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Monument in Glass

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Monument in Glass

by Beth Lambeth, H. JI. 4

For Thee they died—Master and Maker, God of Right—The Soldier dead are at Thy gate, who kept the spears of honor bright, and Freedom's house inviolate.

—Drinkwater

We pass through Gold Star Hall of the Memorial Union regularly on our way to class or the Commons. But many of us have never noticed the story told by 12 vibrantly colorful stained glass windows high on the walls.

These windows, which are part of the memorial to the Iowa State men and women who gave their lives during World Wars I and II, depict 12 qualities of greatness: *Learning, Virility, Courage, Patriotism, Justice, Faith, Determination, Love, Obedience, Loyalty, Integrity and Tolerance*. Many of the qualities are symbolized by student activities.

The stained glass windows, designed by Harold W. Cummings, '18, were installed in 1943, 15 years after the completion of Memorial Union. The thousands of bits of glass that make up the designs and pictures are Cummings' tribute to those who studied at Iowa State and later served with him in World War I.

Learning, the theme of the first window, is suggested in the top panel by a young man studying military theory and tactics. The middle panel depicts a library scene, and the bottom panel suggests a classroom scene with an instructor and officer candidates. Taken in its entirety, this window suggests that learning includes the avocational, the military and

the religious if youth is to be equipped for useful citizenship in the world.

Football players, ROTC men at arms and a cavalryman picture *Virility*. Here again the college life dominates the scene. The window suggests that physical activity can be in harmony, morally and ethically, with religious teachings.

Courage is exemplified as a physical attribute, illustrated in a boxing match, a "man overboard" panel and a Red Cross nurse aiding a wounded soldier. Exercise of the body and spirit strengthen the faith and devotion of mankind.

Patriotism stems from love of the flag, support of the government and appreciation of great men of history. This window portrays the purchasing of war bonds, memorializes Nathan Hale and depicts the emblem of a true patriot, Old Glory.

The motif of the fifth window is *Justice*. It is symbolized by the judging of a livestock contest, a young man leaving to fight for the cause of justice and a court martial scene. The window shows recognition that the basis of true justice is in the Higher Law.

Faith in the future of the state and the wisdom of providing educational opportunities for generations yet unborn is illustrated in this window. Early research in home economics is depicted at the base of the window. Faith in God and confidence in the triumph of right and virtue guides men to peace and content.

Determination and *Love* show that the laws of God are equally needed in the classroom and on the battlefield, and that love over-

comes all evil. A studious young man, marching soldiers and war scenes are used to illustrate these virtues.

Because of *Obedience* and *Loyalty* to God and America, the themes of the ninth and tenth windows, the men and women of Iowa State served in World Wars I and II.

Integrity and *Tolerance* again emphasize things of the spirit in relation to everyday living. The spirit and the heart can stand the stress of world events only when men and women follow Jesus's teachings.

It is a reminder of the heroic Iowa State men and women when a wreath is placed in the center of the middle star on the marble floor on Memorial Day; it is a reminder when taps are played on Armistice Day; it is a reminder when a field piece is placed in the hall at the time of the Military Ball. The stained glass windows, however, stand each day in silent tribute. They recall the Iowa State students . . . those who gave "the last full measure of devotion."

