

SYMBOLS OF BELIEF AT THE  
BLACK HILLS NATIONAL  
CEMETERY

# LESSON RECALL:

- **Let's see what we remember from our last lesson on symbols:**
  - Can anyone give me an example of a symbol and what it stands for?
  - How about another example?
  - What then *is* a symbol? Can you define it for me?

TODAY WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE EXPLORING SYMBOLS, FOCUSING ON SYMBOLS FOUND AT THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY IN STURGIS, SOUTH DAKOTA.



# THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY

- National cemeteries are burial grounds for the brave men and women who have served our country in the military.
- The Black Hills National Cemetery is near Sturgis, SD, and encompasses 105.9 acres.
- More than 28,000 veterans and their loved ones are buried there.
- The cemetery is a space to pay your respects and site of public history: each veteran has a unique and interesting story to be recognized. Anyone can visit the cemetery.

# SYMBOLS AT BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY



WHEN A VETERAN PASSES AWAY, THEY CAN CHOOSE TO BE BURIED IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY. THE VETERAN AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ABLE TO DECIDE WHAT INFORMATION IS ON THE HEADSTONE. OFTEN, FAMILIES WILL SELECT A SYMBOL TO DISPLAY.



HOW MANY DIFFERENT SYMBOLS CAN YOU SEE IN THE NEXT PHOTOGRAPHS?





  
**FLOYD W  
VAUGHN**  
SSGT  
US ARMY  
WORLD WAR II  
JAN 7 1922  
JUN 26 2009  
YOU WILL BE  
REMEMBERED









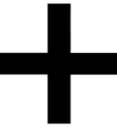
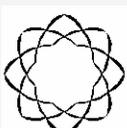
# DID YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THE SYMBOLS ON THE HEADSTONES?

- Each of these symbols represents a system of belief that the veteran held before he or she passed away.
- Not all headstones bear a religious emblem. The addition of a religious emblem is a personal choice and is not required. By default, all military headstones list the name of the deceased, the years of birth and death, and branch of service. Families may also request military grade, rank or rate; war service (such as “World War II”); months and days of birth and death; an emblem reflecting one’s beliefs; valor awards received; and the Purple Heart.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE OPTIONS FOR  
SYMBOLS OF BELIEF AT NATIONAL  
CEMETERIES. MAKE NOTE OF ANY YOU  
RECOGNIZE.



### AVAILABLE EMBLEMS OF BELIEF FOR PLACEMENT ON GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

- |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <br>(1) LATIN<br>(CHRISTIAN)<br>CROSS            | <br>(2) BUDDHIST                               | <br>(3) JUDAISM<br>(Star of David)                 | <br>(4) PRESBYTERIAN<br>CROSS                          | <br>(5) RUSSIAN<br>ORTHODOX CROSS                  | <br>(6) LUTHERAN<br>CROSS                        | <br>(7) EPISCOPAL<br>CROSS         | <br>(8) UNITARIAN<br>(Flaming Chalice) |  |
| <br>(9) UNITED<br>METHODIST                      | <br>(10) AARONIC<br>ORDER<br>CHURCH            | <br>(11) MORMON<br>CHURCH<br>(Angel Moroni)        | <br>(12) NATIVE AMERICAN<br>CHURCH OF NORTH<br>AMERICA | <br>(13) SERBIAN<br>ORTHODOX                       | <br>(14) GREEK CROSS                             | <br>(15) BAHAI<br>(9-Pointed Star) |   |  |
| <br>(16) ATHEIST                                 | <br>(17) MUSLIM<br>(Crescent and Star)         | <br>(18) HINDU                                     | <br>(19) KONKO-KYO<br>FAITH                            | <br>(20) COMMUNITY<br>OF CHRIST                    | <br>(21) SUFISM<br>REORIENTED                    | <br>(22) TENRIKYO<br>CHURCH        |   |  |
| <br>(23) SEICHO-NO-IE                           | <br>(24) THE CHURCH<br>OF WORLD<br>MESSIANITY | <br>(25) UNITED CHURCH<br>OF RELIGIOUS<br>SCIENCE | <br>(26) CHRISTIAN<br>REFORMED<br>CHURCH              | <br>(27) UNITED<br>MORAVIAN<br>CHURCH             | <br>(28) ECKANKAR                               | <br>(29) CHRISTIAN<br>CHURCH      |   |  |
| <br>(30) CHRISTIAN<br>& MISSIONARY<br>ALLIANCE | <br>(31) UNITED<br>CHURCH OF<br>CHRIST       | <br>(32) HUMANIST<br>EMBLEM OF<br>SPIRIT         | <br>(33) PRESBYTERIAN<br>CHURCH (USA)                | <br>(34) EZUMO<br>TAISHAKYO<br>MISSION OF HAWAII | <br>(35) SOKA GAKKAI<br>INTERNATIONAL<br>(USA) | <br>(36) SIKH<br>(GHANA)         | <br>(37) WICCA<br>(Pentacle)         |  |

## AVAILABLE EMBLEMS OF BELIEF (CONTINUED)



(38) LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD



(39) NEW  
APOSTOLIC



(40)  
SEVENTH DAY  
ADVENTIST CHURCH



(41) CELTIC  
CROSS



(42) ARMENIAN  
CROSS



(43) FAROHAR



(44) MESSIANIC  
JEWISH



(45) KOHEN HANDS



(46) CATHOLIC  
CELTIC CROSS



(47) FIRST CHURCH OF  
CHRIST, SCIENTIST  
(Cross & Crown)



(48) MEDICINE  
WHEEL



(49) INFINITY



(50) LUTHER  
ROSE



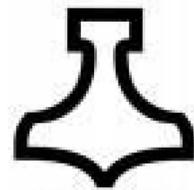
(51) LANDING  
EAGLE



(52) FOUR  
DIRECTIONS



(53) CHURCH  
OF NAZARENE



(54) HAMMER  
OF THOR



(55) UNIFICATION  
CHURCH



(56) SANDHILL  
CRANE



(57) CHURCH OF  
GOD



(58) POMEGRANATE



(59) MESSIANIC



(60) Shinto

Emblem (98) MUSLIM (Islamic 5-Pointed Star) is not shown due to copyright.

# DISCUSSION

- Did you recognize any of these symbols before this lesson?  
Which ones?
- Are you surprised by how many belief symbols there are?  
Why or why not?
- What does this tell you about our veterans buried at Black Hills National Cemetery?

AS WE HAVE LEARNED, SYMBOLS ARE IMAGES THAT STAND FOR AN IDEA OR BELIEF BEYOND THEMSELVES.

IF YOU COULD CHOOSE A SYMBOL TO REPRESENT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO YOU, WHAT WOULD YOUR SYMBOL BE?