THE FORGOTTEN WAR
Honoring Those Who Served
Korean War: 1950–1953

Representing all who served in the Korean War, these twelve figures stand in honor of the larger than life indomitable spirit and unwavering dedication of Forgotten War Veterans. With deep gratitude and admiration, we commemorate their selfless service, acknowledging the profound impact they made in defending freedom and fostering enduring peace.

GLOBAL CONFLICT

In June 1950, North Korea, supported by the Soviet Union, invaded South Korea, leading to the Korean War. The United Nations, led by the United States, backed South Korea, while China aided North Korea. After substantial casualties affecting over a million combatants on both sides, the conflict ended in July 1953, dividing Korea into two adversarial states. Subsequent negotiations in 1954 were fruitless, and the front line established during the war has remained the de facto border between North and South Korea.

Conflict Between:
North Korea (supported by Communist China and Russia)
South Korea (Supported by U.S.A. and allies)

U.S.A. Casualties:
- 54,246 dead
- 103,000 wounded
- 8,177 M.I.A.
- 7,000 P.O.W.

Bringing “The Forgotten War” to life

Conceived by W. Paul Wolf, retired Fort Wayne business executive and Korean War Veteran, this project is a heartfelt endeavor to honor the unwavering dedication of Wolf’s fellow service members.

Spearheaded by Eric Johnson, Vice Commander, Fort Wayne Veterans National Memorial and Shrine, and Lea Powers, conceptual designer, this team with countless others has dedicated themselves to faithfully representing the authentic experiences of Korean soldiers through meticulous attention to detail and accurate portrayals as well as honor 12 Indiana soldiers who served in Korea.

The installation integrates replicas of genuine gear, equipment, and weapons, ensuring the memorial’s historical authenticity. The incorporation of actual formations, field signals, and gestures aims to offer visitors a visceral understanding of the unpredictable and dangerous conditions faced by soldiers during war, including devastating realities of injury, trauma, and the persistent mental toll of combat to soldiers and families.

Utilizing a variety of mediums, including 2-D layouts, 3-D models, aerial drone flyovers, and extensive photography sessions, the design team has striven to bring the soldiers’ experiences to life, capturing the essence of their sacrifice and courage.

The memorial’s arrangement is a poignant depiction of a “bounding over watch” retreat formation, a powerful representation of the soldiers’ unwavering commitment to protect one another, even in the face of adversity.

After a dedicated 18-month journey, the installation stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of Veterans, artists, designers, and community volunteers, paying homage to the spirit of a community coming together, the generosity of donors, and the importance of making sure, “no Veteran will ever be forgotten.”

Photographic models dressed in authentic Korean period gear, carrying vintage weapons posed for each of the figures. The faces that appear on each model were custom sculpted to portray an Indiana resident who served in Korea.

This memorial made possible through a generous gift from W. Paul Wolf
The Korean War, often dubbed ‘The Forgotten War,’ significantly affected American lives and military personnel. The conflict left a profound mark on the nation’s history, with a staggering 54,246 American casualties and over 103,000 soldiers wounded. Of the 7,000 individuals confined in prisoner-of-war camps, only 3,450 returned alive, a distressing 51% fatality rate. Of the over 103,000 soldiers wounded, 27,785 were classified as missing in action or prisoners of war, furthering the tragic legacy of this overlooked chapter in history.

The exhibit is dedicated to the soldiers who bravely served and sacrificed for the United States amidst harrowing conditions. Their stories are outlined here. Each soldier’s contributions are outlined here, including their service, the challenges they faced, and the legacies they left behind.

To honor Northeast Indiana Veterans, each soldier’s story has been crafted individually to represent a Korean War Veteran (pictured in this brochure).

Honoring All Who Served 1950–1953

The Fort Wayne Korean War Monument pays tribute to the soldiers who bravely served and sacrificed for our freedom. Among its 12 figures are representations of Northeast Indiana residents who fought in the Korean War, enduring some of the bloodiest battles in U.S. history amidst harrowing conditions. Their stories are outlined here.