



## World War II Memorial

WASHINGTON STATE CAPITOL, OLYMPIA, WA

The *World War II Memorial* was created as a monument honoring those who served during the war, particularly those of the nearly 6,000 Washington residents who gave their lives in battle. It was funded by the Washington State Legislature and housed on the grounds of the State Capitol in Olympia, Washington. Local Olympia artist and resident Simon Kogan was chosen from numerous applicants to design the monument.

Kogan used bronze, melted torpedo railings from retired warships, granite, and stone to design his monument in a more contemporary style, which was inspired by the first stanza of 'America the Beautiful. It features five 14-foot tall bronze blades, which collectively work to reflect the shape of the capitol dome, which stands behind. Each blade represents one of the military units employed during the war. Four of the five feature shadowy figures of servicemen, which, upon closer inspection, are comprised of finely etched names of casualties. The fifth blade depicts a mother holding an infant, which does not feature names, representing future generations who were never born due to the war. Adjacent to the blades are 4,000 metal wheat stalks made from melted torpedo railings from old US Warships, which represent all who died in the war. Around the perimeter of the wheat sit five granite boulders, inscribed with the names of major battles and their years. Granite pavers containing personal messages from donors can be found surrounding the wheat. The memorial was completed in 1999, being dedicated on Memorial day of that year....

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/world-war-ii-memorial/>

### SERVICES PERFORMED

Conservation Treatments  
Maintenance Programs

### PROJECT DETAILS

#### Architect

Architectural Resources Group

#### Client

State of Washington

