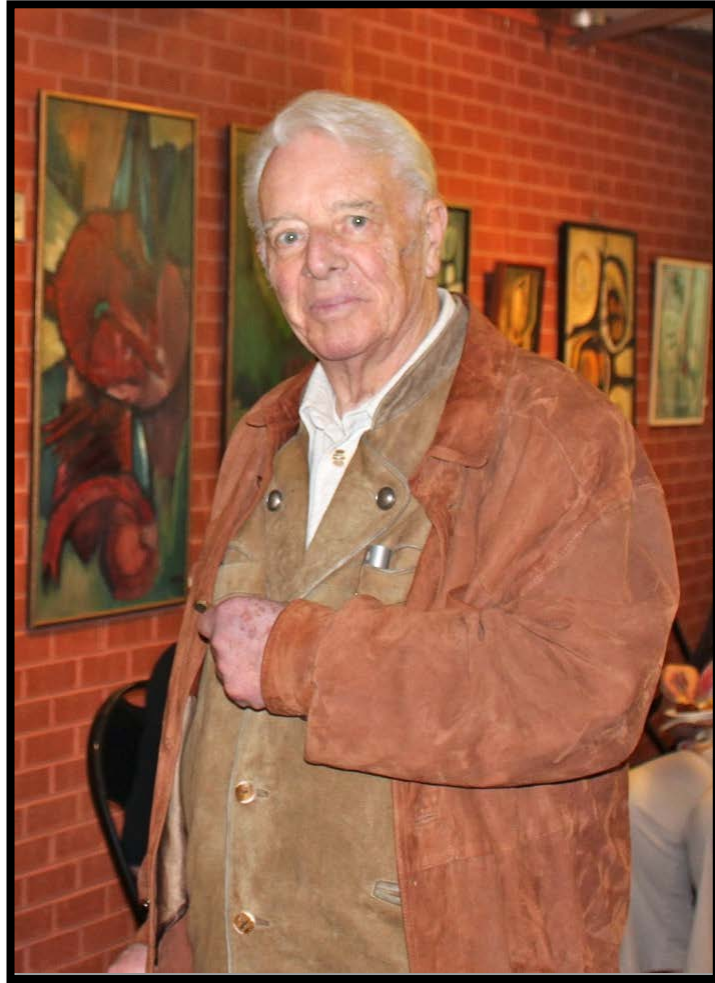


HAROLD C. VOGEL

Sculptor and Master Stone Carver



Biography

Harold C. Vogel, 1930 - 2011

Harold Vogel, a sculptor and master carver, was born in Detroit but his family returned to their home town of Ansbach, Germany, during the Great Depression. Eight generations of Vogels were master stone-carvers, and Harold grew up working for his family as an apprentice. He was certified as a Master of Stonework by the Handwerkskammer of Düsseldorf in 1953. Harold and his first wife, the painter Hilde Michalik (1918-1999), returned to the U.S. in 1955.

When Harold began his career as a master stone-setter on the National Cathedral in Washington, he was one of very few artisans with the skills needed to set the stones of the groin-vaulted nave. He also carried out in-place carving on the Cathedral.

Harold's clients soon included architects, federal and state government officials, and developers. He was recognized as one of this country's foremost stone carvers, forming Wood and Stone Inc. in 1976 and The Carving and Restoration Team Inc. in 1986. Some of his notable commissions in the Washington area include the Memorial Wall for the C.I.A., the granite monolith at the Lyndon B. Johnson Memorial Grove, and the wooden baldachino for the Old Senate Chamber in the U.S. Capitol Building. He led the team that restored the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, VA, and he once made a firescreen for his friend and long-time neighbor, J.J. Mathy.

One of the last things Harold Vogel did in life was to put his tools in order. His legacy remains with those who apprenticed under him in his Stone Carving and Restoration Program, a project initiated by Harold in order to perpetuate his beloved and time-honored craft.

A Few Notable Commissions

LYNDON B. JOHNSON MEMORIAL

The focal point of the grove is a tall, rugged block of sunset red granite, selected to symbolize the energy and personality of a dynamic man. The monolith, sculpted by Harold Vogel, stands 19 feet high and weighs 43 tons. It was quarried in Texas just 35 miles from the LBJ Ranch.

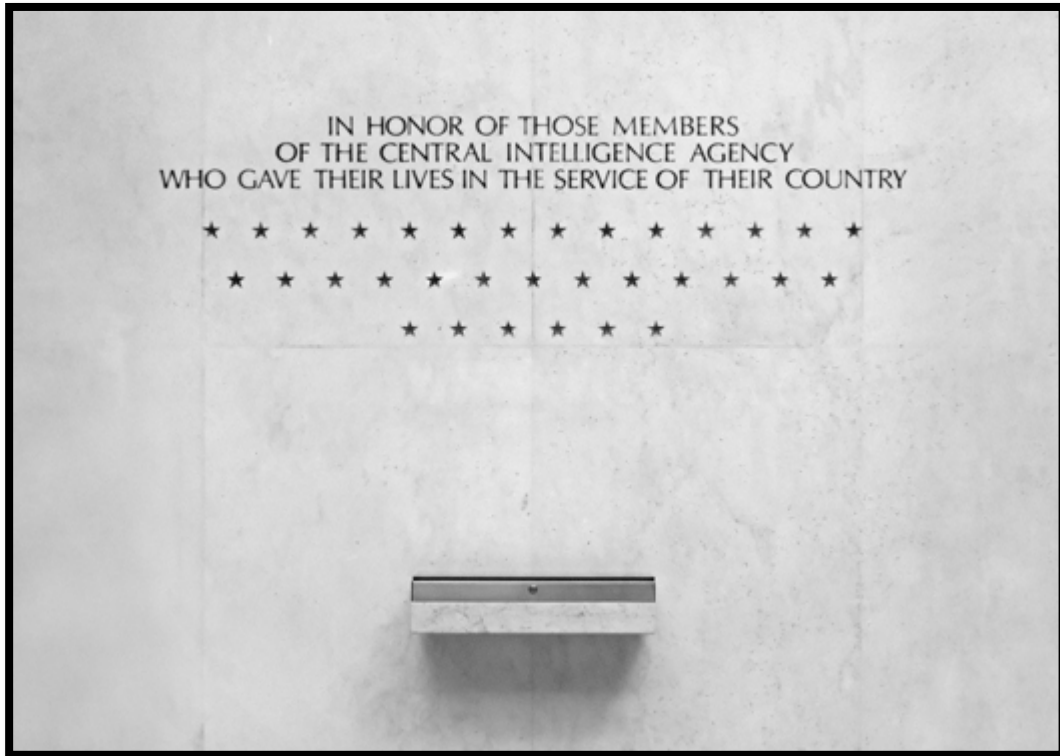


In seeking a stone for Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove, Vogel first searched for material – along with Lady Bird Johnson – on the Johnson Ranch in Texas, but the stones were too fractured to use on the project.

A Few Notable Commissions

CIA MEMORIAL WALL

“IN HONOR OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY,” this wall—with one star carved for each honored officer—stands as a silent, simple memorial



Vogel’s design inspiration for the Memorial Wall came from the Bauhaus style—a modernist concept also known as the International Style—which is marked by the absence of ornamentation and by harmony between the function of an object and its design. Vogel’s goal was to make the memory of the fallen an integral part of the building which, to many, represents the Agency’s mission. His vision of the CIA’s Memorial emphasized the unity of the stars on the wall, standing as a field. His concept was approved in November 1973 and the original 31 stars were approved by Director William E. Colby in April 1974. Three months later, Vogel carved the Memorial. It was done without fanfare. No ceremony was held; no pictures were taken—the stars and inscription simply appeared.

A Few Notable Commissions

NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

At the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, Vogel completed a range of complex work, including the structure's flying buttresses.



A Few Notable Commissions

GERALD FORD PRESIDENTIAL
LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Vogel carved a 12-foot-diameter
version of the Presidential Seal.

