History & Timeline

- 1998 A few veterans started having discussions of a veterans memorial in St. Peter, MN.
- 2011 August 17th seven citizens met to form a Veteran Memorial committee.
- 2012 October 24th Eric Oleson of Oleson & Hobbie Architects began volunteering to provide design services for the committee.
- 2014 August 25th the Saint Peter City Council approved the site.
- 2014 October 8th Resolution establishing the Saint Peter Area Veterans Memorial Committee.
- 2015 March 23rd Saint Peter City Council approved the design for the Memorial that had an estimated cost of $600,000.
- 2015 May Donation letters are sent out & fund raising begins.
- 2016 Committee selects R.W. Carlstrom as the General Contractor for the Project.
- 2016 Committee selects Coldspring Granite as the supplier of the granite.
- 2017 January City Council approves the Developers Agreement with the Veterans Memorial Committee, the Committee gives the City Council $10,000 for maintenance of the Memorial.
- 2017 June City Council approved James Shoop’s “Eagle” as the Peace & Freedom statue for the memorial. Shoop begins work on the $90,000 statue.
- 2017 October construction begins on the Memorial.
- 2018 July 1st Dedication of the memorial with several thousand people in attendance.
- 2019 December 9th Saint Peter Area Veterans Memorial Committee transferred ownership of the Memorial to the City of Saint Peter along with the balance of over $35,000 for maintenance of the memorial.
- Final Cost of the Memorial was over $800,000 with no tax money required.

For years, the Memorial committee dreamed, set goals, worked on and planned every conceivable topic concerning St. Peter Area Veterans Memorial. They discussed and researched everything from the location to the size of the sculpture. They talked and planned for rain and snow drainage, who would snow blow the walkways, material of the walls, color of the granite, lighting, guidelines for the sculpture, trees and landscaping, what wars and conflicts to be included, who to be included down to who would obtain the paper and pencils for visitors to etch their family member’s name.

Scavenger Hunt

Search for:
1. Five Governors of Minnesota & their branch of service.
3. Words: “Lest We Forget.”
7. Is the eagle’s beak open or closed?
8. List of branches of services honored.
9. Wall of Honor those service members who gave their lives for our freedom.
10. Box with the supplies for etching a name found on the wall.
11. Major Donor Wall.

Honor your veteran, such as a parent, grandparent, family member or relative, living or deceased, by placing their name on the Saint Peter Area Veterans Memorial in perpetuity. Veterans included on the Memorial Service Wall do not need to be Saint Peter area residents.

For more information go to: https://www.saintpetermn.gov/456/Saint-Peter-Area-Veterans-Memorial

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The St. Peter Area Veterans Memorial is a memorial consisting of two Service Walls constructed of 16 black granite panels. These walls form an entrance to a circular area made up the Honor Wall. Behind the Honor Wall is a Donor Wall with names of those donating $500 or more. On the Service Walls, are more than 1,000 names of men and women with St. Peter ties who served their country. The panels start with the earliest war and move on to the most recent wars and conflicts. The earliest of names listed are in alphabetic order, but as newer names are added, they are listed where there is space on the panel. The Honor Wall, consisting of eight panels, has nearly 100 names of service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The walls of the Memorial are made of Cold Springs Black Granite mined in Quebec, Canada. The granite used at the base of the memorial's walls is Mesabi Granite with gray flecks. Mesabi Granite is also used for the lines containing quotes around the sculpture. Cold Spring Granite Corp does the engraving as well. The engraving is a multi-stepped process that takes talented artisans and great attention to detail.

**Fun Facts of the St. Peter Veterans’ Wall of Honor**
- Cold Spring Granite of Cold Spring, MN provided the granites.
- Two different granites are used in the Memorial:
  - Cold Spring Black Granite mined in Alma, Quebec, Canada.
  - Mesabi Black Granite mined in Babbitt, MN, U.S.A.
- Quarry blocks of granite are shipped to Cold Spring Granite by truck.
- Cold Spring Granite cuts and finishes the granite ready for use.
- Granite weights approx. 175 pounds per cubic foot.
- The St. Peter Veterans Memorial has approx. 300 cubic feet of granite.
- St. Peter Veterans Memorial has over 26 tons of granite.
- Cold Spring granite does all its own sandblasting graphic and lettering.
- After approval of drawings, fabrication time is usually 10-12 weeks.

**“Peace and Freedom” Statue**
Artist: Sculpturer James Shoop
- A professional sculptor since 1983.
- First apprenticed with his father at his family’s foundry. Shoop’s American Bronze Casting.
- Worked in all areas of production, including: sculpting, molding, casting & finishing.
- Studied classical sculpture at:
  - The National Academy of Design,
  - The New York Academy of Art

After months of applications, proposals, interviews & final selection, James Shoop was chosen as the artist to create a piece of art to grace the St. Peter Area Veterans Memorial. The artwork was to represent the reason why so many of our citizens have been willing to serve their country. On June 1, 2017, James started with a budget of $90,000.00 to create the bronze “Peace & Freedom” statue. Artist Shoop states, “In developing this sculpture, I needed to link it to all the names listed. My wife came up with the great idea of having feathers of the eagle that are scattered throughout the base. Each one of these feathers represents each name listed. They are individuals, but when they flow together, they become one in the eagle, the whole. Swirling with the feathers is water, representing the Minnesota River that made St. Peter a settlement. The water and feathers represent the force that gives ride to the eagle’s movement upward and forward. As you take a closer look, you will see elements of the American Flag. It is being lifted up, symbolically uniting all who have come before & who will continue into the future. Linking these elements bridges the generations of the past, leading forward into the future.” Sculpturer Shoop said one the best part of the whole experience, for him and his wife was meeting & working with all the vets & their families. As part of the aftermath of this project they have made a limited number of 1/10 scale Maquettes & have them for sale with a 10% of the cost going to the St. Peter Area Veterans Memorial’s upkeep.

**Fun Facts of the: The Spirit of Freedom and Peace**
- Weight pounds…18,000 pounds.
- Eagle’s beak closed means non-aggressive.
- Feet tall…10 feet.
- Feet around…6 ½ feet.
- Made of …Bronze.
- Hours to create it…7 days a week, for 10 months, over 500 hours from casting to delivery.
- “The best part of making the sculpture was, being able to put all my skills together in one piece, designing & creating with my wife a positive message to send out into the world.”
  - Sculpturer Shoop.