

USAID MEMORIAL WALL



The USAID Memorial Wall measures 9 feet 4 inches high and 8 feet 4 inches wide. It contains 227 individual 6 inch by 6 inch polished limestone tiles. A total of 108 are etched with the names of fallen USAID colleagues along with the year and location of their death. The tiles are adhered to an aluminum grid frame. The frame and tiles weigh approximately 580 pounds. The aluminum frame is itself attached to a metal frame by which the memorial is suspended by cables from the ceiling in the U.S. Department of State's D Street lobby (see photo taken in April 2026).

The memorial was designed in 2005 by Maurice Cho Benesch, Jeff Carns, and Paul and Claudia Riha. Other members of the design team were Troy Lee Benesch, Cindy M. Benesch, S. Gamble Gilbertson, and Jeffrey W. Gonsalves.

The memorial has a large tile bearing the inscription: "Honored here are those who lost their lives serving the cause of human advancement by carrying out the economic and humanitarian assistance programs of the United States of America. Their sacrifice will not be forgotten."

Another large tile honors the sacrifices of USAID's Foreign Service National employees with the inscription: "In reverent memory of the Foreign Service National employees who have made the ultimate sacrifice furthering the economic, social and humanitarian assistance mission of the U.S. Agency for International Development."

Adjacent to the wall is a separate plaque that was added later to honor implementing partners with the inscription: "In honor and memory of those who lost their lives while working in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development to advance the economic and humanitarian assistance programs of the United States of America. 'I have done my best, and I hope I have sown some seeds which may bring forth good fruit. -- George C. Marshall'"

Inscriptions made up to 2024 were approved by career USAID officials using criteria specified in USAID Automated Directives Service Chapter 492 "The USAID Employee Memorial Program." Nine final names were added in March 2026 after the U.S. Department of State took over possession of the memorial.