

# Soldiers' Stories Gallery

The National Museum of the United States Army will provide a unique and engaging setting to tell the stories of Soldiers in their own words and voices.

These personal accounts of ordinary men and women from all historic periods and walks of life will offer Museum visitors an invaluable perspective on how much our country owes to Soldiers.

Their stories will be told principally in the *Soldiers' Stories Gallery*, an inviting and inspirational entry gallery that introduces visitors to Army history in a way that transcends generations, connects the visitors to places and events, and mirrors them as a nation.

Before visitors reach the Museum's main entrance and the *Soldiers' Story Gallery*, they will begin to experience these accounts. Approximately 20-30 freestanding bronze-burnished pylons—each with a larger-than life bas relief image of a Soldier's face and accompanying biographical and other information—will be aligned in formation, stretching from near the parking area to the building's entryway to provide an instant and dramatic connection between visitors and Soldiers.

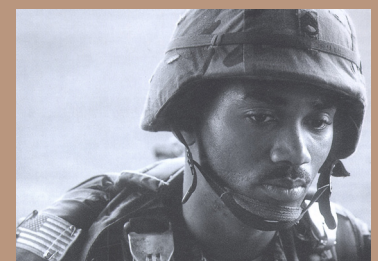
Each pylon will introduce a Soldier from a different, randomly selected period in Army history who has a unique story to tell. Emotional resonance will play a key role in story selection; the stories will be moving, touching, humorous, exciting, and dramatic.

Once inside the lobby, twelve of these strong sculptural elements will be squared up into an organized marching formation, symbolizing the structure and uniformity of the U.S. Army while expressing the individuality of every Soldier.

Like the pylons lining the outdoor approach to the Museum's entrance, the indoor pylons will include the Soldier's biographical information, a description of his or her duties, and a personal narrative or quote that helps visitors understand the Soldier experience, Army culture, or Army values.

On one wall of the gallery "The Soldiers' Creed," beginning with the declaration, "I am an American Soldier," will be carved into a large stone-like monolith, creating a monumental and reverential backdrop to the "marching" Soldiers. Other wall space will include embedded cases housing never-before-exhibited iconic artifacts that have specific Army provenance and have played prominent roles in Army and world history.

Our Soldiers' selfless service and personal sacrifices have had a profound impact on our nation and the world's history, and the *Soldiers' Stories Gallery* will tell the stories of their accomplishments in unique and engaging ways. There is no doubt that this striking entry gallery experience will set the tone and communicate a central theme of the National Museum of the United States Army – *the story of the Army is the story of Soldiers.*



SOLDIERS' STORIES