



IN HONOR OF THOSE MEMBERS
OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY



“We at CIA remember our heroes—the men and women commemorated by stars on our Memorial Wall. Each of them, in their own way and own time, strengthened America and helped spread freedom across the globe.”

Director Leon E. Panetta
June 2009

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Director and Mrs. Panetta at the June 2009 Memorial Service.

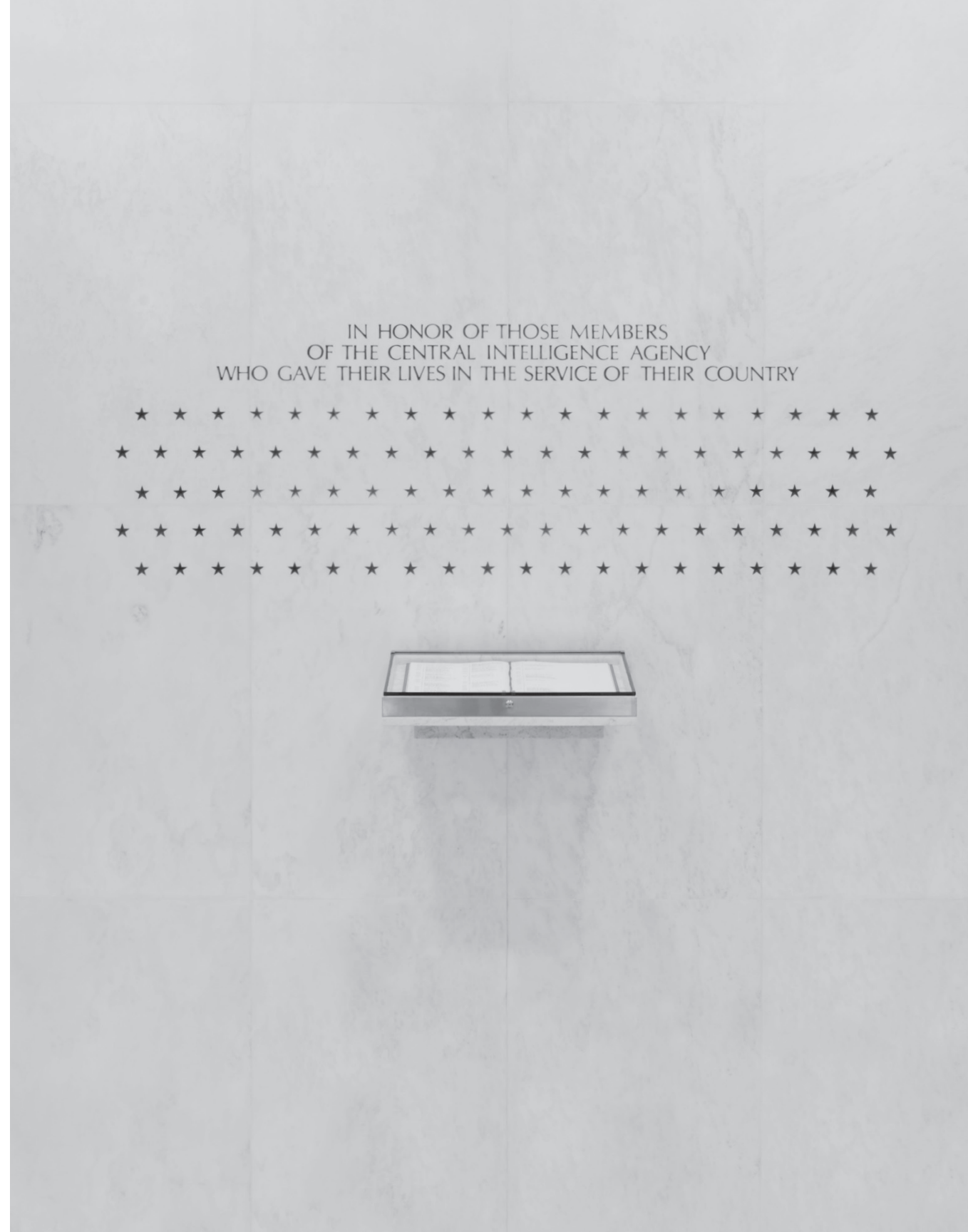
The men and women of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) work around the clock and around the globe to make the United States more secure. We put Country first and Agency before self. We are dedicated to the mission; we take the necessary risks to obtain the information our country needs to protect itself in a dangerous world.

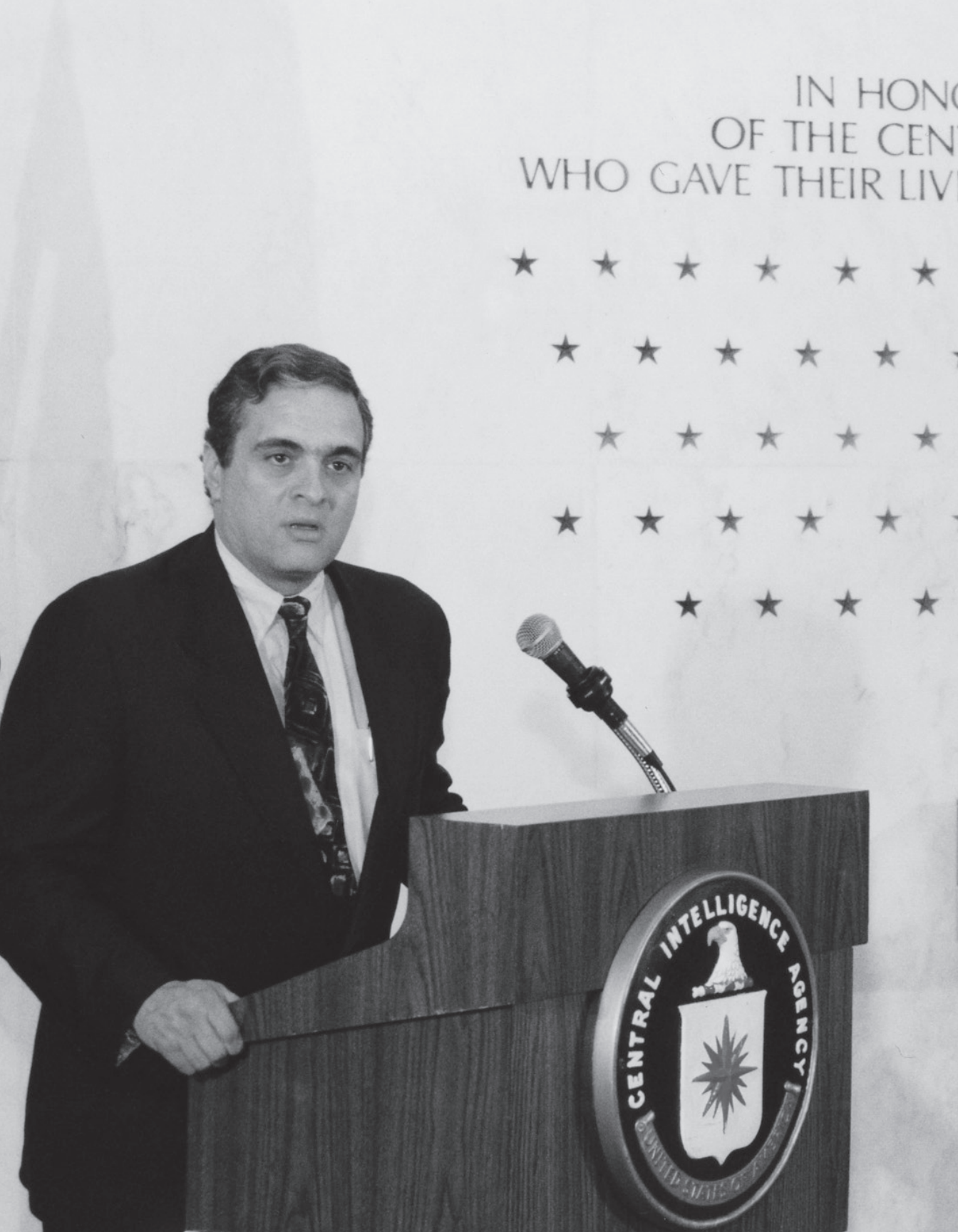
It is important to reflect on how few stars appear on the CIA Memorial Wall, given the role the Agency plays as the nation's forward line of defense. We accomplish what others cannot accomplish and go where others cannot go. Our officers are frequently first on the ground in areas of unrest, often without the benefit of additional support, always in harm's way.

The men and women of CIA do their work with no expectation of recognition, knowing that if they make the ultimate sacrifice, the details of their efforts are likely to be known to just a very few.

We honor those Agency officers who have come before us.

The Memorial Wall today. The artist's concept emphasizes the unity of the stars on the Wall. They stand as a field. No individual star belongs to a particular honoree.





Remembering

The men and women of CIA are united by a mission essential to our country. They act as a team, often living overseas and working long hours to help our nation meet difficult security challenges. When an officer dies in the line of duty, it is only fitting that there be a place to remember and pay tribute to that colleague, and friend. For the people of CIA, that is the Memorial Wall. It is dedicated to those we have lost and it is a lasting reminder of their heroism, the risks inherent in the intelligence profession, and our pledge to put service before self. The Wall—and the stories of the people it commemorates—inspire all who carry the mission forward. It affirms our own commitment to the American people.

“These stars are testament to our past and our present. To our history and our spirit. To a defining trait of the CIA and the nation it protects: devotion to duty in pursuit of freedom for all.”

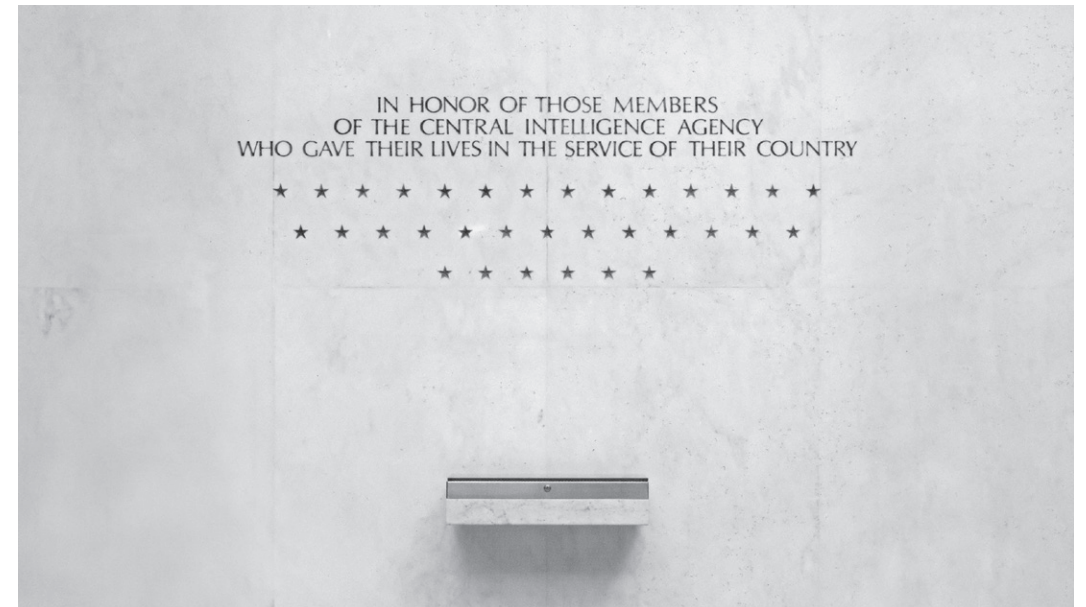
Director George J. Tenet
May 2004

History of the Wall

In February 1973, Agency officers proposed that a memorial plaque be placed at CIA Headquarters to honor employees who had died in Southeast Asia, primarily in Laos and Vietnam. The Honor and Merit Board expanded the concept to recognize all CIA officers who had fallen in the line of duty. Agency officer Edward Ryan, then Chairman of the CIA's Fine Arts Commission, met with a representative from the American Foreign Service Association to discuss the criteria used for the Memorial Plaques in the lobby of the US Department of State. Later, the US Commission of Fine Arts recommended Master Stone Carver Harold Vogel to design the CIA Memorial. Vogel had extensive experience—including having carved the lettering on the marble walls at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Vogel's design inspiration for the Memorial Wall came from the Bauhaus style—a modernist concept also known as the International Style—which is marked by the absence of ornamentation and by harmony between the function of an object and its design. Vogel's goal was to make the memory of the fallen an integral part of the building which, to many, represents the Agency's mission. His vision of the CIA's Memorial emphasized the unity of the stars on the wall, standing as a field.

His concept was approved in November 1973 and the original 31 stars were approved by Director William E. Colby in April 1974. Three months later, Vogel carved the Memorial. It was done without fanfare. No ceremony was held; no pictures were taken—the stars and inscription simply appeared.



Early photo of the Memorial Wall showing 33 stars.

“The stars on the Memorial Wall are to us more than symbols, more than history. They are a priceless part of who we are. They are the colleagues and leaders who define us—in dedication and in sacrifice. It is in this new century their mission we seek to accomplish. And it is their commitment of which we seek to be worthy.”

Deputy Director John E. McLaughlin
June 2001

“When we move on—whether to another chapter in our careers or our lives—we never lose the distinct sense of pride in belonging to such a storied and exceptional organization. Nor do we ever forget having been in the company of such remarkably talented men and women, especially those we honor today, whose deeds are immortal. We see, in our mind’s eye, these deep-cut stars engraved in marble, and we know that we always will be part of something noble and worthy.”

Director Porter J. Goss
May 2006



The Stone Carvers—Their story

Master Stone Carver Harold Vogel was born in Detroit, Michigan to an immigrant family from Ansbach, Germany. After the stock market crashed in 1929, the family returned to their home town in Bavaria and the family business—stone quarries and carving. During his formative years, he spent a great deal of time with his grandfather, a restoration sculptor, who taught Vogel how to use a hammer and chisel. In 1945, he began a stone carving apprenticeship in Nuremberg, and, after receiving his master craftsman certificate, came back to the United States and volunteered to serve in the US Army. Vogel eventually settled in Washington, DC and studied at the Corcoran School of Art (now The Corcoran College of Art + Design) and George Washington University. Vogel worked on the National Cathedral, the US Capitol building, and completed all the lettering on the marble walls of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.



Designer of the Memorial Wall—Harold Vogel.



Stone Carver Tim Johnston.

Stone Carver Tim Johnston learned his craft as an apprentice to Vogel. Johnston watched Vogel carve stars on the Memorial Wall for several years before he was allowed to carve a star with his own hand in 1989.

Johnston was born in Denver, Colorado. His father worked for the Department of Agriculture and moved to Northern Virginia in 1966 when Johnston was a young boy. At the age of 12, Johnston began working during the summers in the marble and tile industry. After graduating from high school, he worked full time for a tile company, but his interests shifted to stone setting, and finally, stone carving.

The Memorial Wall is a bittersweet project for Johnston. He is proud to help recognize CIA's mission and the sacrifices made by Agency officers on behalf of the nation. Yet each time he must come to CIA, he does so with a heavy heart aware that an officer has fallen.

“When Harold Vogel designed the original wall, it was not intended for the large number of stars that appear today. It is a very sad thought, all those sacrifices.”

Tim Johnston
Stone Carver



Stone Carver Tim Johnston at work: "Once I begin my work the rest of the world is blacked out."

Johnston uses Vogel's original 1974 template—which, when not in use, is locked in a safe—to ensure that every star is the same. Each one is first drawn by hand; the carving itself takes about one hour. Each star measures $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches tall by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide and half an inch



Tools used by both stone carvers.

deep; the stars are six inches apart from each other, as are the rows. Johnston uses both a pneumatic air hammer and a chisel to carve out the traced pattern. After he finishes carving the star, he cleans the dust and sprays the star dark gray, which with age, acquires its own patina.

Johnston approaches his task with exceptional care. He describes the experience in his own words: "I only have one shot to carve the star—marble is unpredictable, you can never be sure how it will act—it's a scary situation. But at the same time it's a fantastic thing to do."

The Book of Honor

The Book of Honor—on display in front of the Memorial Wall at all times—contains the names of employees who died while serving their country. Each is next to a 23-carat gold leaf star. For reasons of security—to protect intelligence sources and methods—the names of some of those on the Wall must remain secret, even in death. Each of these officers is remembered in the book by a gold star alone.

“The stars are what made this country great and their names should be in a Memorial book, not as signage on the wall.”

Harold Vogel
Master Stone Carver



Original Book of Honor used from 1974-2004.

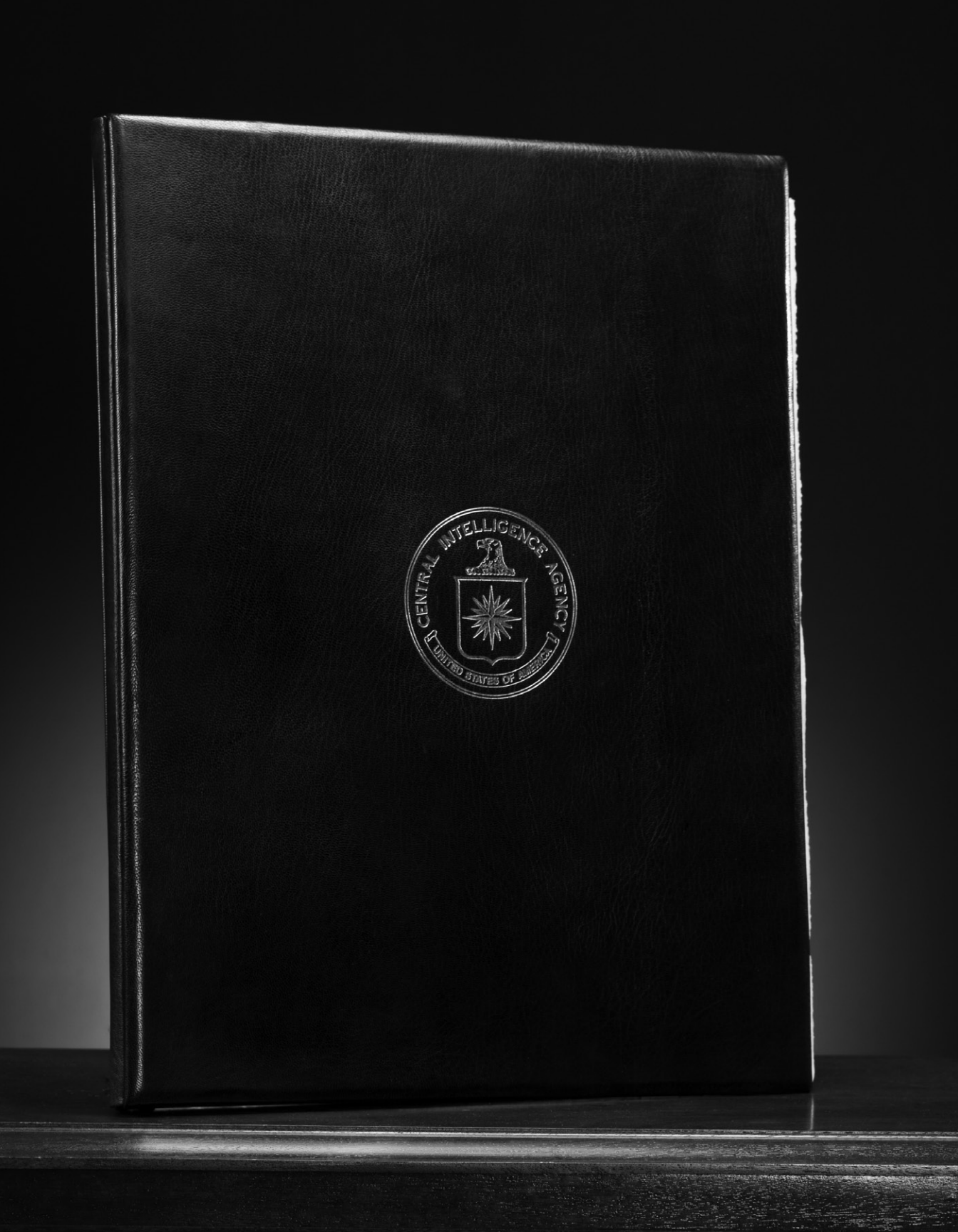
Part of Vogel's concept for the Memorial Wall included a display case to house the Book of Honor. The cover of the book, never seen by the public, displays a 22-carat gold embossed Agency seal. Vogel selected Levant leather—from Morocco—with a soft pebble-grain texture commonly found in fine book binding. The inside cover is light tan silk end sheets. The original book is small in size, 25 inches x 9 inches. Sadly, by 2004, the 83rd star had been added to the original book and it was poignantly apparent that a larger book and case were required. Vogel and his apprentice, Johnston, designed and built the current case out of Carrara marble (measuring 36 inches x 22 ½ inches), leaving a resting place for the original book to lie underneath.



Original Book of Honor used from 1974-2004.



Current place of rest for the Book of Honor.



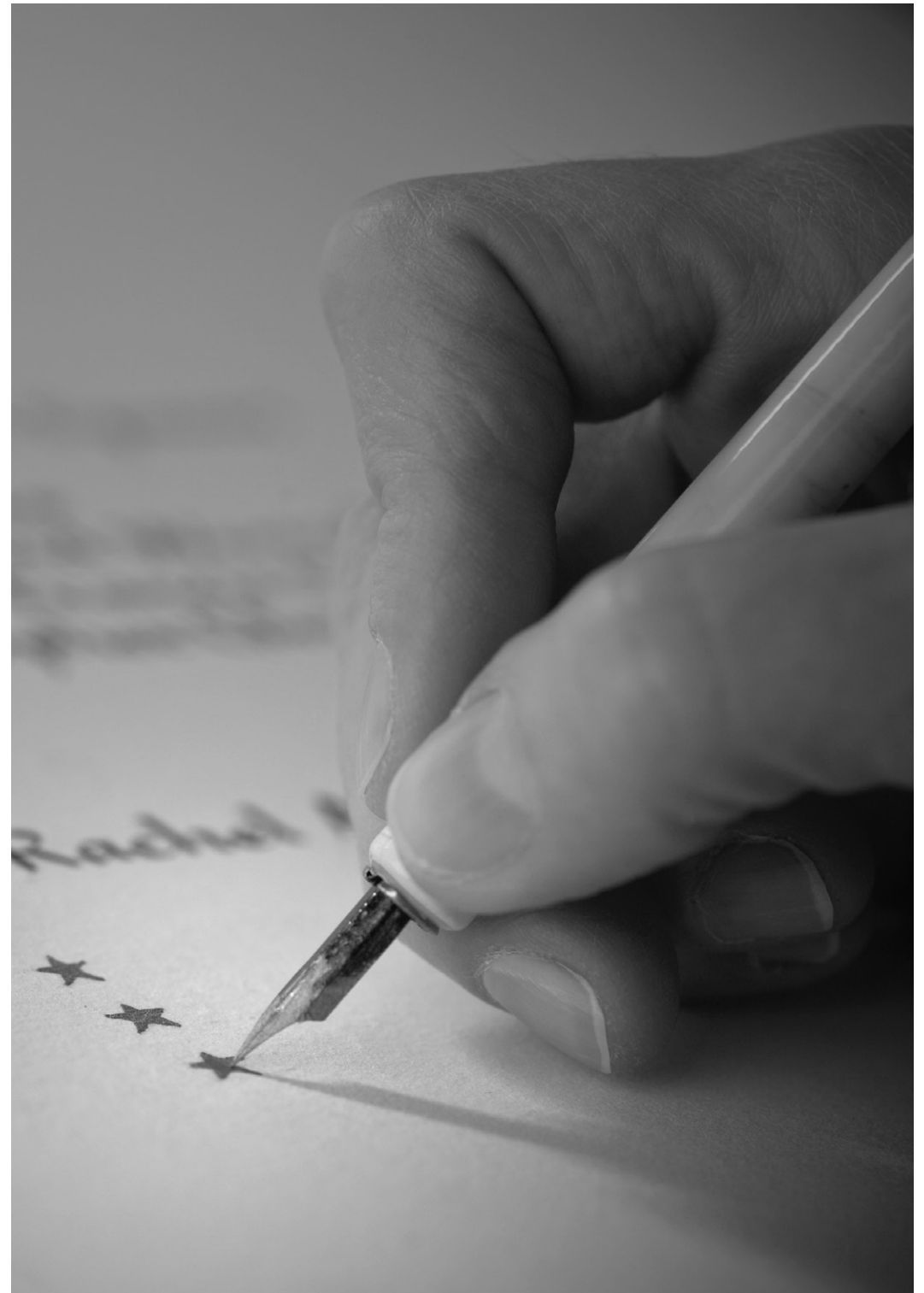
The second book is almost double the size of the original, but in all other ways an exact duplicate. The outside of the book is 20 inches x 32 inches and the page size is 18 inches x 29 ³/₄ inches. The Arches paper—selected for its high archival quality and calligraphy receptive surface—has rough, deckled edges typical of handmade paper.

LEFT: Outside cover of the Book of Honor with embossed Agency seal.
NEXT PAGE: The Book of Honor from above.

The book is a work of art thanks to the skill of a professional calligrapher—a CIA employee—who writes each name and draws each star. She uses a dip pen, not a fountain pen; black sumi ink is used for its ease and glossy finish; a Mitchell round hand square nib, size three and a half, is reserved exclusively for the book; the gold stars are hand drawn with a Gillott number 303 nib; the shell gold is made in France from a hundred-year-old recipe. The stars are polished using an agate burnisher.

The style of lettering was selected by the calligrapher for its functionality and readability. “The importance is in the names, not the lettering,” she said.

When a star is added to the Wall, the Book of Honor is updated concurrently.



Professional calligrapher at work.



Calligraphy tools used for the Book of Honor.



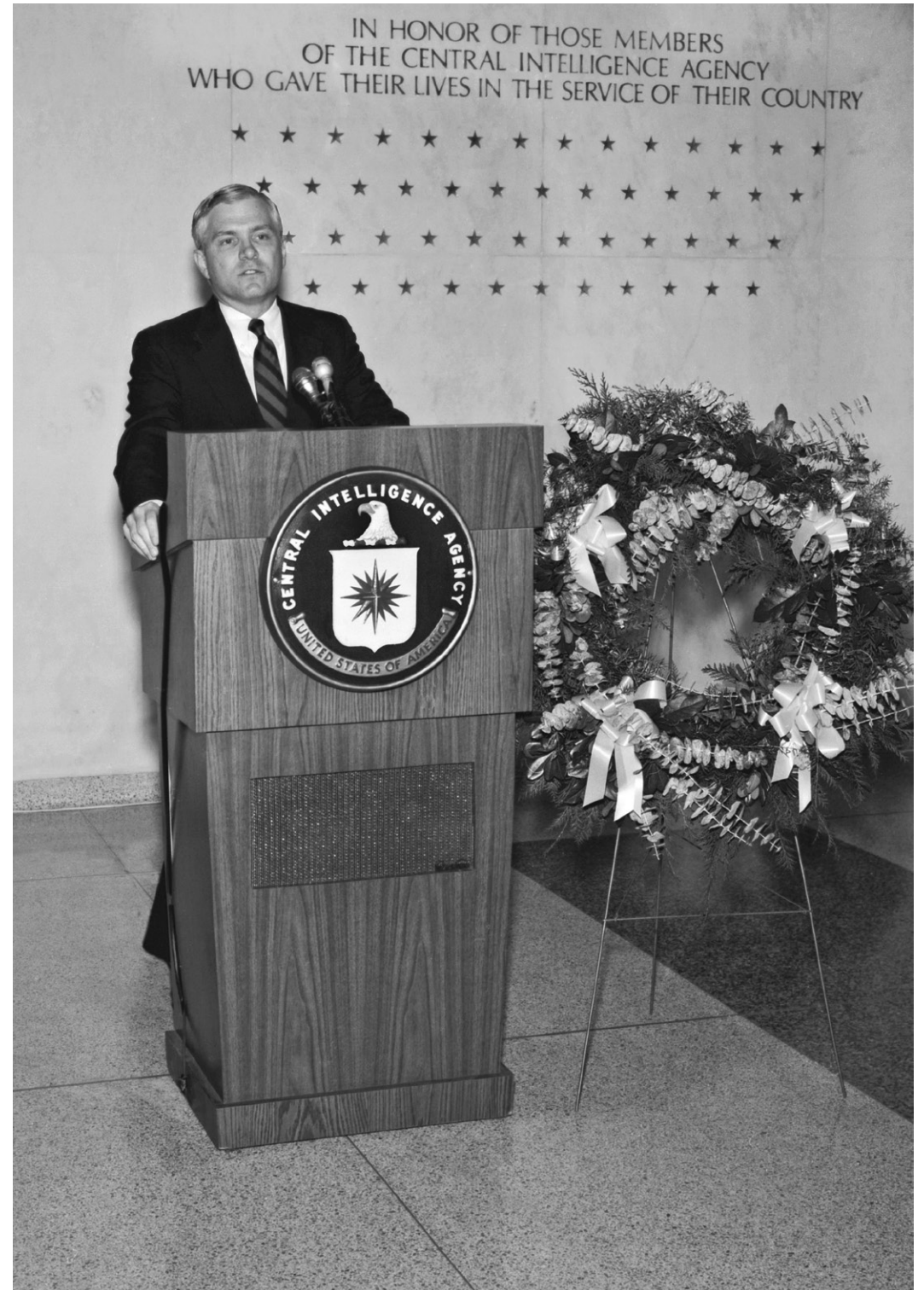
Memorial Ceremony

The first annual Memorial Ceremony was held in 1987, 13 years after the Memorial Wall was created. The suggestion to hold a yearly commemoration came from an Agency officer. The idea came to him after he showed his son the Memorial Wall.

At the time of the first ceremony, the Agency was in its 40th year and there were 50 stars on the wall. Deputy Director Robert M. Gates presided. It was a simple event, attended by a small number of Agency officers. The officer who made the suggestion to hold a ceremony said, "...having been born abroad, in a communist country at that, my small contribution to this memorial meeting makes me especially proud of being an officer of this great Agency."

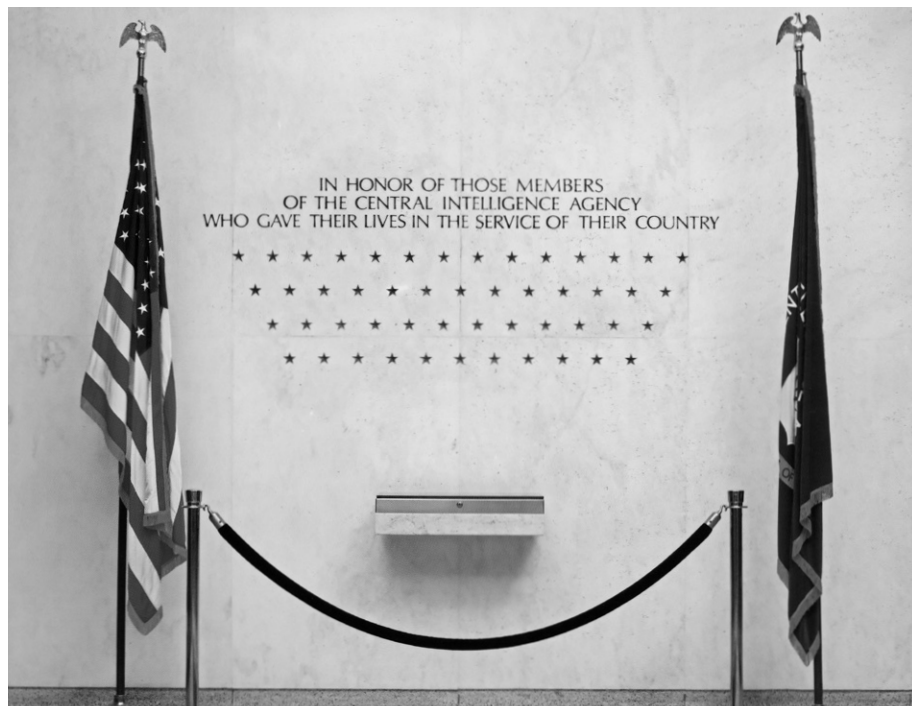
"Ceremonies that honor the dead are, in truth, for the living. They remind us of our mortality but also celebrate the lives and memories of those we have loved, trusted and respected. Certainly, we mourn their loss—but we also glory in the knowledge of their extraordinary contribution to our service and to our country."

Deputy Director Robert M. Gates
May 1987





Deputy Director Gates placing wreath before the Wall during the 1987 Memorial Ceremony.



The Memorial Wall with 50 stars.

Each year since then, the Agency has gathered to remember its fallen in a solemn setting closed to the public. Though the themes of the service and sacrifice are constant, the event has changed over the years:

- In 1990, under Director William H. Webster, non-Agency family members were invited to the ceremony, which until then had been for employees only.
- In 1995, Director John M. Deutch, had the names of all officers remembered on the Wall, including those still undercover, read aloud, a practice that continues to this day.
- In 2009, Director Leon E. Panetta presented the family of each fallen officer with a replica of a memorial star. Each keepsake star is carved by Tim Johnston out of the same type of marble used in the Memorial Wall.



Keepsake star presented to the families.

The Memorial Ceremony is one of the largest annual events at CIA. It is open only to Agency employees and the family members of our fallen officers.

The ceremony is held in the Headquarters lobby in the late morning. It begins with the audience standing for the presentation of colors by the CIA Honor Guard, the National Anthem, and an invocation or opening prayer.

The Director of the CIA typically presides over the event and delivers remarks. Those comments highlight the sacrifices made by Agency officers in defense of this nation and often profile specific individuals honored with a memorial star. The names of the fallen are then read by four senior Agency officers, representing each Directorate. Following the roll call, a wreath is placed before the Wall. The ceremony concludes with a benediction and the playing of “Taps.”

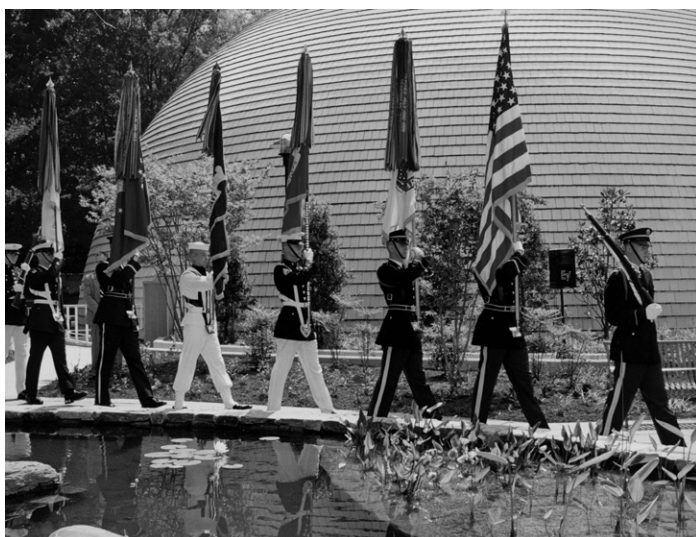


Preparing for the Memorial Ceremony.

Timeline



In May 1996, the Memorial Ceremony was held outside to mark the formal opening of the Memorial Garden located on the Headquarters compound. Through the quiet beauty of living nature, the garden is a tribute to all deceased intelligence officers and contractors who served their country. The garden was professionally designed and features a small pool, waterfall, and lighting. A plaque nearby reads: In remembrance of those whose unheralded efforts served a grateful nation.



The Color Guard at the Memorial Garden.

- 1973 The design for the Memorial Wall is approved—a memorial dedicated to Agency employees who lost their lives in the line of duty.
- 1974 Master Stone Carver Harold Vogel carves 31 stars into marble at CIA Headquarters.
- 1987 First annual Memorial Ceremony is held.
- 1990 First time non-Agency family members of the fallen are invited to attend the Ceremony.
- 1995 First time all the names on the Wall are read aloud regardless of cover status.
- 2009 The family of each fallen officer receives a replica of a memorial star.



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