

Activity

Make a Cup for Conversation!

Invite students to **make a cup to honor those who serve** and to prompt a conversation that will build an awareness of war and other ways in which individuals serve their country.

- The cup may be made of **clay**—wheel-thrown or hand built—or **paper**, depending on materials and equipment available.
- The cup should honor a person who has served the nation as a member of the military (or in another important way; for example, to fight in the war against the COVID-19 pandemic).
- As in the work of Ehren Tool, the cup should be embellished with symbols representing the person and the person’s involvement in service.

Research and Planning

In order to create a cup to honor those who serve, have students investigate current news of U.S. military involvement, followed by searching for veterans and those currently in service in their community and school, as well as searching online for those veterans elsewhere in The United States. If students choose to honor someone who serves in a capacity other than the military (for example, as someone on the “front lines” of the COVID-19 pandemic), suggest that they identify individuals within the local or broader community who have served in this way.

- Worksheet, “Recognizing Those Who Serve,” provides prompts for their investigations of military engagement but can be adapted for other areas of service
- Worksheet, “Investigating Symbols,” provides prompts for thinking about images, objects and symbols that students may incorporate into their cup designs.

Reflection and Display

Suggest that students reflect upon and discuss Ehren Tool’s statement, “I think that peace is the only adequate war memorial.” Have students meet in pairs to have conversations about the person honored by the cup and the service involved. Students can help decide the best destination for their productions. One idea to further encourage war awareness and appreciation of the military and other forms of service is a display of the collection within the school or public space such as a library. Students can decide how much background information to include with each cup.

