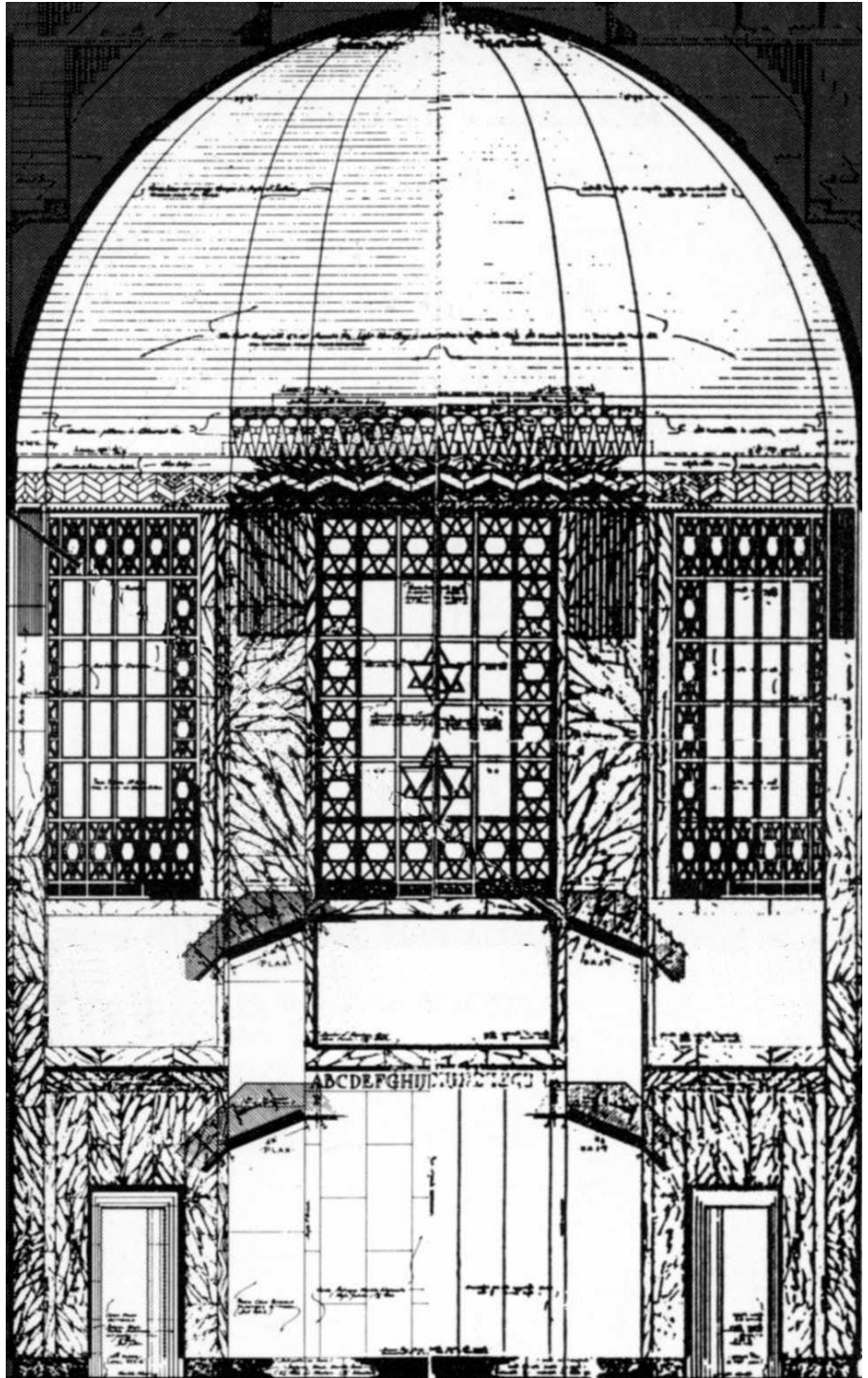


Nebraska State Capitol Memorial Chamber and Observation Decks

The tower is closed during the final phase of the Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning and Window Repair project to ensure public safety and the safety and efficiency of the contractors.





The Memorial Chamber sits on top of the office tower of the Nebraska State Capitol. The domed chamber memorializes public service.





The tower elevators were part of the original Capitol's construction from 1922-1932. The interiors were rebuilt in a 1980 upgrade copying the original cab design of geometric patterns in walnut wood. The mechanical components were upgraded in a 2014 Elevator Project which also returned the original style elevator floor indicator dials.





The walnut wood paneled interior of the elevator cab features inlaid geometric patterns of ebony and maple. Ventilation is provided by bronze grills high in the cab. The floor call panel is modeled on the original bronze panel but modernized for the new electronic operation.



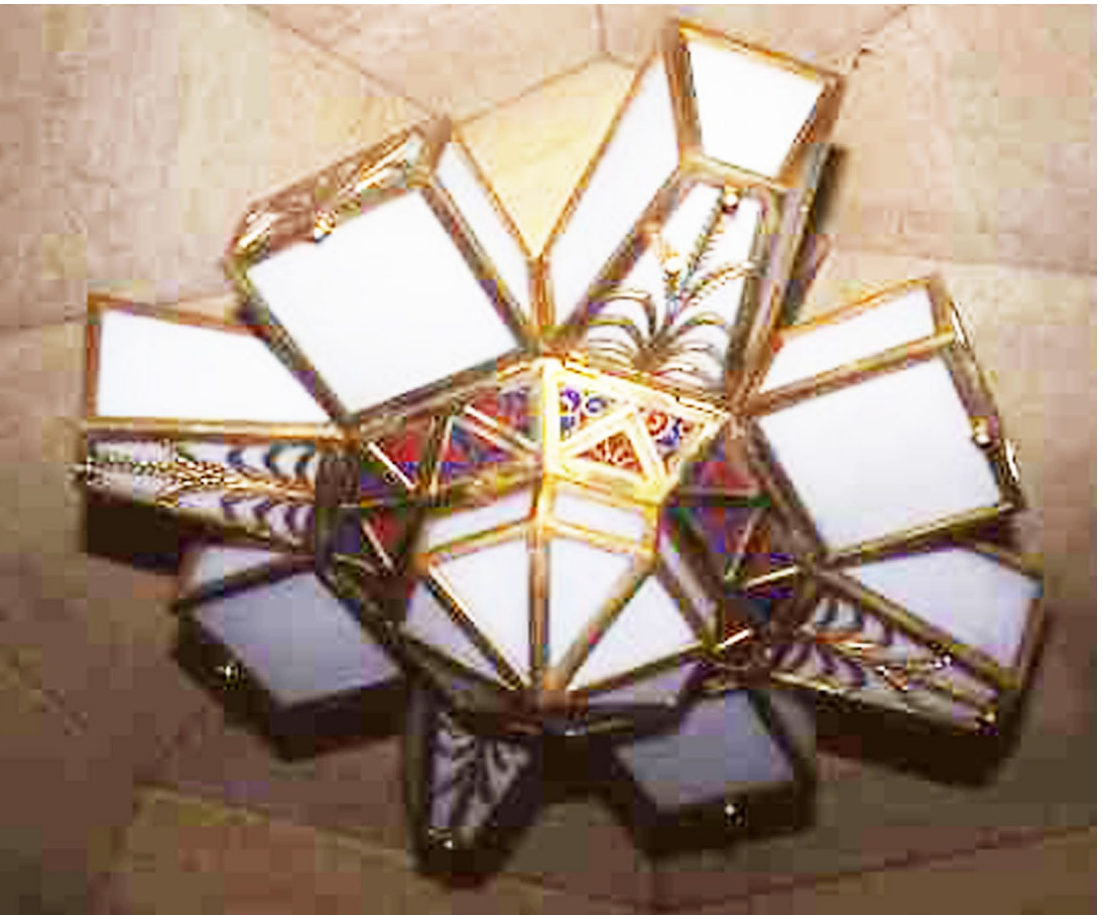
The elevator opens into an eight-sided vestibule on the 14th floor with the walls and ceiling of yellow Kasota stone and a floor of Graymole marble. From this vestibule, doors open onto the observation decks for views of the city, and halls beside and behind the elevator lead to the interior Memorial Chamber. The geometric bronze grilles in the vestibule cover radiators which heat the space in winter and reflect the Art Deco design of the 14th floor area.

The elevator vestibule is lit with windows and a decorative lamp at the top of the stepped turret.





The bronze lamps with decorative enamel inlay in the elevator turrets feature corn and wheat motifs. The lamps are very different from the lamps and chandeliers on the Capitol's lower levels. The lamps and architectural details on 14th floor reflect Art Deco design popular as the Capitol was being completed in the late 1920's and early 1930's.











Looking west from the tower



Looking south from the tower



Looking east from the tower



Looking north from the tower





A narrow corridor leads around the elevator into the Memorial Chamber. The four doors opening into the chamber are framed with faceted Belgian black marble. A first view reveals the patterned black and gray marble floor. The walls of the chamber are panels of black marble to enhance the dignity of the chamber, and eight murals hang under tall amber glass windows. The pale blue tile dome represents the evening sky, and the chandelier is the evening star as shines at dusk.




MAY ACHIEVE AND CHERISH A JUST AND LASTING
PEACE AMONG OURSELVES AND WITH ALL NATIONS.....
WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE; WITH CHARITY FOR ALL

The bronze and enamel chandelier in the Memorial Chamber was designed as a star. The shape of each star, the larger with the thistle motif and the smaller with the corn motif, was formed from two interlocking tetrahedrons.





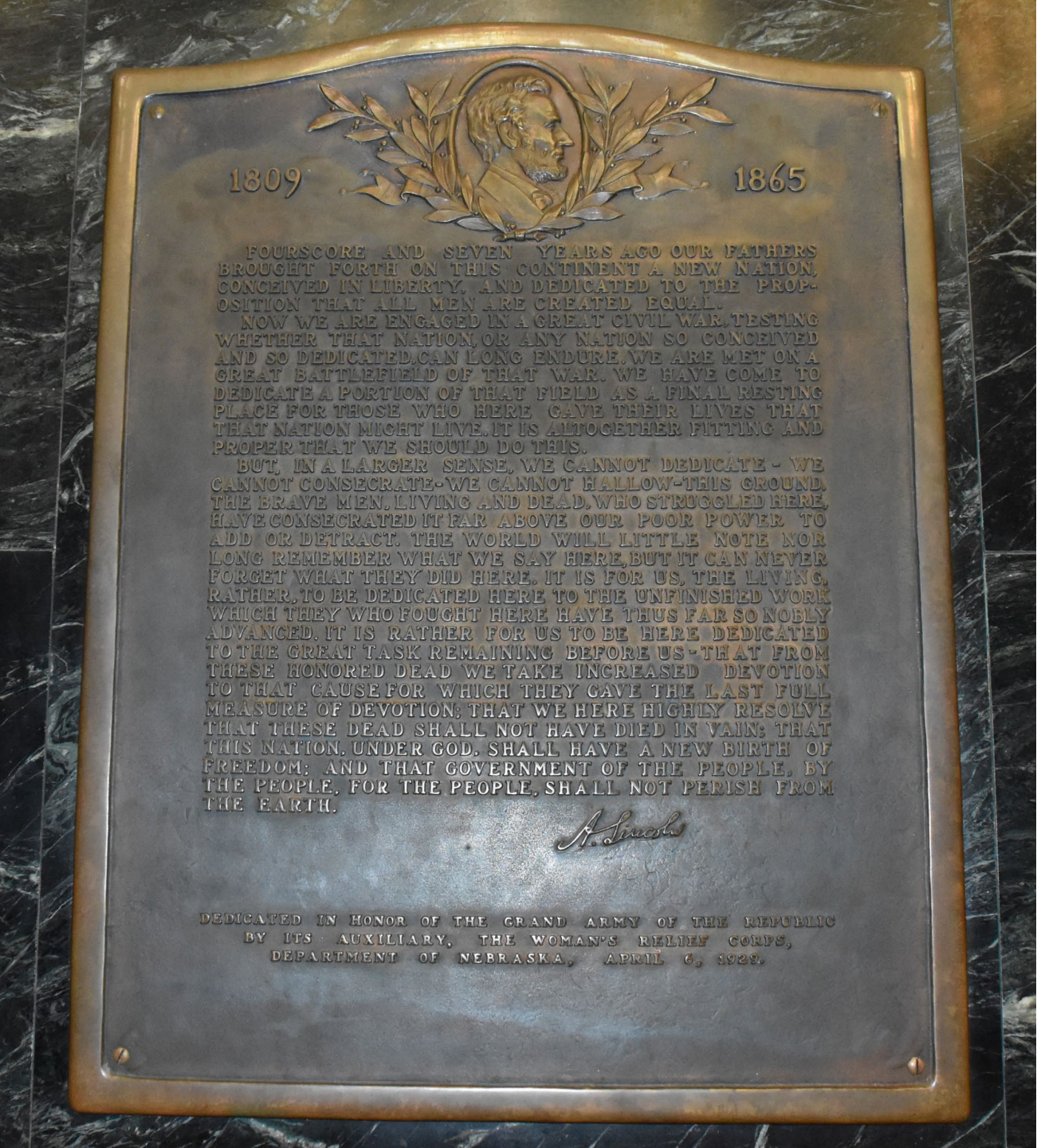


The Memorial Chamber is decorated with black marble to emphasize the solemn nature of service in civic and military struggles. The Belgian black marble of the door casings is used as a border around the Verde Antique marble wall panels and the Porto Oro pilasters that rise between the 8 murals to the dome of the chamber.


RITY FOR ALL
WITH FIRMN

Three plaques commemorating service and selfless sacrifice hang in the Memorial Chamber. All three remind us the sacrifices of those who have served in the military. Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was delivered November 19, 1865, and the original Memorial Day Order of May 5, 1868, was signed by John A. Logan, Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. A final plaque identifies those Nebraskans who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor.





1809 1865

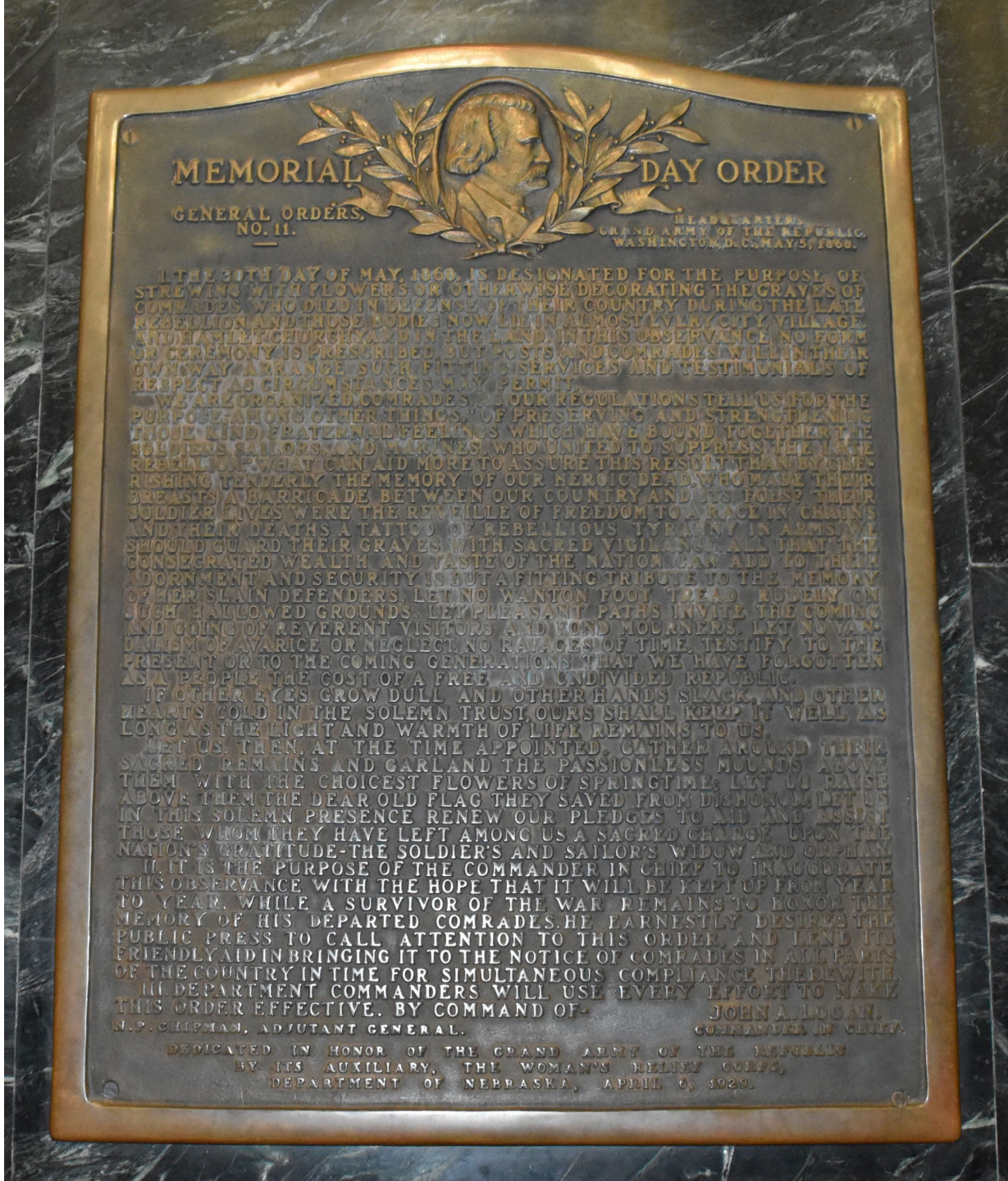
FOURSCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT A NEW NATION, CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY, AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.

NOW WE ARE ENGAGED IN A GREAT CIVIL WAR, TESTING WHETHER THAT NATION, OR ANY NATION SO CONCEIVED AND SO DEDICATED, CAN LONG ENDURE. WE ARE MET ON A GREAT BATTLEFIELD OF THAT WAR. WE HAVE COME TO DEDICATE A PORTION OF THAT FIELD AS A FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THOSE WHO HERE GAVE THEIR LIVES THAT THAT NATION MIGHT LIVE. IT IS ALTOGETHER FITTING AND PROPER THAT WE SHOULD DO THIS.

BUT, IN A LARGER SENSE, WE CANNOT DEDICATE - WE CANNOT CONSECRATE - WE CANNOT HALLOW - THIS GROUND. THE BRAVE MEN, LIVING AND DEAD, WHO STRUGGLED HERE, HAVE CONSECRATED IT FAR ABOVE OUR POOR POWER TO ADD OR DETRACT. THE WORLD WILL LITTLE NOTE NOR LONG REMEMBER WHAT WE SAY HERE, BUT IT CAN NEVER FORGET WHAT THEY DID HERE. IT IS FOR US, THE LIVING, RATHER, TO BE DEDICATED HERE TO THE UNFINISHED WORK WHICH THEY WHO FOUGHT HERE HAVE THUS FAR SO NOBLY ADVANCED. IT IS RATHER FOR US TO BE HERE DEDICATED TO THE GREAT TASK REMAINING BEFORE US - THAT FROM THESE HONORED DEAD WE TAKE INCREASED DEVOTION TO THAT CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION; THAT WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT THESE DEAD SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN; THAT THIS NATION, UNDER GOD, SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM; AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH.

A. Lincoln

DEDICATED IN HONOR OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
BY ITS AUXILIARY, THE WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS,
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA, APRIL 6, 1929.



MEMORIAL DAY ORDER

GENERAL ORDERS,
NO. 11.

HEADQUARTERS,
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 5, 1868.

I. THE 30TH DAY OF MAY, 1868, IS DESIGNATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREWING WITH FLOWERS OR OTHERWISE DECORATING THE GRAVES OF COMRADES WHO DIED IN DEFENSE OF THEIR COUNTRY DURING THE LATE REBELLION, AND THOSE BODIES NOW LIE IN ALMOST EVERY CITY, VILLAGE AND HAMLET CHURCHYARD IN THE LAND. IN THIS OBSERVANCE, NO FORM OR CEREMONY IS PRESCRIBED, BUT POSTS AND COMRADES WILL IN THEIR OWN WAY ARRANGE SUCH FITTING SERVICES AND TESTIMONIALS OF RESPECT AS CIRCUMSTANCES MAY PERMIT.

II. WE ARE ORGANIZED, COMRADES, AS OUR REGULATIONS TELL US FOR THE PURPOSE, AMONG OTHER THINGS," OF PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING THOSE KIND FRATERNAL FEELINGS WHICH HAVE BOUND TOGETHER THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND MARINES, WHO UNITED TO SUPPRESS THE LATE REBELLION." WHAT CAN AID MORE TO ASSURE THIS RESULT THAN BY CHERISHING TENDERLY THE MEMORY OF OUR HEROIC DEAD, WHO MADE THEIR BREASTS A BARRICADE BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND ITS FOES? THEIR SOLDIER LIVES WERE THE REVEILLE OF FREEDOM TO A RACE IN CHAINS AND THEIR DEATHS A TATTOO OF REBELLIOUS TYRANNY IN ARMS. WE SHOULD GUARD THEIR GRAVES WITH SACRED VIGILANCE. ALL THAT THE CONSECRATED WEALTH AND TASTE OF THE NATION CAN ADD TO THEIR ADORNMENT AND SECURITY IS BUT A FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HER SLAIN DEFENDERS. LET NO WANTON FOOT TREAD RUDELY ON SUCH HALLOWED GROUNDS. LET PLEASANT PATHS INVITE THE COMING AND GOING OF REVERENT VISITORS AND FOND MOURNERS. LET NO VANDALISM OF AVARICE OR NEGLECT, NO RAVAGES OF TIME, TESTIFY TO THE PRESENT OR TO THE COMING GENERATIONS THAT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN AS A PEOPLE THE COST OF A FREE AND UNDIVIDED REPUBLIC.

IF OTHER EYES GROW DULL, AND OTHER HANDS SLACK, AND OTHER HEARTS COLD IN THE SOLEMN TRUST, OURS SHALL KEEP IT WELL AS LONG AS THE LIGHT AND WARMTH OF LIFE REMAIN TO US.

LET US, THEN, AT THE TIME APPOINTED, GATHER AROUND THEIR SACRED REMAINS AND GARLAND THE PASSIONLESS MOUNDS ABOVE THEM WITH THE CHOICEST FLOWERS OF SPRINGTIME; LET US RAISE ABOVE THEM THE DEAR OLD FLAG THEY SAVED FROM DISHONOR; LET US IN THIS SOLEMN PRESENCE RENEW OUR PLEDGES TO AID AND ASSIST THOSE WHOM THEY HAVE LEFT AMONG US A SACRED CHARGE UPON THE NATION'S GRATITUDE—THE SOLDIER'S AND SAILOR'S WIDOW AND ORPHAN.

III. IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO INAUGURATE THIS OBSERVANCE WITH THE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE KEPT UP FROM YEAR TO YEAR, WHILE A SURVIVOR OF THE WAR REMAINS TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF HIS DEPARTED COMRADES. HE EARNESTLY DESIRES THE PUBLIC PRESS TO CALL ATTENTION TO THIS ORDER, AND LEND ITS FRIENDLY AID IN BRINGING IT TO THE NOTICE OF COMRADES IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY IN TIME FOR SIMULTANEOUS COMPLIANCE THEREWITH.

III. DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS WILL USE EVERY EFFORT TO MAKE THIS ORDER EFFECTIVE. BY COMMAND OF—

JOHN A. LOGAN,
COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

N. P. CHIPMAN, ADJUTANT GENERAL.

DEDICATED IN HONOR OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
BY ITS AUXILIARY, THE WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS,
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA, APRIL 6, 1929.


NEBRASKA
MEDAL OF HONOR
RECIPIENTS
AWARDED IN THE NAME OF
THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MEMBERS • NEBRASKA HALL OF FAME


VALOR
VALOR
NEBRASKA
MEDAL OF HONOR
RECIPIENTS
DISTINGUISHED BY CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY
AT THE RISK OF LIFE, ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY
1862 • JOHN G. BOURKE • CIVIL WAR
1862 • JOSEPH R. PRENTICE • CIVIL WAR
1863 • ORION P. HOWE • CIVIL WAR
1863 • JOSEPH HANKS • CIVIL WAR
1863 • DAVID JOHNSTON • CIVIL WAR
1863 • JACOB C. MILLER • CIVIL WAR
1863 • ANDREW J. WIDICK • CIVIL WAR
1863 • JEFFERSON COATES • CIVIL WAR
1863 • JOHN SHAPLAND • CIVIL WAR
1863 • SIMEON T. JOSSELYN • CIVIL WAR
1864 • ANDREW TRAYNOR • CIVIL WAR
1864 • JAMES K.L. DUNCAN • CIVIL WAR
1864 • GUY V. HENRY • CIVIL WAR
1864 • WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS • CIVIL WAR
1864 • DELAVAN BATES • CIVIL WAR
1864 • AUGUSTIN FLANAGAN • CIVIL WAR
1865 • JAMES P. MILLER • CIVIL WAR
1865 • SAMUEL McCONNELL • CIVIL WAR
1865 • VICTOR VIEQUAIN • CIVIL WAR
1865 • FRANCIS W. LOHNES • INDIAN WARS
1867 • GEORGE GRANT • INDIAN WARS
1868 • LEANDER HERRON • INDIAN WARS
1869 • JOHN B. BABCOCK • INDIAN WARS
1869 • CO-RUX-D-KAH-WADDE • INDIAN WARS
1869 • GEORGE MILLER • INDIAN WARS
1870 • HETH CANFIELD • INDIAN WARS
1870 • MICHAEL HIMMELSBACK • INDIAN WARS
1870 • THOMAS HUBBARD • INDIAN WARS
1870 • PATRICK J. LEONARD • INDIAN WARS
1870 • GEORGE W. THOMPSON • INDIAN WARS
1870 • EMANUEL STANCE • INDIAN WARS
1871 • JOHN MOTT • INDIAN WARS
1872 • WILLIAM F. CODY • INDIAN WARS
1872 • JOHN H. FOLEY • INDIAN WARS
1872 • WILLIAM H. STRAYER • INDIAN WARS
1872 • LEROY H. VOKES • INDIAN WARS
1876 • CHARLES H. HEYL • INDIAN WARS
1876 • PATRICK T. LEONARD • INDIAN WARS
1876 • JEPTHA L. LYTTON • INDIAN WARS
1877 • EDMOND BUTLER • INDIAN WARS
1877 • WILLIAM B. LEWIS • INDIAN WARS
1879 • MATTHIAS W. DAY • INDIAN WARS
1879 • JOHN DENNY • INDIAN WARS
1879 • HENRY JOHNSON • INDIAN WARS
1881 • GEORGE JORDAN • INDIAN WARS
1890 • WILLIAM O. WILSON • INDIAN WARS
1898 • JAMES MEREDITH • WAR WITH SPAIN
1898 • JOHN W. THEE • WAR WITH SPAIN
1905 • OTTO D. SCHMIDT • INTERIM
1911 • JACOB VOLZ • PHILIPPINE CONFLICT
1918 • EDWARD V. RICKENBACKER • WORLD WAR I
1918 • NELSON M. HOLDERMAN • WORLD WAR I
1942 • HAROLD W. BAUER • WORLD WAR II
1943 • ROBERT D. BOOKER • WORLD WAR II
1943 • JOHN J. PARLE • WORLD WAR II
1943 • FLOYD K. LINDSTROM • WORLD WAR II
1944 • LEO J. POWERS • WORLD WAR II
1944 • JOHN J. TOMINAC • WORLD WAR II
1944 • DONALD K. SCHWAB • WORLD WAR II
1944 • RICHARD E. COWAN • WORLD WAR II
1945 • JACK L. TREADWELL • WORLD WAR II
1945 • VERNON J. BAKER • WORLD WAR II
1945 • DALE M. HANSEN • WORLD WAR II
1950 • ERNEST R. KOUMA • KOREAN WAR
1951 • EDWARD GOMEZ • KOREAN WAR
1966 • ROBERT J. HIBBS • VIETNAM WAR
1967 • CHARLES C. HAGEMEISTER • VIETNAM WAR
1967 • GERALD O. YOUNG • VIETNAM WAR
1968 • JAMES W. FOUS • VIETNAM WAR
1969 • JOSEPH R. KERREY • VIETNAM WAR
1969 • RONALD L. COKER • VIETNAM WAR
1970 • MIGUEL KEITH • VIETNAM WAR
1993 • RANDALL D. SHUGHART • SOMALIA
AWARDED IN THE NAME OF
THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MEMBERS • NEBRASKA HALL OF FAME

The eight murals in the Memorial Chamber represent citizens in service of others. Omaha artist Stephen Roberts' murals portraying Nebraskans in military and civic service were added to the Capitol in 1996.



Self-determination


Freedom

International Law




Universal Peace

Poverty





Fire



Environmental Disaster


Epidemic