

HISTORY OF MEMORIAL UNION'S NEW

VETERANS WAR MEMORIAL

In 1926, the University of Missouri dedicated the Memorial Union Tower to the 117 MU students who lost their lives in The Great War. Their names were carved in the Memorial Tower's archway and because World War I was considered "the war to end all wars," little room remained for the names of those who would give their lives in subsequent wars. As the needs for Memorial Union grew, the university decided the addition would be dedicated to WWII veterans who would never return to Mizzou.

In 1952, MU dedicated the newly completed wing to the 328 combatants who lost their lives in WWII. A memorial plaque was placed on the east wall of the Union's north wing.

After Desert Storm, MU added a plaque dedicated to all faculty, staff, and students who died in U.S. conflicts from 1945 to 1996.

At the March 2011 meeting of the Chancellor's Military and Veterans Committee, Dr. William Wiebold suggested that the memorial be updated. Committee member Marty Walker from the College of Engineering proposed an interactive computer kiosk featuring a picture of each MU veteran, their branch of service, the engagements in which they participated and histories of those engagements. Visitors also would be able to listen to accounts of service from those servicemen and women who participated in the Missouri Oral History Program.

At committee members' request, Professor Newton D'Souza, of the Department of Architectural Studies in the College of Human Environmental Sciences, challenged his interior design studio class to design a memorial that would honor Mizzou veterans, architecturally fit in Memorial Union and be cost effective. Among three final designs, the Chancellor's Military and Veterans Committee selected architectural design senior Karen Johnson's design of a missing man formation, incorporating MU's columns, and acrylic panels to list fallen soldiers' names. The design includes room for additional names and a provision for electronic media. Missourians who perished in Korea and Vietnam are being cross-referenced with the MU Registrar's office to locate those from the Mizzou family to be included on the Veterans Memorial Wall.

The Veterans Memorial Wall was designed to honor all Mizzou faculty, staff, and students who served our country. We ask for your help in locating others who should be added to the memorial. Please contact the MU Veteran's Center at veterans.missouri.edu.