



Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine
June 14, 2025

Good afternoon friends, fellow veterans, and families,

Though I cannot be there with you in person today, please know I am with you in spirit, and I am honored to share a few words as we dedicate this sacred space to the veterans of Jonesport, Maine. As someone who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, I've come to understand that service to our country doesn't end when we hang up the uniform. It lives on in memory, in community, and in the way we honor those who came before us and those who served alongside us. That's what today is about.

This memorial is more than a collection of names or a piece of land. It is a promise. A promise that the sacrifices made by the men and women of Jonesport will never be forgotten. That their courage, their quiet strength, and their unwavering sense of duty will be remembered by every person who walks these grounds.

I want to thank every member of the community who came together to make this possible. From preserving the land itself to the craftsmanship of this memorial, your work to honor our local veterans will live on here for generations. This place isn't just for those who served. It's for the families who waited at home, bore their own burden in silence, and still carry the memories of their loved ones in their hearts. It's for younger Mainers to learn what service and sacrifice really mean. And it's for this town to remember that freedom comes with a cost, and heroes often walk among us without fanfare or recognition.

War takes its toll on someone long after the battle is over. And I've come to believe that remembrance is one of our most sacred duties. That's why what you've built here in Jonesport matters so much. It's a place of peace, a place of honor, and a place that says: "We remember you. We thank you. And we will not forget."

To the veterans who are here, thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your continued strength. To the families, thank you for your love and support. And to the people of Jonesport, thank you for keeping the memory of our veterans alive. May this memorial stand for generations as a testament to the courage of the few who defended the many, and may we all strive to be worthy of the legacy they leave behind.

Sincerely,

Congressman Jared Golden