefield. That year would also prove transformative, not only to the soldiers, but also to the army for which they soldiered. An army that before the conflict had largely been a small, professional organization was forced to become an expeditionary force capable of international reach and influence.





# WORLD WAR II



The World War II soldier is eternally ready to move out — to the next objective, the next village, the next battlefield. His rifle is slung over his shoulder. His eyes peer from beneath the steel pot helmet he lives under. This soldier's readiness to march reflects the global nature of the war. He has seen terrible things. And now, he longs only to complete his duty with honor, win the war and set off on the final march home.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

The Second World War had been raging around the world for several years before the United States became directly involved following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 1941. The United States' participation in the Second World War lasted from late 1941 to late 1945. American soldiers would fight at sea, in the air and on battlefields from the deserts of Africa, to the jungles of the Pacific, to the snowcovered fields of northern Europe.

The United States Army of 1941 was not prepared for a global conflict. This is a comment on both the size of the army and the arms and equipment U.S. soldiers carried as they marched off to war. At the start of the conflict, the Springfield bolt-action rifle was still the standard issue, a carryover from WWI. The U.S. combat uniform looked more like a garrison dress uniform. And the WWI-style helmet was also still being used. The onset of conflict would bring about major changes in U.S. arms and equipment. This would include the introduction of the excellent M1 helmet system and the finest combat rifle carried by any army in the conflict, the M1 Garand. However, these updates were slow to find their way to the field.





# WORLD WAR II

The World War II nurse portrays a woman who has managed to hold on to her femininity and compassion, while swept up in the fires of war. She cradles the tools of her work — medical instruments, bandages and canteens. Her clothing suggests utility. She has become one of the many, clad in khaki or olive drab, who seems to blend in. And yet, the locks of hair falling from the scarf upon her head, her soft features and her gentle gaze remind us that she refuses to surrender her femininity.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

From the fires of the Revolution to the rugged valleys of Afghanistan, the American nurse has been a constant presence on the battlefields of America's conflicts. Throughout the decades, these brave women have cared for the wounded and dying from field hospitals to bullet-raked beaches. Their presence has brought much more than simply medical treatment to those they tend. For many of the fallen, their care and comforting have served as an invaluable reminder of home and all that they are fighting for.

American nurses have served and died for more than two centuries. The story of America's veterans would be incomplete without an accounting of their valiant service to their country.



# KOREAN WAR

The Korean War soldier serves as a testament to those who go to war upon the waves. He stands forever poised to ready the guns. His strong, powerful stance mirrors the strength of those African Americans who were fighting battles, not only in the Korean Peninsula, but also on the homefront. His gaze is one of determined readiness. His powerful sculpting suggest the readiness of a nation to fight for justice.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

The Korean War was a conflict between communist North and anticommunist South Korea. This proxy war between the United States and the Soviet Union was the stage for some of the most brutal combat of the 20th century.

On June 25, 1950, war broke out when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf. The rugged landscape of the Korean Peninsula proved an enemy to both sides. Americans fell not only to bullets and artillery shells, but also to frostbite and pneumonia.

After some early back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, the fighting stalled and casualties mounted with nothing to show for them. Meanwhile, American officials worked anxiously to fashion some sort of armistice with the North Koreans. The alternative, they feared, would be a wider war with Russia and China or even, possibly, World War III. Finally, in July 1953, the Korean War came to an end. In all, some five million soldiers and civilians lost their lives during the war. The Korean Peninsula remains divided today, and the war has come to be known as America's forgotten war.



# VIETNAM WAR



The Vietnam War soldier is a man laden with the instruments of war. He carries upon his shoulders not only the weight of his gear, but also the burden of a nation struggling to redefine itself. In his stance we find strength and determination merged with the exhaustion that comes with battles fought, won and lost. The Vietnam War soldier pays tribute to those who walked into the jungle as boys and emerged as men.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

The Vietnam War was one of America's longest and most divisive conflicts. American military advisors began aiding the non-communist South Vietnamese as early as the 1950s. American combat units arrived "in country" starting in 1965. They were greeted by a landscape of steamy, hostile jungles. In those jungles they found an elusive guerilla foe in the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldier.

For both the soldiers who fought in Vietnam and Americans back home, the war would test their perseverance and will as no conflict before or since. It would force many to reexamine basic American values including duty and patriotism. By the time U.S. combat operations ended in 1973, nearly 60,000 Americans were dead. For many who would return, the ghost of Vietnam would haunt them for years to come.



# **GULF WAR**

The Gulf War is represented by a pilot. The modern equipment of the pilot suggests a new age of conflict — a battlefield where the human and the machine are merged into a cohesive fighting system. And while this soldier is covered with the trappings of technology, his strong stance and steely expression remind us that it is men and women who continue to fight and die in the name of freedom.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

The 20th witnessed the introduction of a powerful new weapon of war. Beginning with the wood and fabric aircraft of WWI, military airpower revolutionized the battlefield. With this new frontier of flight came a new soldier, the American airman. Huddled in open cockpits, firing revolvers at passing bi-planes, or piloting stealth air supremacy fighters, these men and women wage war on a three-dimensional battlefield where a mistake is often fatal.

It is a special breed of warrior who slips the bounds of earth to do battle in the sky. And while their weapons may be quite different than those of the minutemen, their culture of bravery, service and honor remains unchanged.







# GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

The modern-day soldiers memorial is a dramatic bronze vignette of three modern soldiers rescuing an injured warrior. Full of emotion, movement and drama, one soldier half-carries his fellow warrior up an inclined ramp towards a flag to which he stares, while two soldiers from various branches valiantly assist. They stand atop a plinth formed of angular, disjointed granite blocks suggesting the rubble of battle. The scene encapsulates the contradicting aspects of heroism, fear, honor, terror and dedication that are inherent in war.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

Today's American soldier ventures into combat with the most sophisticated weapons, equipment and intelligence the world has ever seen, yet the essence of the American fighting man and woman remains unchanged from the days of The Revolution, more than two centuries ago. At their core is a foundation of service, duty and honor that has defined the American soldier

Today's soldier is called upon to be much more than a combatant. From helping to restore infrastructure, to understanding diverse and complex social systems, to providing health care for affected civilian groups, the American soldier is a symbol of great power used to enforce justice and equality in conflict zones around the globe. Today's men and women in service to their country join a legion of souls that maintain a timeless watch over the liberty and justice that defines the United States of America.



# FAMILY

The American family stands as a reminder that it is not only soldiers who go to war. We see a man, a woman, a boy and a girl. Is the man a father, a grandfather? Is the woman a mother, a sister, a wife? Are the children brothers and sisters, or sons and daughters? Their relationships remain undefined. Yet their poses suggest connectivity, strength, concern, compassion, support and love. They are those who are left behind. They are the ones left to fight the battles within when their loved ones march away, to return years later, or, not at all.

#### THE VETERAN FAMILY

They are the ones that are left behind to wait seemingly countless days, months, even

years for the return of the ones that they love. No monument to the American soldier would be complete without a testament to the families of our warriors. For every man and woman that answers the call to duty, there are mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters who stand, as vigilant as those who serve. In their eyes we see honor, courage, pain and pride.

For more than 200 years these quiet heroes have stood as the family foundation of those who fight and die to keep all Americans free.

Did you know?

#### FACTS ABOUT THE MEMORIAL

- ★ All the statues were sculpted in DeMossville, Kentucky and cast in Norman, Oklahoma.
- ★ There is over 4,000 square feet of absolute black granite used in the memorial.
- ★ The 10 silver statues are actually aluminum magnesium allow. This metal mixture was used to give the statues a "looking through time/ ghostlike" quality.
- ★ It took nearly five years to research, design, and sculpt all 18 statues.
- ★ Over 2,000 pounds of modeling clay was used to sculpt all the statues before they were cast in either aluminum magniesium alloy or bronze.
- ★ The five bench areas were not part of the original design of the memorial, but added later to provide a place for reflection and reunion.
- ★ A national search was conducted to find an artist to help design the memorial, with over 200 artists submitting resumes for consideration.

- ★ To subtly create a sense of immediacy and interaction, most of the statues squint because the vast majority of the time they will be viewed in the bright Nevada sunshine.
- ★ Look closely, the World War I statue has a broken nose and 'cauliflower' ears. Perhaps he was a boxer?
- ★ The Native American statue was modeled after the Stockbridge Indian Tribe from the area around Stockbridge, Massachusetts.
  They fought alongside the Continental Army as scouts and warriors througout the entire Revolution.
- ★ The bronze statues weigh about 800 pounds and the aluminum magnesium alloy statues weigh about 400 pounds each.
- ★ The original location of the memorial was planned for the Huntridge Circle Park along Maryland Parkway in Las Vegas.



For more information about the memorial, please visit: V E T E R A N S . N V . O R G