



On March 2, 2005, the Pentagon Memorial project reached a significant milestone when the first memorial unit prototype was poured successfully in St. Louis, Mo. 184 of these units will be used to commemorate each person killed during the attack on the Pentagon.

Keith Kaseman, one of the memorial's original concept designers, said the pour was a very emotional moment, with a lot of the foundry workers stopping to watch and applaud.

It took 48 seconds to fill the mold with metal heated to more than 3,000 degrees. The metal was then left to cool overnight. The next morning, a jackhammer was used to break away the sand mixture surrounding the prototype. After approximately two hours, the prototype was pulled out. Kaseman said that everybody at the foundry was very pleased with how the pour had gone.

The prototype will now undergo more cleaning and thorough testing. The memorial team expects there to be a second prototype.



Metal is poured into a "box" containing the memorial unit's mold, which was packed with 75,000 pounds of sand.