

[In Iraq](#) > [Memorial](#)

Photos of 1,000 dead U.S. soldiers laid out in NYC

REUTERS

12:57 p.m. September 10, 2004

NEW YORK – Photos of more than 1,000 U.S. soldiers who died in Afghanistan and Iraq were laid out in Union Square Park in New York Friday in a display intended to put faces of the fallen before the public.

Coming just days after the 1,000th U.S. soldier died in the war in Iraq, the display was organized by Army veteran Nicholas Cohen, who said merely listing deaths in the newspapers each day did not capture the human cost of the war.

"There's no political organization behind this," said Cohen. "This is about the soldiers."

Dozens of passerby stared quietly as volunteers laid out photos in Union Square, which three years earlier had been the site of makeshift memorials for victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Cohen's mother, Arlene Harrison, said the display was not meant as an anti-war statement.

"We're anti using military force in a knee-jerk way," she said. "We have to have a good, honest, compelling reason before we sacrifice our children."



Associated Press
Carmen Hernandez, center, and Norma Pichaldo, right, both of the Bronx borough of New York, search for the photo of their friend Michael Hernandez, of the Queens borough of New York who died in the Iraq War at the age of 21.

Find this article at:<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/iraq/memorial/20040910-1257-iraq-usa-memorial.html>☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.



New York Post, Saturday, September 11, 2004



Vet creates moving GI memorial

By MATTHEW SWEENEY

A former Army Ranger yesterday used pictures of the fallen to create a moving reminder in Union Square of the soldiers who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Nicholas Cohen laid photos of hundreds of soldiers on the paving stones at the park's south end in the temporary memorial.

In the "Honor the Fallen Memorial," young faces look up from 8½-by 11-inch sheets of paper, their names, ages, date of death, and surviving relatives printed below.

"I worry that we're not taking this war seriously

enough," Cohen said. "I worry that we're becoming a little numb to people dying."

More than 1,000 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq and more than 130 in Afghanistan.

The reminder of the soldiers' sacrifice is not meant to be a political statement, Cohen said.

"This is not an anti-war exhibit," he said. "This is a reality check."

If passers-by see the hundreds of faces and believe these lives are too high a price, Cohen hopes they'll write their government representatives and tell them so.

"If you think the war is worth this cost, then I hope people would sup-

port the president," he said.

"I feel like every time somebody gives up his life for their country, it's a noble thing," said Tom Banks of Manhattan, a professor who checked out the memorial yesterday.

"I'm of the opinion that this war was a mistake. This is the saddest result of that."

In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, Cohen expected to be one of the first to go to Afghanistan.

But the call didn't come and Cohen was discharged in 2002 after four years of Army service. He is still a reservist and could be called up again.

"I am ready to go," he said.

Local Veteran Honors Fallen Soldiers

By Maciej Wroblewski

A former Army Ranger and Infantry officer who served with the 82nd Airborne Division honored his fallen brothers who have been killed as a result of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom with a unique photo exhibition in Union Square South Plaza on Friday.

Nicholas Benjamin Cohen, 29, a native New Yorker who served in the Army from January 1998 through February 2002, organized the "Honor The Fallen Memorial," comprised of 8 1/2 by 11 inch placards of 1,132 soldiers killed since the beginning of hostilities in October 2001, to put these men and women in the forefront of everybody's mind and to bring the public's attention to the enormous, lasting price we pay when we decide to go to war.

"In order to be fully conscious of the consequences of our actions as a country when we make the choice to use military force, we should hold in front of us the lives that are lost," Cohen said. "I don't think that listing a few names in the newspaper each day of soldiers who are killed in Afghanistan and Iraq captures the enormity of the loss of lives."

"For this reason, I wanted to create an exhibit that faces head-on what it means for Americans to die in action. I hope to impress upon the American public and on our leaders the humanity for which we are responsible."

Without a sponsor, without posters, presentations or political agenda, Cohen created a very somber, quiet, reflective place in New York that was reminiscent of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

During the four-hour long exhibit, hundreds of people, including many veterans, took time out of their busy schedules to stop and look at the faces of fallen soldiers on the photographs and to learn a little bit about them, such as their name, age, hometown, date they died, and families they left behind.

The photographs were displayed on 63 laminated sheets that were laid down on the ground, forming a 200 by 400 foot display on concrete in Union Square South Plaza.

Cohen, who made it clear that the display was not meant to be an anti-war exhibit, said, "All of us fortunate enough to live in this country owe it to those Americans who volunteer for our armed forces to use the utmost care in

calling upon their service."

"In order for soldiers to place themselves in this position of profound risk, they must have absolute trust that their country is going to make the resolution to go to war, and the decision to remain at war, with all the gravity and candid analysis possible."

Cohen's battalion was deployed to Afghanistan nine months after he left active duty and although he did not lose any friends in the war, many people who visited the memorial did. In one case a woman was looking for a photograph of a friend who died in Iraq. In another, a visitor learned from the memorial that his drill sergeant from basic training was killed.

Asked if he thought we should withdraw our forces from Afghanistan and Iraq, Cohen argued that a knee-jerk call to withdraw military force no matter what the circumstances is no more relevant to the world we live in than is blind hawkish aggression. He added that it is imperative that we reflect and even anguish about what we are doing as a nation every day that we are engaged in military combat.

"The goal of this exhibit is to help people see why it's so important to sharpen our decision making process," he said. "I want to show why we must constrain ourselves to use force only as a last resort, with a vivid awareness that the people dying in this conflict are our neighbors and loved ones; indeed, they might have been our own selves."

While it took him a few weeks to prepare the photographs, Cohen credited the lion's share of the project to his mother Arlene Harrison, who helped to organize the funds and secure the permits, and his neighbor Kathleen Scupp, who was instrumental in the actual installation of the exhibit.

"It was a very solemn day, exactly what my son envisioned," said Harrison, who heard from many veterans who visited the memorial that it should become permanent.

While they would look for ways to make it permanent, the memorial will be on display in Union Square South Plaza on Friday, September 17, and Friday, September 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Photos by Todd Maisel



Honor the Fallen Memorial exhibition

We need volunteers on Friday, September 17, and Friday, September 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to set up the exhibit, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to distribute flyers, and from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to take down the exhibit. If you would like to help, please call Arlene Harrison at (212) 260-3875.

HONOR THE FALLEN MEMORIAL



**Date: Friday, September 17th
 and**

Friday, September 24th

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Place: Union Square Park South Plaza

This memorial will feature 1,132 placards with photos and bios of soldiers killed since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It was created by Nicholas Cohen, a neighbor and former U.S. Army Ranger and Infantry Officer with the 82nd Airborne Division.

We need volunteers on both days

**From 8:30 am – 10:00 am to set up the exhibit,
from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm to distribute flyers,
from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm to take down the exhibit.**

To volunteer please call Nicholas Cohen at 917-748-8780.

Honor The Fallen Memorial

FRIDAYS, SEPTEMBER 17th and 24th

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Union Square Park South Plaza

WHAT IS THIS MEMORIAL?

This memorial features approximately 1,132 placards with photos and bios representing soldiers killed since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHO CREATED THIS EXHIBIT?

I planned this memorial. My name is Nicholas Benjamin Cohen, and I am a veteran and native New Yorker. I served in the Army from January 1998 through February 2002. I was a U.S. Army Ranger, and an Infantry officer with the 82nd Airborne Division.

WHY DO THIS DISPLAY?

I believe that we as Americans must be fully aware of the consequences of our decision to use military force. Listing a few names in the newspaper each day of soldiers killed in Afghanistan and Iraq does not capture the enormity of the loss of lives. We owe it to those Americans who volunteer for our armed forces to use the utmost care in calling upon their service.

IS THIS AN ANTI-WAR PRESENTATION?

This is not meant to be an anti-war exhibit. I love this country. I believe in a strong military. And I believe in the use of military force as a last resort. A knee-jerk call to withdraw military force, no matter what the circumstances, is no more relevant to the world we live in than is blind hawkish aggression. However, it is imperative that we reflect on, and even anguish about, what we are doing as a nation every day that we're engaged in military combat.

FROM: Honor The Fallen Memorial

CONTACT: Nicholas Cohen
917-748-8780
nicholascohen@yahoo.com

REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

**Honor The Fallen Memorial
Exhibition in Union Square Park**

There are 1,132 placards with photos and bios of soldiers killed since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom

Nicholas Cohen, former U.S. Army Ranger and Infantry Officer from the 82nd Airborne Division, will **present the Honor The Fallen Memorial on Friday, September 17th at 10 a.m. in Union Square Park's South Plaza.**

The memorial will feature 1,132 placards of soldiers killed in combat in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Below each photograph is the soldier's name, age, hometown, date of death and the family members left behind.

The memorial consists of 63 laminated sheets which include eighteen photos each. The 3ft by 6ft laminated sheets will be laid on the ground with aisles around each sheet to allow for close viewing. The total space occupied by the memorial will be approximately 50 ft. x 200 ft. The exhibit will run on Fridays, September 17th and 24th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

DATE: Friday, September 17th

TIME: 10:00 AM

**PLACE: Union Square Park
South Plaza**

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Honor The Fallen Memorial

Union Square Park

South Plaza

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29th

NOON to 2:00 PM

WHAT IS THIS MEMORIAL?

This memorial is the only one of its kind in America. The display features 1,239 placards, one for each American soldier killed since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The placards include a photograph of the soldier along with a short biography. This memorial has been on display since September 10th, 2004, at various locations including Union Square Park in New York City, and Wesleyan University in Connecticut. The memorial will continue to be displayed at locations around the country for as long as Americans are deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

WHO CREATED THIS EXHIBIT?

Nicholas Benjamin Cohen, a veteran and a Columbia student, designed this exhibit. Nick served in the Army from January 1998 through February 2002. He was a U.S. Army Ranger, and an Infantry officer with the 82nd Airborne Division.

WHY DO THIS DISPLAY?

This display is intended to honor those American soldiers who have been killed serving our country. More placards are added to the exhibit every week. This growing memorial represents a grave loss for our country. Reading a few names in the newspaper each day of soldiers killed in Afghanistan and Iraq does not capture the magnitude of the loss of life.

IS THIS AN ANTI-WAR PRESENTATION?

This is not meant to be an anti-war exhibit. No matter what your view of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, you can probably accept that we as Americans owe it the men and women who serve in uniform to remain aware of the consequences of our decision to use military force. We owe it to those Americans to reflect on, and even anguish about, what we are doing as a nation every day that we are engaged in military combat.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP?

This memorial is made possible by the hard work of volunteers, and by contributions from the general public. If you would like to become involved or make a donation to support this ongoing exhibit, please contact Nicholas Cohen at (917) 748-8780 or nbc2103@columbia.edu. Thank you.

Honor The Fallen Memorial

VETERAN'S DAY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11th Columbia University Low Plaza

12:00 PM Noon to 2:00 PM
CONTACT: NICHOLAS COHEN 917-748-8780

WHAT IS THIS MEMORIAL?

This memorial is the only one of its kind in America. The display features 1,239 placards, one for each American soldier killed since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The placards include a photograph of each of the soldier along with a short biography. The memorial has been on display since September 10th, 2004, at various locations including Union Square Park in New York City, and Wesleyan University in Connecticut. It will continue to be displayed at locations around the country for as long as Americans are deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq.

WHO CREATED THIS EXHIBIT?

Nicholas Benjamin Cohen, a veteran and a Columbia University student, designed the exhibit. Nick served in the Army from January 1998 through February 2002. He was a U.S. Army Ranger, and an Infantry officer with the 82nd Airborne Division.

WHY DO THIS DISPLAY?

The display is intended to honor those American soldiers who have been killed serving our country. More placards are added to the exhibit every week. This growing memorial reminds us of the great loss this country is sustaining. Reading a few names in the newspaper each day of soldiers killed in Afghanistan and Iraq does not capture the magnitude of the loss of life.

IS THIS AN ANTI-WAR PRESENTATION?

This is not meant to be an anti-war exhibit. No matter what your view of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, you can probably accept that we, as Americans, owe it the men and women who serve in uniform to remain aware of the consequences of our decision to use military force. We owe it to those Americans to reflect on what we are doing as a nation every day that we are engaged in military combat.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP?

This memorial is made possible by the hard work of volunteers, and by contributions from the general public. If you would like to become involved or make a donation to support this ongoing exhibit, please contact Nicholas Cohen at (917) 748-8780 or nbc2103@columbia.edu.

FROM: Honor The Fallen Memorial
CONTACT: Nicholas Cohen
917-748-8780, nbc2103@columbia.edu

REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

Honor The Fallen Memorial



The Honor The Fallen Memorial at Union Square Park. This memorial will be exhibited at locations around the country for the duration of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

VETERAN'S DAY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2004
Columbia University, Low Plaza (entrance - 116th street & Broadway)
NOON to 2:00 PM

This memorial, the only one of its kind in America, is intended to honor those Americans who have died while serving our country. It features a photograph and a brief biography for each of the 1,262 Americans who have been killed as a result of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. More photos are added to the exhibit every week.

Nicholas Cohen, a native New Yorker and U.S. Army veteran, designed this exhibit.



Jessica L. Cawvey, 21,
of Normal, Illinois,
was killed on October 6, 2004.

web: www.honorthefallen.net • phone: (917) 748-8780

Honor The Fallen Memorial

Columbia University, Low Plaza



The Honor the Fallen Memorial at Union Square Park. The memorial has been on display since September 10, 2004, and will continue to be exhibited for the duration of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

VETERAN'S DAY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2004

NOON to 2:00 PM

This memorial, the only one of its kind in America, features a photograph and a brief biography of each of the 1,257 Americans who have been killed as a result of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. This memorial is intended to honor those American soldiers who have been killed serving our country. More pictures are added to the exhibit every week.

This is not meant to be an anti-war exhibit. No matter what your view of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, we as Americans owe it the men and women who serve to remain aware of the consequences of our decision to use military force. We owe it to those Americans to reflect on what we are doing as a nation every day that we are engaged in military combat.

Nicholas Benjamin Cohen, a U.S. Army veteran and a Columbia student, designed this exhibit. If you would like to become involved or make a donation to support this ongoing exhibit, please contact us.

web: www.honorthefallen.net

phone: (917) 748-8780

On Veteran's Day, Honoring the Dead

Student Creates Photo Tribute to Soldiers Killed in Middle East

By Kate Ruskin
Columbia Daily Spectator

As students rushed to class through Low Plaza yesterday, many were surprised to find themselves among people peering somber-faced at the ground or staring blankly upward.

The blank faces were of the 1,278 soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, each of whom had a picture and short biography on the ground as part of the Honor the Fallen memorial brought to Columbia for Veteran's Day. Its creator is Nicholas Cohen, a Columbia School of Continuing Education student who served as an army ranger with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. from 1998 to 2002.

Afraid that the country was becoming desensitized to the loss of life in Afghanistan and Iraq, Cohen designed the memorial to remind the public that the soldiers who are dying overseas are people, not solely statistics. He said he hopes the exhibit will encourage people to grieve for the fallen soldiers and engage themselves in the issues surrounding the war.

"I want them [the people who saw the memorial] to regain their compassion and their sense of mourning for all these people who have been killed and the families they left behind. I want them to write a letter to their elected official to let them know how they feel, that they care about the war and the people in it," he said.

Cohen emphasized that "this isn't anti-war—it's anti-complacency, anti-silence."

The Columbia College Democrats and Republicans, along with Students United for America and the Columbia Political Union, supported the memorial at Columbia by securing the proper permits and sending volunteers to help set up the memorial. Cohen deliberately made the memorial non-partisan, as illustrated by support from both party affiliations at Columbia.

"From the very beginning when we decided to use

See VETS, page A5

Memories of 1,278 Fallen Soldiers Cover Low Plaza on Veteran's Day

VETS from page A1

pictures of people who have died, we knew we couldn't make the memorial partisan because the families of the soldiers are on either side of the fence politically," he said.

To maintain its nonpartisanship, the memorial is not funded by any political organizations, but supported solely by small personal donations. Contributions are used directly for the memorial because Cohen has no offices or administration, and all of the people involved are volunteers.

Cohen began his activism for American troops overseas when his former unit was deployed to Iraq a year after he left the service. He created a program at Bryn Mawr College, where he was studying, in which students sent care packages to soldiers overseas.

Continuing his dedication to American troops, Cohen created the Honor the Fallen memorial this summer. It opened on Sept. 10 in Union Square Park and has been exhibited there nearly every Friday since.

Cohen needs funding to continue the exhibition.

Bringing the memorial to locations throughout the city, and eventually other states, has become Cohen's most important priority for the coming months, but he said he needs public support to staff and fund each exhibition. Cohen plans to display the memorial at Union Square Park again on Thanksgiving and in Washington, D.C. on Christmas Day.

Cohen's specific goal for bringing the memorial to Columbia was to involve students.

"My hope is that the Columbia students do more than have a personal response, but come up to me and say, 'I like the idea of this thing,

I want to be involved, and I want to travel with it. Let's go,'" he said. Cohen also said that "students have a willingness to follow their ideals," and he is hopeful that some of the people who saw the memorial yesterday will get involved.

During the afternoon, countless people paused on their way to and from classes to read the biographies of the fallen soldiers. Joelle Gruber, a student at SIPA, found the memorial very moving.

"I'm just picturing these people [the soldiers] here instead of just their pictures, and they would be enough to fill this plaza," she said.

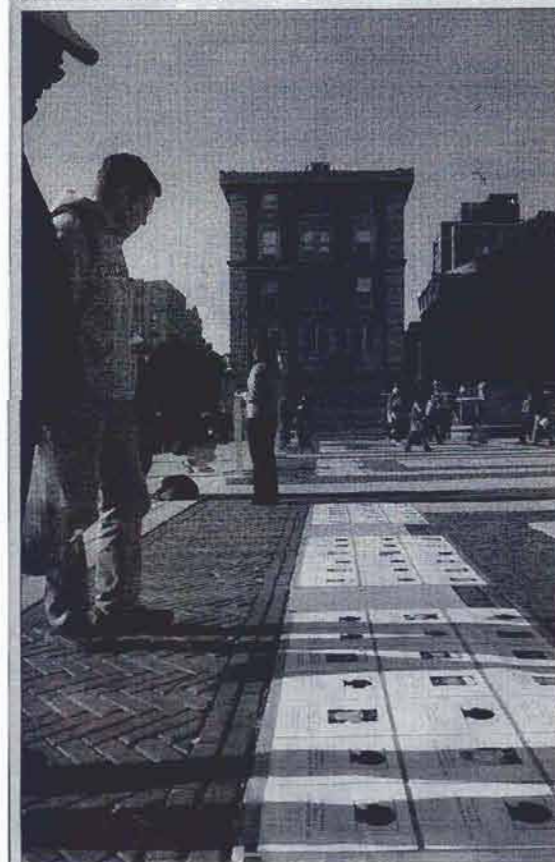
Mark Xue, CC '06, director of operations for the College Republicans, said, "Personally, I hope putting names and faces to the soldiers that some people decry as baby-killers will help them understand that they're kids, they're Americans, just like us."

Despite an overall positive response from the Columbia community, Cohen said he has experienced a few negative responses. "I have to say that I've had a handful [of negative reactions], but I've always been able to change people's minds when I tell them that this is not an anti-war protest, and that I'm a veteran," he said. "They see it and they have a visceral response because there's a brand of patriotism that says don't talk about it, don't pay attention to it, don't mourn, just suck it up and move on."

Since its creation, Cohen has worked tirelessly to perpetuate the memorial, which he plans to continue displaying for the duration of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. He said that following the casualty reports is the biggest commitment "because it's emotionally trying, it's the most difficult part of the exhibition, but I have to do it every day."

Cohen said he definitely plans to bring the memorial to locations across the country.

"Where this goes from here is up to the people willing to get involved," he said.



Nicholas Cohen's Honor the Fallen memorial was displayed on Low Plaza yesterday in honor of Veteran's Day. The exhibition consisted of pictures and biographies of the soldiers who have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Cohen's aim was to involve Columbia students in the memorial.

Thanksgiving Day

New York gives thanks to the
1351 Americans killed in
military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq

Honor The Fallen Memorial



Date: Thursday, November 25

Time: Noon to 2:00 PM

Place: Union Square Park - South Plaza

This memorial, the only one of its kind in America was designed by a native New Yorker, and former Army Ranger and Infantry Officer from the 82nd Airborne Division, to honor those Americans who have been killed during Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. **It features a photograph of each soldier and includes their name, age, hometown, date of death and the family members left behind.** Photographs are added to the exhibit weekly.

The memorial was first displayed on September 10, 2004 in Union Square Park, and has since been displayed in Union Square Park on September 17, September 24 and October 29; at Wesleyan University on October 23; and at Columbia University on Veteran's Day. It will continue to be displayed at locations around the country for as long as Americans are deployed. This is a non-partisan project funded solely by donations from the general public.

To volunteer, make a donation, or find out more, contact Nicholas Cohen at (917) 748-8780. nbc2103@columbia.edu, or log on to:

www.honorthefallen.net

the village

VOICE

NOVEMBER 24-30, 2004 • VOL. XLIX NO. 47 • AMERICA'S LARGEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

The numbers have names: Facing the truth about this war

'HONOR THE FALLEN' MEMORIAL
Union Square Park, South Plaza
Thursday from noon to 2
honorthefallen.net

The military's bloody Falluja campaign must have kept U.S. Army vet Nicholas Cohen and his small band of volunteers busy. They're creating an ever expanding memorial that features a photograph and brief biography of each American soldier who has died in Iraq or Afghanistan, one per sheet of paper. The snapshots of the lost now exceed 1,300, and they will lie row upon laminated row on the bricks of Union Square, demanding silently that passersby reflect on this portion of the war's human cost—people we played in the sandbox with, or went to school with, or had a crush on; sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, parents. Whether you supported or protested the invasions, it's hard to dispute that somebody is missing these people this Thanksgiving. As for the remaining portion of the "war on terror" 's toll, though—the



Photograph by Todd Meisel

Gene but not forgotten

dead Iraqis and Afghans—their lives, should someone eventually document them all, might require a slightly bigger park. DANIEL ADKISON

Honor the Fallen memorial on display at Union Square



By Maciej Wroblewski

The Honor the Fallen Memorial will return to Union Square Park's South Plaza today (Thanksgiving Day) to once again put a human face on the real cost of war.

The one of a kind memorial, designed by Nicholas Cohen, a native New Yorker and a former Army Ranger and Infantry Officer from the 82nd Airborne Division, will honor those Americans who have been killed during operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

It will feature a photograph of each soldier killed and include their name, age, hometown, date of death and the family members left behind. Photographs are added to the exhibit weekly and 1351 photographs will be on display on Thursday from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m.

"It is critical that we put a human face on these numbers that are increasing everyday," said Cohen's mother, Arlene Harrison. "These are somebody's children, somebody's brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. It is easy to hear about them in the morning and to just push it aside and go about our lives for the rest of the day. But these are men and women who will never go about their lives and neither will their devastated families."

According to Harrison, just in the last couple of days, a soldier was killed on the day his wife gave birth to their first child and another one died leaving a wife who is pregnant with two twin girls.

"We owe them a debt of gratitude that we can never repay," she said. "And while we all are giving thanks for our families, everyday we need to grieve for these families that will never be whole again and we need to thank them everyday for their sacrifices."

The memorial was first displayed on September 10, 2004 in Union Square Park, and has since been displayed in Union Square Park on September 17, September 24 and October 29; at Wesleyan University on October 23; and at Columbia University on Veteran's Day. It will continue to be displayed at locations around the country for as long as Americans are deployed.

The non-partisan project funded solely by donations from the general public is looking for volunteers to help with the project and donations to help to sustain it. To volunteer, donate funds or help the project in other ways, please call Nicholas Cohen at (917) 748-8780 or send him an email at nbc2103@columbia.edu. You may also contact Arlene Harrison at (212) 260-3875.

Cops visit Union Sq. exhibit honoring fallen U.S. soldiers

On Thanksgiving Day, officers of the 13th Precinct stopped to view The Honor the Fallen Memorial in the North Plaza of Union Square Park. The memorial, a photograph display of slain soldiers, was organized by Gramercy Park resident Nicholas Cohen. One of the officers (on the right) served in Iraq and he found a photo of a fellow soldier and a friend who was killed among the tribute photos.

The memorial, whose goal is to put human face on the real costs of war, was first displayed on September 10 in Union Square Park, and has since been displayed in Union Square Park on September 17, September 24 and October 29; at Wesleyan University on October 23; and at Columbia University on Veterans Day.

Cohen, a native New Yorker and a former Army Ranger and Infantry Officer from the 82nd Airborne Division, is determined to honor those Americans who have been killed during operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq as long as U.S. troops are deployed in



Officers of the 13th Precinct pay their respects to soldiers who've been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, at the "Honor the Fallen" memorial.

the two countries.

The memorial will be on display on Christmas Day and on New Year's Eve with venues to be announced. To find out more about the memorial visit www.honorthe fallen.net. Volunteers are needed,

especially during the holidays, as are donations.

If you would like to help, e-mail Nicholas Cohen at nbc2103@columbia.edu or call him at (917) 748-8780 or Arlene Harrison at (212) 260-3875.

'The Fallen' honored on Christmas Day

By Maciej Wroblewski

Hundreds of people from around the country attended the Honor the Fallen Memorial on Christmas Day in the North Plaza of Union Square Park to pay tribute to the U.S. service men and women who died in operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Organized by Nicholas Cohen, a native New Yorker and a former Army Ranger and Infantry Officer from the 82nd Airborne Division, the memorial began on Sept. 10 with photographs and short biographies of 1,132 fallen soldiers. The number steadily increased and on Dec. 25 it stood at 1,446.

"The purpose of the memorial is to acknowledge the sacrifice that has been made by 1,446 Americans who have died serving our country, to pay tribute to them and let their families know that they have not been forgotten," explained Cohen, who has been organizing the independent memorial with the help of his



The Honor the Fallen Memorial volunteers in front of the exhibit at the North Plaza of Union Square Park on Christmas Day, December 25, 2004.

mother and a small army of some 30 volunteers that includes a handful of veterans and spans different political viewpoints.

"Especially on Christmas, when people are with their families, it is a very hard day for families of those 1,446 soldiers and we want them to know we are grieving

with them," added Cohen. "We also want the families of the 150,000 soldiers who are currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan to know that the country has come together and is concerned about their loved ones too."

The Honor the Fallen Memorial is always looking for volunteers and

donations.

To volunteer with the project, please call Nicholas Cohen at (917) 748-8780 and to contribute, please call Arlene Harrison at (212) 260 3875. For more information on the project, including dates and locations of upcoming events, visit www.honorthefallen.net.