

The Iron Brigade Cross



The Iron Brigade Cross is the medallion on the badge of the Iron Brigade Association, which was organized in 1880 for honorably discharged veterans of the 2nd, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 19th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. The medallion was adopted by the association in 1886. The intertwined "USV" design in the center of the medallion stands for "United States Volunteers", which they so truly and proudly were.

The association later opened its membership to sons of its members. In the 1990s the last two sons of brigade veterans opened the membership to anyone with an interest in the history of the Iron Brigade. Several Union Guards are now members

On General Gibbon's gravestone the "USV" design is replaced by crossed cannon tubes and the designations "B" and "4", which was the unit designator of Gibbon's pre-war regular army command, Battery B of the 4th United States Artillery. Battery B served through a large part of the war as artillery support for the Iron Brigade, and its ranks contained many Iron Brigade soldiers who were voluntarily detailed to the battery to replace casualties.