

# Newsletter of the Minnesota Military Family Tribute

October, 2012

## THE FIRST EVER

While there is frequent recognition of active military members and veterans, the tremendous day-to-day sacrifices made by the family members who support them are all too often forgotten.

Poised on the grounds of the Minnesota State Capitol Mall, the Minnesota Military Family Tribute will thank those that have made, and continue to make, sacrifices here at home.

The need for the Tribute was identified in 2009 after Bill Popp spoke at the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans celebration at the Minnesota State Capitol. Popp focused his remarks on thanking veteran families for the sacrifices they made to support those serving in Vietnam.

Unbeknownst to Popp, and wife Teri, his message for military families would tug at the heartstrings of veterans. "It was evident by the outpouring of gratitude from the veterans that their military family members needed to be recognized for the sacrifices they make," stated Popp, "it was as if no one had ever thanked the families before."

It was then the need for the Minnesota Military Family Tribute was identified.

Designed to honor the families of active and veteran members of the military, the Minnesota Military Family Tribute will be the first of its kind in the nation.

The Tribute will serve as a permanent place of healing and reflection to all Gold Star, Blue Star and veteran families. Blue Star Families have expressed their sincere gratitude for a Tribute that recognizes the families that sacrifice here at home while their loved ones are serving in the Armed Forces during any period of war. Gold Star Families have shared that the Tribute will demonstrate Americans understand the ultimate sacrifice families have made when they have lost a loved one as the result of military service to our nation. And veteran families have conveyed how much they appreciate the recognition of their family members for their daily sacrifices here at home.

Working closely with the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, MFT leaders secured a prominent location for the Tribute. Framing the south end of the Minnesota State Capitol Mall, the Tribute will tie together other war memorials on the Mall, including the Korean, World War II and Vietnam Memorials.

The Capital Area Architectural and Planning Board's Paul Mandell shares "the Tribute will connect the memorials and guide visitors through them," explaining the one constant for all veterans, regardless of era served, is family.

Nancy Stark, also with the Capital Area Architectural and Planning Board, describes the concept for the Tribute as "very serene and calming element people can walk through and reflect." She adds, "the design is very simple and allows visitors enjoy more of the Capitol Mall area."

For all, the Tribute will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices military and veteran families make to our Nation. The Tribute shows military and veteran families we thank them, we care and we will never forget.

## BE A PART OF HISTORY

Help create a permanent thank you to Minnesota military and veteran families who provide the true foundation of support to our military personnel.

Our goal to build this Tribute is \$1 million dollars. With your help, and the help of many others, the Military Family Tribute will soon become a reality.

Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> is the third annual "Give to the Max Day" in Minnesota - be a part of history and make your contribution to the Minnesota Military Family Tribute at [www.giveMN.org](http://www.giveMN.org).

Your contribution on November 15<sup>th</sup> is more important than ever. The Minnesota Military Family Tribute has the opportunity to receive up to a \$25,000 match through a generous donation from Dennis and Megan Doyle and Welsh Cos.

## FOUNDING PARTNERS

We are pleased to announce the Founding Partners of the Minnesota Military Family Tribute.

The Minnesota Military Family Tribute is honored to call **Davisco, Federated Insurance, Popp Communications, Starkey Hearing Foundation** and **Wells Fargo** *Founding Partners* of the Minnesota Military Family Tribute. Each of these organizations has donated \$100,000 for the Tribute, setting the stage for a successful endeavor.

The leadership of the MFT is profoundly thankful for the generosity of these organizations.



## FOUNDING MEDIA SPONSORS



Telling the story of the Minnesota Military Family Tribute is integral to the success of our efforts to establish the Tribute.

The story would not be told without the help of our Founding Media Sponsors, CBS and Clear Channel. Due to the support of Clear Channel and CBS, we were able to secure the Founding Partners by offering on-air recognition for their generous donations.

You can hear the radio ads on both CBS and Clear Channel beginning early in November.

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## THE MINNESOTA MILITARY FAMILY TRIBUTE

### *Thank You Military and Veteran Family Walkway*

First of the Tribute's three main motifs, the Walkway, is expressed as a graceful arc which responds to the seasons.

Majestic rows of trees line the promenade, providing shade in the summer and places of rest on benches below. Fall brings a symphony of color, as the trees turn from gold to orange then to red, finally dropping their leaves in the season of silhouettes. During winter, the ash-grey bark of the formal plantings creates a contrast of color and texture with freshly fallen snow. In the spring, vibrant beds of red flowering plants announce the entrance to the Tribute as a tie to the memory of our veterans.



### *Gold Star Table*

The Gold Star Table recognizes the supreme sacrifice of our Gold Star Families.

The space features a sculpted table representing many narratives. It symbolizes the tables that we gather at as a family to share dinner, stories and laughter. It is a place of gathering, reflection and recreating memories.

In the home of a Gold Star Family, loved ones are reminded daily of their deep loss when they see an empty chair at their dinner table. The table in this Tribute has an element of transcendence, suggesting that one day these families will be reunited.

Made of enduring bronze, its five-pointed foundation resembles the gold star. Northern hemisphere constellations shine through the table's surface, allowing light to pass through and creating a guide to the night sky. Polaris – the North Star is emphasized – a constant navigational guide to home, and refers to our State's motto L'Étoile du Nord, the Start of the North. To older civilizations, the stars were used to map their way home.

Visitors may come to the table to express gratitude for Gold Star Families through thought, word or deed.

Scheduled to be dedicated in late-summer 2014, the Military Family Tribute will forever stand as a thank you to every Minnesota military and veteran family member – past, present and future.

### *Story Stones*

The Story Stones represent the counties from which Minnesota soldiers hail.

Arranged into nine Northern Hemisphere constellations on a bed of crushed stone, the Story Stones serve as a unique visual connection between loved ones that are deployed, their families and home and the shared stars of the night sky.

Excerpts from correspondence sent between soldiers and family members are etched onto these stones, and provide a window into the lives of our military and veteran families and their sacrifices, as well as importing a strong educational component.



**Give to the Max Day**  
**Thur., November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**www.giveMN.org**