

“Fallen Soldier”

(Also known as Fallen Hero or Fallen Warrior)

By Richard Rist



Background: When a serviceman or woman is lost in the battlefield, it has become customary to arrange their Boots, Rifle and Helmet as depicted in this sculpture and the surviving members of their unit will gather around and memorialize their fallen comrades. Some of the troops will pray, others might recall personal stories, but make no mistake; this is a ceremony that is taken very seriously. Every soldier knows the next ceremony might be for them. This arrangement is also known as a Battlefield Cross or a Battle Cross.

The sculpture was created by Richard Rist, the owner of The Large Art Company. Mr. Rist is a veteran himself, and comes from a long line of military veterans in his family. The Large Art Company is one of the leading bronze sculpture dealers in the United States and sells a wide variety of pre-made and custom bronze sculptures.

To Mr. Rist this sculpture symbolizes the importance of even one lost life in the service of his/her country. It is neither pro-war nor anti-war. He felt that for his war memorial statue he wanted to recreate the same ceremonial arrangement the soldiers do themselves in the battlefield. “If it is good enough for the troops, it is good enough for anyone else.” His goal was to create a sculpture that would make you stop and think for a minute about the real cost of war and to stand as a dignified tribute to our troops and a memorial that will keep their memory alive in a permanent way.

Specifications: The “Fallen Soldier” sculpture is life-size and life-like in every detail. It is cast in pure American bronze using the ancient “lost-wax” method of bronze casting. In its standard form the sculpture measures 45” tall including the bronze base and the base measures 18” wide x 22” from front to back x 7” tall. The weight is approximately 150 pounds. The patina (coloration) is a traditional chocolate brown (also known as statuary brown). Four mounting nuts are welded in each corner under the base of the sculpture for permanent installation. This is a classic quality statue and built to last for hundreds of years.

The equipment used as models for the sculpture shown here were current issue in 2008 including desert combat boots, an M-16 rifle with bayonet and an ACH Combat Helmet with night vision goggle mount. We also have sculptures of the newest M-4 Carbine rifle as well as a scope and laser sight. Similar sculptures are also available depicting equipment from Vietnam, Korea, WWII, and WWI. The standard assembly is done with the boots straight, but we are happy to position them at a 45 degree angle as well. The rifle is typically turned such that the clip and pistol grip face frontwards allowing for the display of dog tags, but we can also turn the rifle the opposite direction as was typical prior to the first Iraq war.

The base was designed to provide a simple pedestal for the sculpture and for weight to keep the sculpture erect when used as a stand-alone sculpture. Also, the flat surfaces provide an area to mount a memorial plaque. Please contact The Large Art Company for more information.