

The K27 Memorial

The initial phase of the K27 Memorial is imbued with a high level of symbolism. Much of it is taken from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C. but interpreted in a different fashion. The link to the national site was felt to provide an important set of inspirations that lie at the core of our effort, but the different interpretation or outlook allowed for the projection of the distinctiveness that comes with life in northern Idaho.

The guest to the memorial is drawn to a generous viewing area facing south where the sun will shine on your face. This will also provide views to three waterfalls that find their way into a larger basin and are recirculated to outfall points above. The stone that makes up the larger construct is locally collected from the northern Idaho landscape from sources that don't waste or impact a landscape setting. It is angular in nature suggesting that life is a journey influenced by a series of twists and turns, and zigs and zags. The three waterfalls include a Cascade falls, a Sheet falls, and a Chute falls. These will interpret the larger concepts of Respect, Honor and Remember.

Respect Falls

The 'Cascade' was selected as the falls type to interpret the concept of 'respect' because of the many ways in which the broader concept of respect literally cascades through our lives. Respect for the rule of law. Respect for elders. Respect for the sacrifice of a life. Respect for family and friends. Respect for the advancement of civilization.

It starts as a singular stream that is diverted and divided into multiple rivulets gently falling over small to moderate sized stones that reflect all aspects of our life that involve respect. Visually the falls are frothy and splashy. From a sound standpoint, the resulting noise is softer, gentler and pretentiously unpretentious.

Honor Falls

The 'Sheet' was selected as the falls type to interpret the concept of 'Honor' because its singular morphology identifies with the singularity that comes with individual honor. Honor for sacrifice. Honor for a lifetime of commitment. Honor for unflinching dedication. Honor for relentless dependability. Honor for individual achievement.

The single sheet of high volume water rolls off the weir and plunges 10 feet to the falls basin in an impressive physical display with a dance of light, shadow and luminescence. Its sound is a testament to the honor of the individual, staying with us as a constant reminder of how tenuous yet exhilarating life can be. It is also a testament to how lives are and can be lived to the greater benefit of society.

Remember Falls

The 'Chute' was selected as the falls type to interpret the concept of 'Remember' or remembrance because its form is akin to the way memories influence our lives and outlook. Memories come to us as individual events having been catalogued in multiple forms in that vast library of our minds waiting to be called up, to be enjoyed, to be shared and then returned for future recall.

In a similar fashion, from the outfall, the water accelerates in a singular stream with some velocity, encounters obstructions which partition it many times such that the individual large droplets of memories engage us, inspire us and, yes, even haunt us if we let them. The large individual droplets join with the larger collective in the basin to be returned and sent to us again in a slightly different form with the unspoken admonishment: "Let us never forget!"

The Thin Blue Line

In addition to the three waterfalls, a submerged fiber optic line blue in color will light the main falls basin at the base of the falls interpreting the concept of the 'Thin Blue Line'. This refers to the larger concept of law enforcement, the rule of law, and policing in its many forms in America today. The Thin Blue Line represents that thin line of law enforcement officers dressed in blue that, on a daily basis, make the difference between civil order and anarchy.

General Lighting

The waterfalls will also be lighted with a low voltage system that will allow for the projection of many colors beyond blue. This will allow for other community celebrations to take place with the memorial as a backdrop.