

Honoring the Fallen

By Captain Thomas Cieslak and Private First Class Garrett Hernandez



Colonel Garrity and Command Sergeant Major Lambert unveil additions to the Fallen Soldier Memorial.

On 5 June 2009, military police and their guests gathered at the Fallen Soldier Memorial, located at the headquarters of the 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to pay tribute to their fallen comrades. The memorial honors service members from all states and military components who have died while serving with the 16th Military Police Brigade.

The names of seven 16th Military Police Brigade Soldiers who died during the past year were read during the ceremony: Staff Sergeant Jonathan W. Dean, Staff Sergeant Stephen J. Goodman, Specialist Roberto S. Hernandez, Sergeant Raul Moncada, Sergeant Matthew R. Simmons, Sergeant First Class Raymond T. Weicher, and Sergeant David B. Williams. Colonel John Garrity, commander of the 16th Military Police Brigade, and Command Sergeant Major Brian Lambert, command sergeant major of the 16th Military Police Brigade, unveiled the memorial, revealing the additional names inscribed on the stone. They also laid a wreath at the base of the memorial. In addition, a bronze sculpture of boots, an upturned rifle, and a helmet was also dedicated. Noncommissioned officers (NCOs) from the brigade donated the money necessary for the additions to the memorial.

In honor of the Army's "Year of the NCO," Command Sergeant Major Lambert also spoke at the ceremony. "Take time to reflect why we are a free nation. It is because of Soldiers like the ones with their names inscribed on the memorial who made our country what it is today," he said. "Americans know the sacrifices that our military has made to keep our country free." He concluded the ceremony by saying, "We must never forget our fallen Soldiers. They have provided the freedoms we take for granted every day."

Editor's Note: The name of Specialist Jonathan C. O'Neill, who was killed on 17 June 2009, was also recently inscribed on the Fallen Soldier Memorial.

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