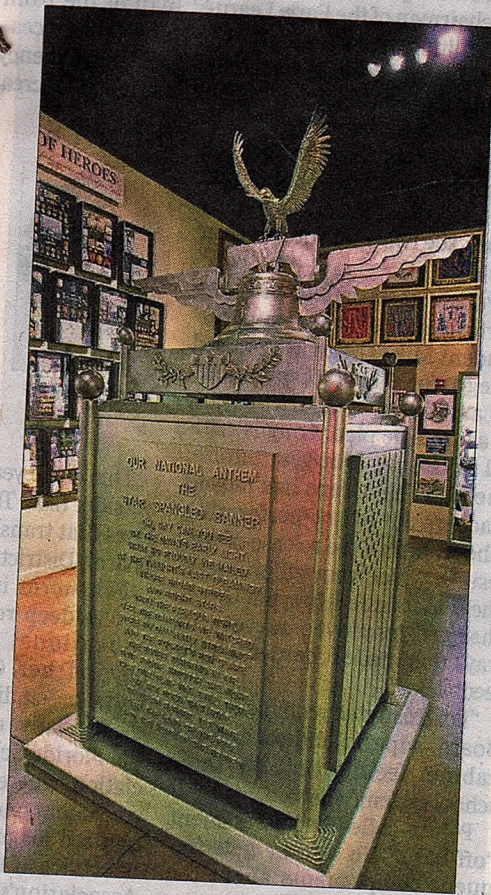


A salute in steel



JIM DAMASKE | Times

Symbols of America, an 850-pound, stainless steel sculpture created by St. Petersburg resident Robert Maiden was unveiled on Aug. 18 at the Armed Forces History Museum. It took Maiden, a metal worker formerly of Dayton, Ohio, eight years to complete, as he did the work during his lunch hour and on 15-minute breaks. It includes nine symbols, the American flag, the lyrics to the *Star-Spangled Banner*, the preamble to the Constitution, the 1976 USA Bicentennial flag, the Liberty Bell, wings on the bell representing freedom, an American bald eagle, olive branches signifying America embracing peace and 13 arrows for the original 13 colonies. The sculpture can be seen at the museum, 2050 34th Way N, Largo. For information, visit armed-forcesmuseum.com.