

Northfield Area Veterans Memorial





History

The Northfield Area Veterans Memorial stands as a tribute not only to the veterans it honors, but also to the years of dedicated effort on the part of volunteers, committee members and others who worked tirelessly to make the memorial a reality.

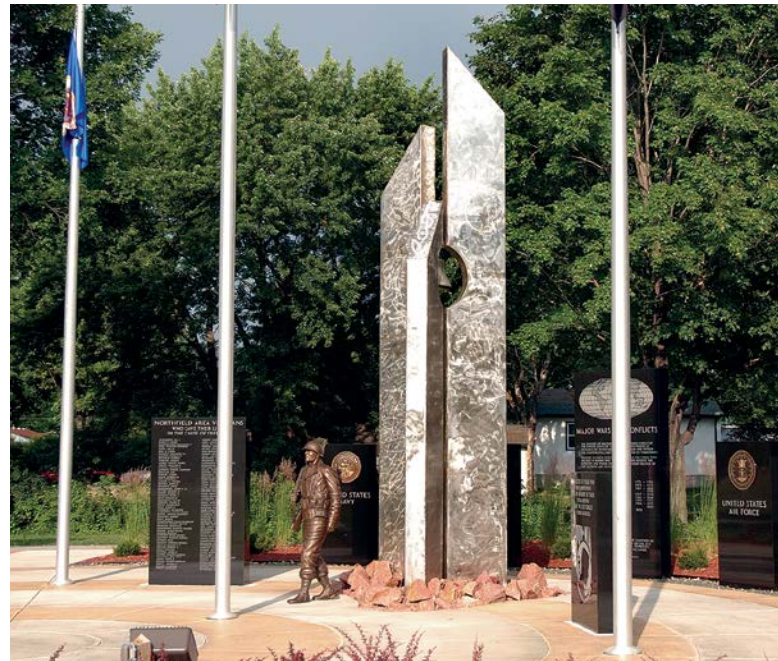
The idea of a veterans memorial had been a dream of many Northfield veterans for years. In November 1998, the local posts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion voted to approve the concept of establishing a memorial. A Veterans Park Committee was formed to develop a plan and enlist community support. By May 1999, the committee was ready to formally request the involvement of the City of Northfield, which responded with a resolution in December 1999 establishing the Veterans Memorial Trust Fund.

Welcome

The courage and dedication of America's brave veterans is truly one of the greatest gifts ever given. The Northfield Area Veterans Memorial honors these gifts and recognizes all of the veterans who have served our nation from the Revolutionary War to the present day. It is a quiet, reflective and educational place in which to remember the sacrifices of war and give thanks to those who served our country in the name of freedom.

This brochure is intended to provide an overview of the Northfield Area Veterans Memorial and its elements. For more detailed information, please visit our website at www.northfieldveterans.org.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Northfield Area Veterans Memorial.





In February 2000, the committee met with the Northfield Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) to begin the long process of dedicating city park land to the memorial project. Over the next two years, the committee engaged designer Jeff Anderson, and worked with the PRAB to identify a site for the memorial. With the support of the Northfield Lions Club and the City Council, a portion of Riverside Lions Park was officially designated as the site of the Northfield Area Veterans Memorial.

In October 2003, an effort was launched to solicit contributions to support individually engraved paving stones. The initial response to the paving stone purchase program was very successful. By the end of October 2005, more than 850 paving stones had been purchased. Based on the success of the paving stone purchase program, community fundraising began in earnest. Memorial committee officers solicited

contributions from area businesses and service clubs, as well as individual donors.

While the fundraising effort was under way, work on the memorial design continued. The general site plan and a detailed presentation of the elements of the memorial were completed in early 2005, and construction began with a groundbreaking ceremony on Memorial Day, May 30, 2005. Finally, after more than seven years of planning, the Northfield Area Veterans Memorial was dedicated on Veterans Day, November 11, 2005. The ceremony featured an address by the Honorable Albert H. Quie, former Governor of Minnesota and a World War II veteran who grew up in the Northfield area. It is estimated that more than 1,500 people attended the dedication ceremony on the unseasonably warm, 65-degree November day.



1 Spires

2 Bell

List of Major Conflicts 7

Wall of Honor 4

POW/MIA Tablet 6

Soldier 3

5 Service Branch Tablets

Elements of the Memorial

1. SPIRES

Three graceful spires rise from rocky ground to represent distinct stages of American military history: the effort to gain our freedom; the struggle to maintain our national unity and the freedom of all citizens; and the effort to defend and protect the freedom of others.

At 21 feet, the tallest spire symbolizes the 21-Gun Salute, an honor accorded to presidents, military leaders, foreign dignitaries and fallen soldiers.



2. BELL

A mounted bell in the center of the three spires is a call to order — a reminder of the willingness of those who serve in the United States military to step forward into harm's way when the nation calls. The tolling bell is also a call to

commemorate a special event or to signify a special honor. Its chime reminds us of the sacrifices we honor with this memorial. The bell mounted in the spires of the memorial has a rich Northfield history. First used in the Southern steam locomotive line that ran from Minneapolis to Northfield, it was donated for use in the Peace Garden attached to the Schilling Museum. When the museum closed, it was acquired by the Machacek family and donated to the memorial in memory of World War II veteran Marilyn Christie Machacek.

3. SOLDIER

A solid bronze statue of a male soldier faces the United States flag. The soldier is equipped with World War II Army combat gear. The burden of his wartime experiences are evident on his face ... marching home from war, he gazes straight ahead, haunted by the memories.



4. WALL OF HONOR

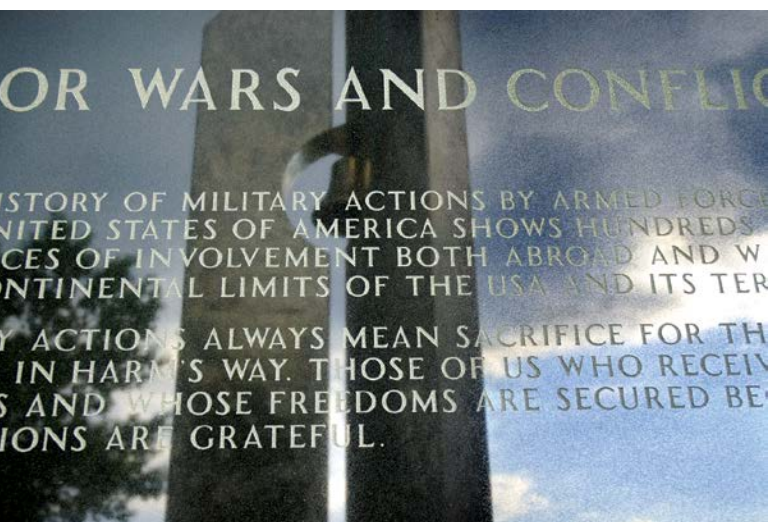
An engraved, black granite tablet memorializes the men and women in the Northfield area who have given their lives during war time.

5. SERVICE BRANCH TABLETS

The veterans who served in any of the six major branches of the United States military (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine) are honored by separate black granite tablets. The tablets feature the official service seals and pay tribute to the unique history and special responsibilities of each branch.

6. POW/MIA TABLET

This black granite tablet recognizes the suffering and sacrifice of men and women who were prisoners of war or who are missing in action.



7. LIST OF MAJOR CONFLICTS

This black granite tablet outlines the major wars and conflicts in which the United States has engaged. The full history of military actions by the armed forces of the United States of America includes hundreds of instances of involvement both abroad and within the United States and its territories. These wars and conflicts have always meant sacrifice for the military servicemen and servicewomen put in harm's way.

8. WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

The engraved paving stones that line the sidewalks of the memorial serve as the Walk of Remembrance. Each stone includes the honoree's name, branch of service, and the conflict or dates he or she served.

Visiting the Memorial

The many stunning elements of the Northfield Area Veterans Memorial make for a peaceful and reflective visit. Below is a map that highlights the main pathways and destinations.

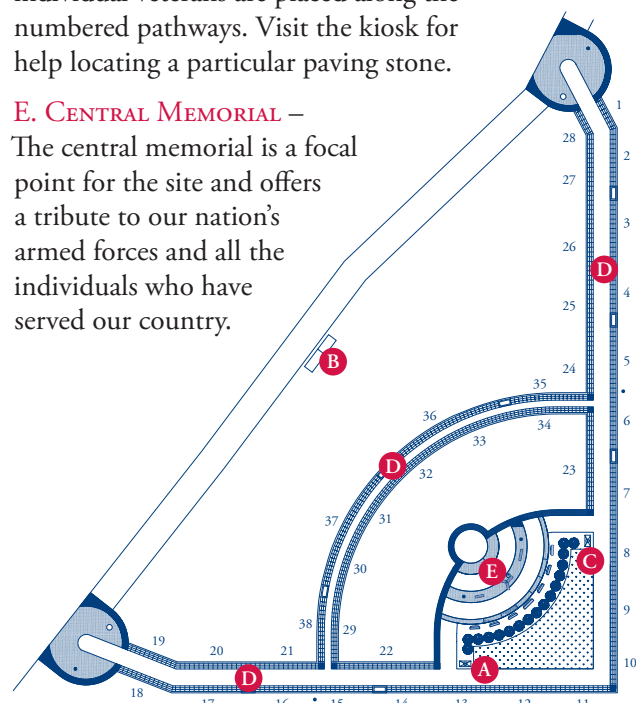
A. KIOSK – The kiosk serves as the central information booth, where visitors can find a list of all paving stone honorees and the locations of their stones.

B. DEDICATION MONUMENT – This stone commemorates the dedication of the memorial on Veterans Day in 2005.

C. DONOR PLAQUE – The development of the memorial was made possible by the generous donations of the founding contributors recognized on this plaque.

D. MEMORIAL WALKWAYS – Paving stones honoring individual veterans are placed along the numbered pathways. Visit the kiosk for help locating a particular paving stone.

E. CENTRAL MEMORIAL – The central memorial is a focal point for the site and offers a tribute to our nation's armed forces and all the individuals who have served our country.

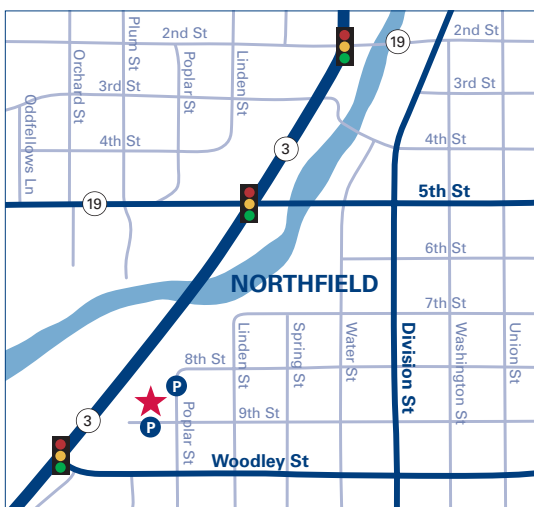


Additional Information

Though the basic construction is complete, the installation of paving stones will never end. Paving stones will be laid in the park during the spring of each year. Stones are \$300 and may be purchased for any veteran who has served honorably in the United States Armed Forces from the Revolutionary War to the present. This includes reservists and guardsmen. To purchase a paving stone, please complete the order form found in this brochure or visit www.northfieldveterans.org. Paving stone purchases and donations are tax deductible.



To help us maintain this beautiful Veterans Park, send your tax deductible donation to the address below.



Northfield Area Veterans Memorial

PO Box 822, NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA 55057

www.northfieldveterans.org

©2019 Northfield Area Veterans Memorial