

The Lionesses

Springfield, Oregon
"I" Street & Mohawk Boulevard

The three lionesses depicted together are symbolic of all women veterans, past, present, and future.

They represent the courage, tenacity, leadership, loyalty, honor and strength that these women embody, positioned together in proud sisterhood.

The center lioness represents future women veterans, looking ahead with strength and hope. She is flanked to the left by her protector looking over her shoulder, representing women veterans of the past, who will guide her sisters with wisdom. Looking back, she remembers past sacrifices and bears scars on her ear and nose. To the right of the center, the snarling lioness represents women veterans of the present day, ready and willing to fight. The three are stronger together than they are alone.

Underneath the lionesses' paws, all five branches of United States military service are represented symbolically. The rock represents the Army's steadfast "boots on the ground." The rattlesnake represents constant readiness to defend and preserve the United States. The anchor represents the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps, linked together by a common cord, a rope's knot. The falcon in flight represents the Air Force and dominance over the skies.

African violets are sprinkled throughout the base of the sculpture, representing togetherness and hope.

The sculpture was created by Alison and Rip Caswell of Caswell Sculpture. It was dedicated on November 10, 2017.

