

# "Korean War Memorial Erected" Newspaper Article, May 17, 1989

## Korean War Memorial Erected

*By Charles Bullard*

*Register Staff Writer*

The Korean War Veterans Memorial, which honors the 85,314 Iowans who served in the bloody conflict, was installed on the grounds of the Iowa Capitol Tuesday.

Workers from Star Granite Co., in Concord, N.H., carefully lowered the 14-foot-tall central obelisk and the eight 5 1/2-foot-tall tablets into place southeast of the Statehouse.

The grassy site is north of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which was dedicated in 1984, and east of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, which memorializes Iowans who served in the Civil War.

The story of the Korean War is told in words, pictures and maps carved into the Vermont gray granite from the Rock of Ages quarry. The names of the 508 Iowans who died in the Korean War are not part of the memorial because planners did not want to copy the national and Iowa Vietnam monuments.

The memorial was designed by Robert White, a Korean War veteran and president of Des Moines-Winterset Monuments.

"It's long overdue and certainly well-deserved," said Jackie Day of Des Moines, who helped raise money for the monument.

The goal of the drive was \$85,314 - one dollar for each Iowan who served in Korea. The total exceeds \$100,000 and money is still coming in, Day said. Two tablets and two granite benches were added to the memorial with the extra money, she said.

Students at Washington Irving Junior High School in Des Moines suggested erecting a monument in a November 1984 letter to Gov. Terry Branstad. Five of the students, who are high school juniors now, will recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the dedication ceremonies May 28 at 1 p.m.

The Korean War ended on July 27, 1953 after 37 months of bitter fighting. United Nations forces suffered nearly 1.5 million casualties and more than 2 million Chinese and North Koreans were killed or wounded.

**Photo Caption:**

In the upper left photo, Sherry DeVeld, a stone setter from New Hampshire, guides the last block of granite into place for the Korean War memorial on the Iowa Statehouse grounds Tuesday. At upper right, the monument's center pillar, weighing 50,000 pounds, was produced by Rock of Ages Corp. in Vermont and installed by the Star Granite Co. of Concord, N.H. Robert White, shown walking in the background, of Des Moines-Winterset Monuments designed the memorial. The general layout of the Korean War memorial is shown in the bottom photo. Each granite tabled is inscribed with historical information about the war that ended in 1953.