



Newsletter of the Minnesota Military Family Tribute

April, 2015

Jenifer Navratil-Skjerven, Editor

Minnesota Military Family Tribute Dedication Ceremony June 13, 2015 ♦ MN State Capitol Mall

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS FREE EVENT
THAT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Minnesota Military Family Tribute
Dedication Ceremony**

**Saturday, June 13, 2015
Minnesota State Capitol Mall
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Visit militaryfamilytribute.org
for program information**

The Minnesota Military Family Tribute will forever stand as a thank you to U.S. military, Gold Star, Blue Star and veteran family members.

This first of its kind tribute will be dedicated to Minnesota military families on Saturday, June 13th on the Minnesota State Capitol Grounds and consists of three elements to honor military and veteran families.

THANK YOU MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILY WALKWAY

The promenade is expressed as a graceful arc which responds to the seasons. Majestic rows of trees line the path, 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 red, finally dropping their leaves in the season of silhouettes. During winter, the ash-grey bark of the formal plantings create a contrast of color and texture with freshly fallen snow. In the spring, vibrant beds of flowering plants including red poppies announce the entrance to the Tribute as a tie to the memory of our veterans.

The beauty of the walkway in all seasons symbolizes a sweeping gesture of gratitude to all of Minnesota's military families and creates a feeling of home for them and all visitors.

The walkway is designed to support and embrace the existing memorials. The promenade opens up spaces south of the arc for two red gardens, and the pace north of the Walkway with broad open lawns. The lawns provide an area for families to program large gatherings and events.

GOLD STAR TABLE

At the west end of the promenade, the Gold Star Table recognizes the supreme sacrifice of our Gold Star families. The space features a sculpted table representing many narratives. It recalls 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 any empty chair at their dinner table. The table in this Tribute has an element of transcendence, however, 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 home, and refers to our State's motto L'Etoile du Nord, The Star of the North. To older civilizations, the stars were used to map their way home.

STORY STONES

Minnesota soldiers hail from each of the state's 87 counties. 87 story stones are arranged into northern hemisphere constellations.

These stones serve as a unique visual connection between loved ones that are deployed, their families at home and the shared stars of the night sky.

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

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering for the MFT Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, June 13th, please contact Dorothy Halverson at dorothyhalv@me.com



MFT VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Ross Altheimer
 Mick Anselmo
 Stephen Brown
 David Chin
 Laura Chin
 Michael Crusham
 Dennis Doyle
 Megan Doyle
 Julie Drevnick
 Martha Eckerline
 Pete Eckerline
 Congressman Tom Emmer
 Katherine Fairchild
 Dorothy Halverson
 Jim Halverson
 LTC (Ret.) Warren G. Herreid II
 John Hines
 Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Joe Kelly
 Senator Amy Klobuchar, State of
 Minnesota Representative,
 United States Senate
 Laurie Kruhoeffer
 Theodore Lee
 Tom Lyons
 Tom McGill
 Tammy Mencil
 Paula Mertens
 Tom Mertens
 Brent Miller
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 Adjutant General
 Col (Ret.) Gary D. Olson
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 Congressman Erik Paulsen
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 The Honorable Tim Pawlenty
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 Speaker of the House,
 Minnesota House of
 Representatives

WCCO DAVE LEE GUTTER BOWL 9 RAISES MORE THAN \$75,000

A before-sunrise start didn't keep more than 200 bowlers, supporters and volunteers away from the WCCO Dave Lee Gutter Bowl 9 benefitting the Minnesota Military Family Tribute.

Presented by Federated Insurance and POPP Communications, the bowling tournament raised more than \$75,000 to support the development of the Minnesota Military Family Tribute, pushing the total raised for the Tribute to its more than \$1 million goal.

More than 40 teams competed in the tournament, held March 27th, at Brunswick Zone in Brooklyn Park. The event included live broadcasts from the Morning News with Dave Lee and John Hines, special gifts, an extensive silent auction and more. All participants received a Dave Lee's Gutter Bowl 9 bowling shirt, as well as information regarding the Minnesota Military Family Tribute.

The MFT would like to extend special thanks to Dave Lee, Mick Anselmo and Chris Kalis, as well as the staff at CBS Radio and WCCO for making the event a smashing success!



Team POPP Communications



Federated Insurance Team



Bill & Teri Popp with Dave Lee



Minnesota Military Family Tribute Volunteers

Founding Sponsors

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.



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, iHeart Media and the Minnesota Timberwolves. Due to their support, we were able to secure the Founding Partners by offering on-air recognition for their generous donations.



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The MFT is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit.