OMNIA RELINQVIT / SERVARE
REMPVBLICAM (He relinquished everything to serve the Republic) is inscribed in on the bronze relief.

Charles Follen McKim, Saint-Gaudens’s friend, designed the architectural surround and setting.

Colonel Robert Gould Shaw resolutely leads the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, celebrated Civil War African American unit.

Two young drummer boys are slightly smaller than the other figures. The closest figure is carved in deeper relief than the one farther from the viewer.

Angel holds poppies symbolizing death and remembrance and an olive branch for victory and peace.

Saint-Gaudens based this flag on sketches of the actual regiment flag carried into battle.

The soldiers carry rifles. Although they slant back at slightly varying angles they carry the rhythm of the marching soldiers into the top part of the sculpture.

The evenly spaced legs slant back at the same angle to create a rhythm. They march across the sculpture with an even cadence.

The soldiers carry bedrolls. This round shape is repeated throughout the composition.

The soldiers carry canteens. This round shape is repeated throughout the composition.

The soldiers’ faces are old, young, and middle-aged African American portraits of people who Saint-Gaudens saw and wished to include in this sculpture. He made 40 clay head studies before choosing these 16.

The horse and rider are the deepest relief in the sculpture. Saint-Gaudens bought a horse to use as a model. When it died, he rented one from a stable.

Olive branch represents victory and peace.

Bas-relief or low relief example

Colonel Shaw’s sword.