

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEMORIAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is honored on the memorial?

The joint-service memorial stands in honor of all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who have served in the Global War on Terrorism since 9/11 and the families who support them. This includes active duty, veterans and those who've made the ultimate sacrifice defending their country.

How many names are on the memorial?

7,030 deaths have been recorded by the Defense Casualty Analysis System. The names on the memorial are current as of July 31, 2020. Once each year, the names of those killed in the past year will be added to the memorial.

What are the criteria for names on the memorial?

The list of names was provided by the Defense Casualty Analysis System, the government's official office for collecting and maintaining U.S. casualty information on warfighters who have fallen in global or regional conflicts involving the United States. This site is maintained by the Defense Manpower Data Center.

The DCAS list includes all service members who died while in the Global War on Terrorism theater of operations, regardless of their cause of death. Service members who later died of wounds inflicted while in the theater are added to the list. If you believe a name has been erroneously omitted or misspelled, please contact DMDC/DEERS Support Office at 800-538-9552.

What is the significance of the memorial's various components?

The memorial includes elements that reference the attacks of September 11, 2001, which triggered the Global War on Terrorism, and our response to them. At the front are two concrete pillars representing the Twin Towers. Bridging the pillars is a 13-foot steel beam that was pulled from the wreckage of the North Tower and given to the museum by New York City firefighters. The beam is attached to each pillar at different heights representing where each was struck by the terrorist-operated aircraft. The North Tower was struck between floors 93 and 99 by hijacked American Airlines Flight 11. The South Tower was struck between floors 78 and 84 by United Airlines Flight 175.

In the center of the memorial is a five-sided platform paying tribute to those who were killed in the Pentagon. Atop the platform is a bronze figure of SPC Ross McGinnis, a Medal of Honor recipient.

The McGinnis statue represents the leader of the nine-person Infantry team. Flanking the statue are the other eight members of an Infantry Squad, collectively representing the cornerstone of American military might. Each is outfitted in uniforms and equipment in use by the Army upon deployment in 2001.

Throughout the memorial are interpretive panels and images that illustrate the history of the conflict and the roles of each of the services.

How was SPC McGinnis selected to represent the Infantry squad?

Ross McGinnis was just 19 years old when he threw himself on a grenade that had been thrown into the Humvee he was riding in. Although he easily could have escaped the vehicle, he chose to absorb the full force of the blast, which killed him instantly but saved the lives of four crew members. This remarkable act of heroism resulted in the awarding of the country's highest decoration of valor. McGinnis is the only Infantryman to date to receive the Medal of Honor posthumously in the Global War on Terrorism.

Some of the geographic names on the interpretive maps have unfamiliar spellings. Why?

Our research turned up many different ways to spell cities and provinces, depending on the source and time period of the map referenced. The Maneuver Center of Excellence Museums Division staff provided us with maps used by the Army – a planning map for Afghanistan from 2001 and one for Iraq from 2006. This was the source we chose to use for the maps on the memorial.

If it's a multi-service memorial, why isn't the Coast Guard represented?

To date, one member of the Coast Guard has given his life in the Global War on Terrorism. However, DC3 Nathan Bruckenthal was attached to the Navy aboard USS Firebolt at the time of his death and is therefore listed in Department of Defense casualty records as a Navy casualty. He and six other coalition sailors were attempting to board a small boat when it exploded near the Iraqi Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal. Bruckenthal was the first Coast Guard member killed in action since the Vietnam War. His name is engraved on Panel 2 of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial.

Why aren't other federal agencies represented on the memorial?

The memorial is designed to pay tribute to the Department of Defense Forces that have participated in one or more of the five Overseas Contingency Operations involved in the Global War on Terrorism. Those operations include Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

Who built the memorial?

National Infantry Museum Foundation staff, Maneuver Center of Excellence Museums Division staff and a committee of four retired four-star generals who commanded troops in the Global War on Terrorism developed the initial design. Project Manager Aaron & Clements, Inc. led the following teams in developing and executing the plan: Williams Design Group – Concept Design; French & Associates – Site Design and Landscape Architect; Barnes Gibson Partners Architects – Consulting Architect; Thayer-Bray Construction – Construction Manager; Alan Cottrill Sculpture Studio and Coopermill Bronze Works – Bronze Statues; Coldspring – Granite Panels.

How much did the memorial cost and who paid for it?

The \$2 million memorial was funded largely by the following companies, foundations and individuals: the Viola Family Foundation, AM General, Gordon Cain Foundation, Moglia Family Foundation, Rob Andy, Frank Sullivan, O'Neill Sandler, Perry Di Lorento, and Jack and Jane Goldfrank. Additional support came from members of the Honor Circle and donors to the Circle of Heroes campaign.