



Interpretation of the WWII 50th Anniversary Memorial

The World War II 50th Anniversary Memorial portrays how World War II inflamed Europe, Asia, North Africa, and the seas of both the Atlantic and Pacific, in the Allies confrontation against Axis tyranny. The plaque was commissioned by Costas Rombocos, President of the Shrine of Remembrance. The renowned artist, John Hancovsky of Matthews Bronze International, Pittsburgh, PA, was the designer and sculptor.

The raised relief bronze plaque with gold, red, white, and blue highlights depicts the poignant warfare and personal involvement that affected the 16 million Americans who put on the military uniform. It also portrays the millions on the homefront who contributed to the war effort that consumed the entire nation, serving both at home and overseas.

The commemorative memorial illustrates the June 6th, 1944 American forces crossing of the English Channel and landing on the beaches of Normandy which was the turning point of the war in Europe. The mighty USS MISSOURI battleship is firing its 16 inch guns in one of the many naval battles in the South Pacific. A B-24 "Liberator" Bomber, one of thousands that bombed Axis enemy targets in Europe, is banking right over a target at Ploesti, Romania, while behind it a German Me109 fighter plane is going down in flames. A M-4 Sherman tank is shown advancing across the deserts of North Africa, while the conflict in the Italian Alps is depicted by the mountains. A machine gun nest of American soldiers, on the Solomon Islands in the Pacific and a C-47 flying the Burma Hump, in the Burma-China-India Theater with Americans parachuting into the interior of China is also shown.

The countless millions of American mothers, wives, and sweethearts that went to work in war factories across the homefront is portrayed by "Polly the Riveter."

The triumphant scene of U.S. Marines raising the American flag on the Iwo Jima hilltop graces the memorial plaque indicating that freedom has been restored by the heroism and toil of America's young sons and daughters.

The memorial quotes Lt. General Claude M. Kicklighter who retired from the U.S. Army in 1991, after serving as Commanding General of U.S. Army, Pacific. He is the chairman of the World War II Anniversary committee on behalf of the Department of Defense. He personally gave his permission to Costas Rombocos and the Shrine of Remembrance Veterans Honor Court to cast the memorial in everlasting bronze to commemorate the 50th Anniversary.