

## OUR VIEW

# Boys in Blue get their due



Thumbs up to all of those who brought to fruition the Boy in Blue memorial statue honoring the area's Civil War veterans.

The memorial was dedicated last year shortly after Memorial Day, so this year's commemoration marked the first year a ceremony could be held on the day to honor all veterans who died in service of their country.

This year the monument was unveiled with the names of 682 local soldiers who served in the Civil War. The names were engraved in granite by local sculptor Thomas Miller.

It took organizers about five years to resurrect the monument, a near-replica of the one that stood in the same place from about 1892 to 1935, at which point it was damaged by a storm and then sold for scrap metal.

The group raised about \$200,000 for the new memorial, which includes an impressive fountain and replica sculpture of the original statue of a Civil War soldier holding his weapon.

It's not only a fitting and grand memorial to the soldiers who kept the country together, but it will likely give people another reason to visit Mankato as a city rich with history.