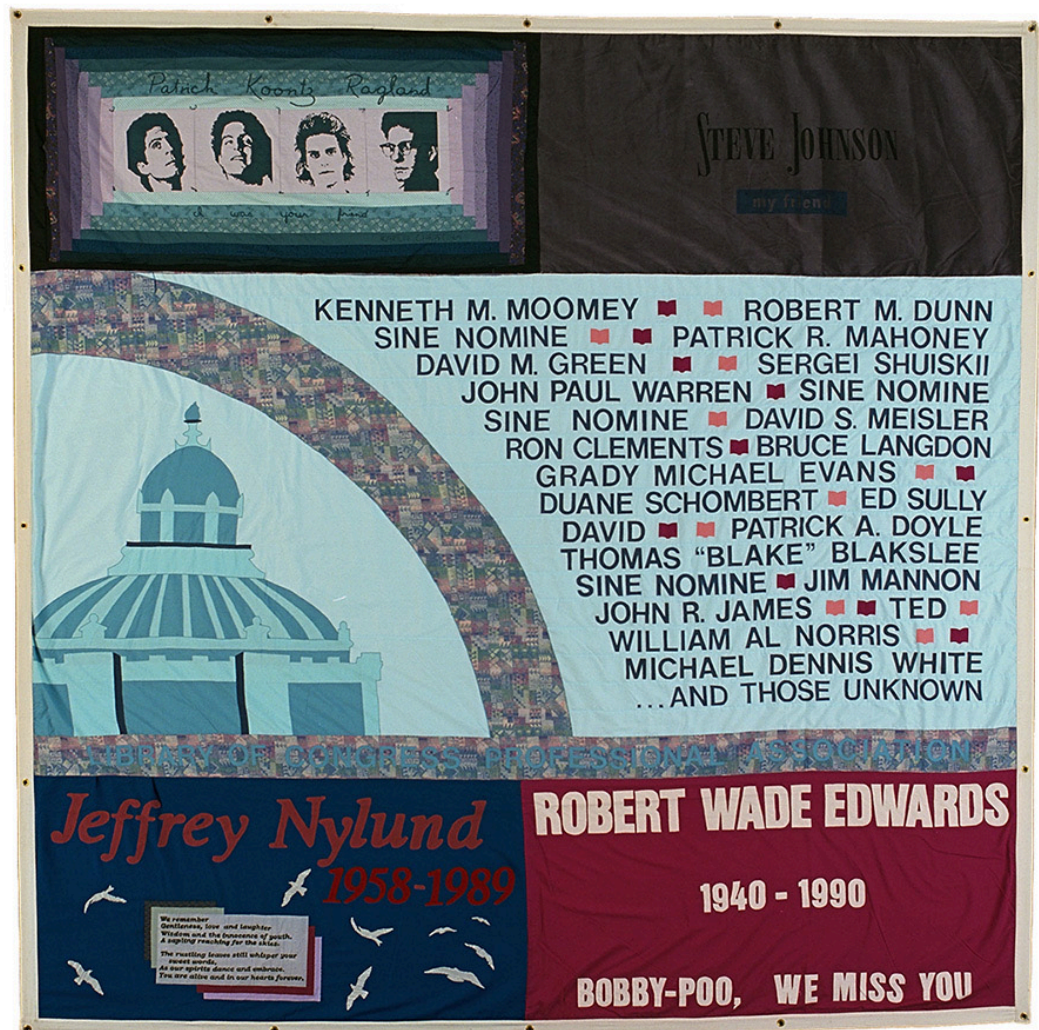


NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, Block 2388 (1992)

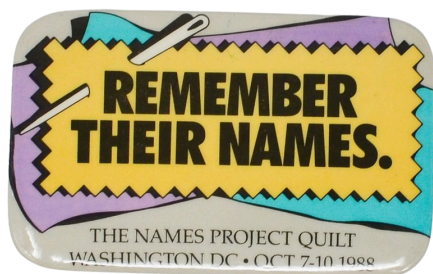
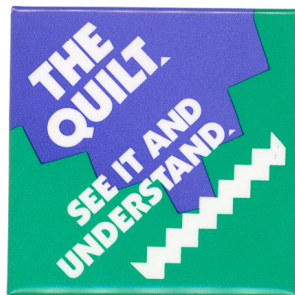
About

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is a collective project that began in the mid-1980s in San Francisco. Started by activists as a way to memorialize and honor those who had passed from complications due to AIDS, the quilt grew very quickly as relatives, friends, and co-workers from across the country contributed panels for their loved ones. When the Quilt was first displayed in DC in 1987, it had 1,900 panels and was larger than a football field. Today it has 50,000 panels. The quilt is organized into blocks made up of individual panels; this quilt block is comprised of five separate panels memorializing men from Washington, DC, and Baltimore, MD. The large central panel was created in the early 1990s, at the height of the AIDS crisis, by the Library of Congress Professional Association following the deaths of Jewish Washingtonian David M. Green and other Library of Congress (LOC) staff. Nearly 60 people worked for a year to complete this section. The design features the dome of the LOC's Jefferson building, a subtle rainbow, twenty names, and four individuals listed only with the Latin phrase "Sine Nomine" (without name).

Item



Supporting Items



Questions

1. Why create a quilt as a memorial?
2. What symbols do you recognize in the Library of Congress panel? What might they mean?
3. Why might certain individuals be added to the panel as “without name”?
4. Is memorialization a form of activism? Why or why not?

Learn More

- “[History of the Quilt](#),” Article published by the National AIDS Memorial website.
- “[AIDS - My Experience](#)” by David M. Green (1989), Educator Resource, Capital Jewish Museum Collections.

Item Descriptions

Quilt: Block 2388 of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, ca.1991. Courtesy of National AIDS Memorial. On view at the The Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum as part of “LGBTJews in the Federal City” exhibition.

Photograph: Print photograph taken by Stuart Sotsky of the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt display on the National Mall. Gift of Stuart Sotsky. Capital Jewish Museum Collections.

Button (top): Gift of Martin Less. Capital Jewish Museum Collections.

Button (bottom): Gift of Martin Less. Capital Jewish Museum Collections.

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LILLIAN AND ALBERT SMALL
CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM