



State of California – Military Department
California Cadet Corps

CURRICULUM ON CITIZENSHIP

Strand C8: These UNITED States

Level 11

This Strand is composed of the following components:

- A. Common American Values
- B. Great Americans
- C. **Symbols of American Pride**



“What We Stand For”

Table of Contents

C. Symbols of American Pride.....	3
Objectives	3
Introduction	4
C1. The Washington Monument	4
C2. The Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.....	6
C3. The US Capitol	9
C4. The White House	13
C5. The Statue of Liberty	18
C6. The Liberty Bell	19
C7. Mount Rushmore.....	20
C8. United States and State of California Seals	22
C9. Patriotic Holidays.....	24
C10. The Medal of Honor	25
C11. Arlington National Cemetery & Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.....	27
C12. The World War II Memorial.....	32
C13. The Marine Corps War Memorial.....	38
C14. The Korean War Veterans Memorial.....	40
C15. The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial	44
C16. Significant American Accomplishments	46
References	48

C. Symbols of American Pride

Standard #2: Students learn duty, service, and responsibility as a citizen of their school, their community, the State of California, and the United States.

OBJECTIVES

DESIRED OUTCOME (Leadership)

At the conclusion of this training, Cadets will be familiar with the major symbols of American pride that represent American people, history, and national identity.

Plan of Action:

1. Describe the Washington Monument, its key features, and why it is a symbol of American pride.
2. Describe the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, their key features, and why they are symbols of American pride.
3. Describe the US Capitol, its key features, and why it is a symbol of American pride.
4. Describe the White House, its key features, and why it is a symbol of American pride.
5. Describe the Statue of Liberty, its key features, and why it is a symbol of American pride.
6. Describe the Liberty Bell, its key features, and why it is a symbol of American pride.
7. Describe Mount Rushmore, its key features, and why it is a symbol of American pride.
8. Describe the US and California Seals, their key features, and how they represent the US and California.
9. Describe the patriotic holidays, when each one is, and what they celebrate.
10. Describe the Medal of Honor, what it signifies, and why it is a symbol of American pride.
11. Describe Arlington Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, their key features, and why they are a symbol of American pride.
12. Describe the World War II Memorial, its key features, and why it is a symbol of American pride.
13. Describe the US Marine Corps Memorial, its key features, and why it is a symbol of American pride.
14. Describe the Korean War Memorial, its key features, and why it is a symbol of American pride.
15. Describe the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, its key features, and why it is a symbol of American pride.
16. Name at least five significant achievements of the United States or Americans, and why they were significant.

Introduction

Two of the California Cadet Corps objectives are to engender Citizenship and to encourage Patriotism. Have you ever thought about what that means, or how we go about it? Citizenship and Patriotism, in the context we mean them, are fairly vague concepts.

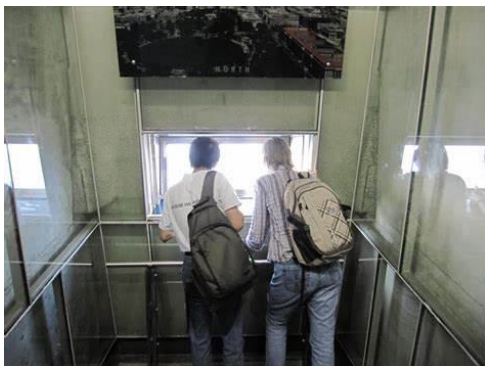
Citizenship, in the context of our CACC Objectives, means that we want to help Cadets become good citizens. We don't mean actual citizens of the US, though that's good too. But active, productive members of our society who understand and exercise their rights and responsibilities and contribute to our country.

Patriotism is an even more vague concept that conveys pride, feelings of allegiance and love for one's country. We encourage patriotism by helping Cadets learn more about the US, its history, values, and institutions. If you've developed a respect for those things and understand why America is a great country, you'll start to be a patriot.

This section takes a look at many of the symbols of our country. As a citizen and patriot, you should be aware of the things that symbolize our democratic republic, history, and values. Ideally, sometime in your life, you should visit many of the places and monuments that represent our nation. This course puts those symbols into context, gives you the background on what they are and why they are considered to be symbolic of our nation.

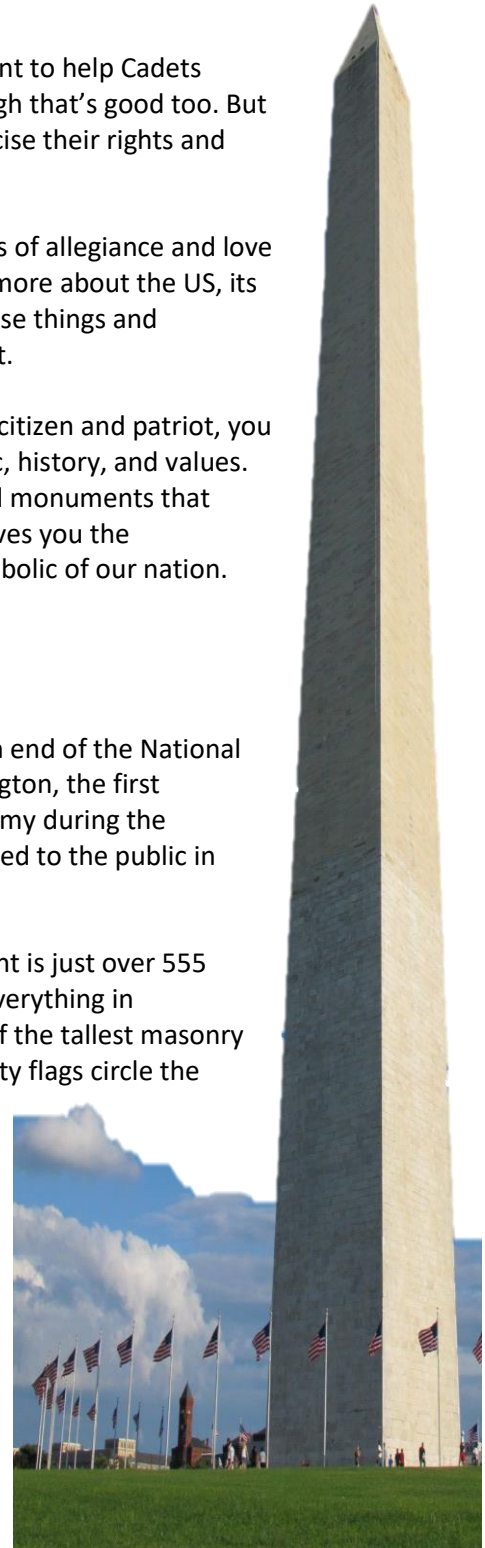
C1. The Washington Monument

The Washington Monument is a stone obelisk located at the western end of the National Mall in Washington DC. It was built to commemorate George Washington, the first President of the United States, the Commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, and the "Father of our Country." It was first opened to the public in 1888.



The Washington Monument is just over 555 feet high, towering over everything in Washington DC. It is one of the tallest masonry structures in the world. Fifty flags circle the base of the monument, representing the 50 states. Windows in the observation room look out at views of the Lincoln Memorial, the White House, the

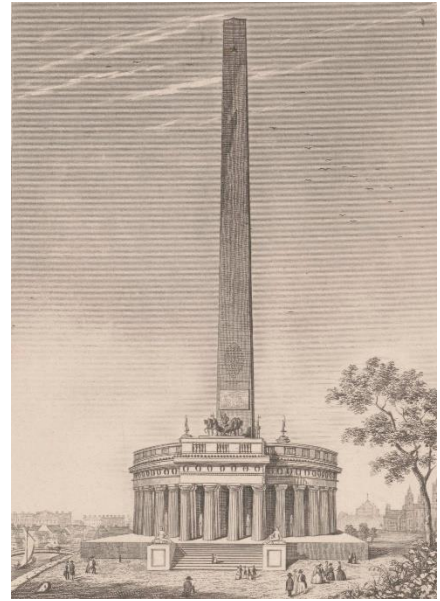
Jefferson Memorial, and the Capitol building. The four walls are just over 55 feet long and 15 feet thick at the base. They taper to the top, where they are one and a half feet thick. They are topped by a pyramidion (a small pyramid which serves as a capstone). The pyramidion is 55 feet tall, 34.5 feet wide at its base, and about 7



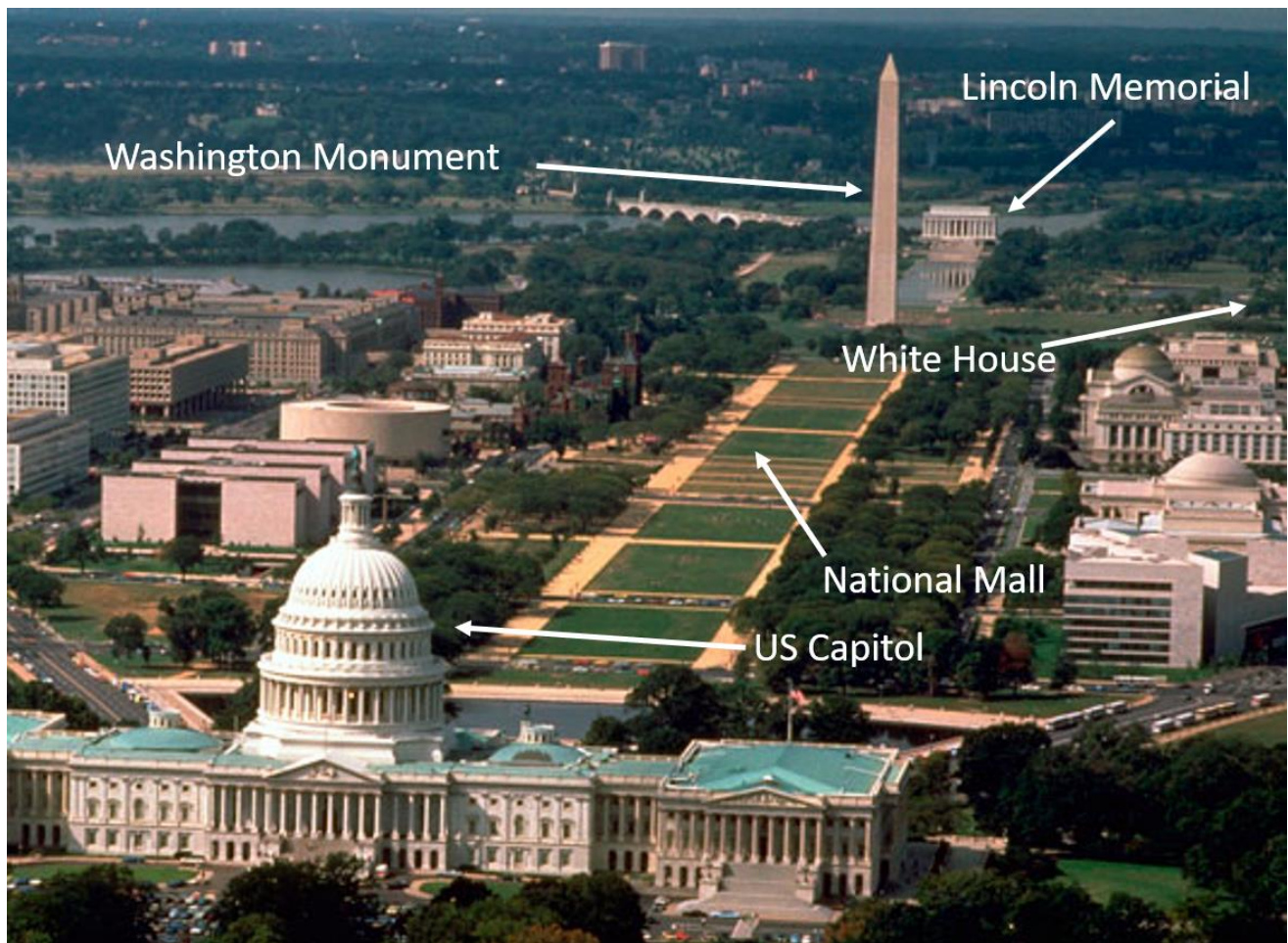
inches thick. There are stairs (no longer open) that spiral up to the 490-foot level, and an elevator that goes from the base to the Observation Floor.

Workers started building the monument in 1848. No work was done from 1854 to 1877 due to lack of funding, the Civil War, and a power struggle between two organizations that wanted to run the project. Funding was provided and work began again in 1877 and was completed in 1884. Final touches were put in over the next few years, and it was opened to the public in 1888. In 1877, the quarry where the original stone came from was no longer open. Builders had to get stone from other quarries, and that caused a difference in color at about the 150-foot mark which you can still see today.

The original design, by Robert Mills, was changed to lower the cost. There was supposed to be a colonnade at the base, where they hoped Washington's tomb might someday rest. There was no pyramidion on top of the obelisk.



(Fenderich)

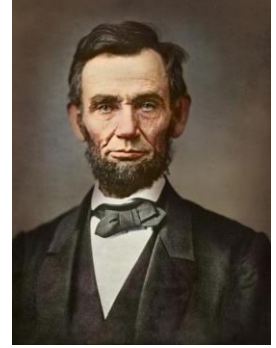


(Scholastic Travel Inc., 2012)

C2. The Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials

Lincoln Memorial:

Who was Abraham Lincoln? He was the 16th President of the United States (1861-1865). He was President during the Civil War, and is credited for saving the Union from being destroyed by the seceding states of the Confederacy. He ended slavery as an institution with his Emancipation Proclamation. He was assassinated in 1865 by John Wilkes Booth.



Located on the National Mall in Washington DC, the Lincoln Memorial is one of the most visited and cornerstone symbols of America.



The theme of the building represents the Union. The columns surrounding the walls stand for the 36 states in the Union at the time of Lincoln's death. The names of the 48 states in the Union (when the memorial was completed in 1922) are carved on the walls along the outside of the memorial. A plaque honoring Alaska and Hawaii is in the approach plaza.

The chamber inside the memorial contains a statue of Lincoln seated, facing the Washington Monument and the Capitol. The statue of Lincoln is 19 feet high and weighs 175 tons. The chamber also houses two huge stone tables, one engraved with Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, and the other with the Gettysburg Address. Two murals represent the principles of freedom, justice, unity, brotherhood, and charity.



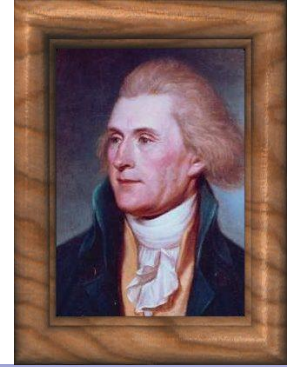
(French)

The Lincoln Memorial is one of the most profound symbols of American Democracy in the world. It is a memorial that celebrates the tremendous accomplishments which have united the nation for more than two hundred years. In addition, it is a place where citizens assemble to draw attention to those causes and issues which continue to divide the country.

Architect Henry Bacon designed the Lincoln Memorial. He modeled it after the Parthenon in Greece, the birthplace of democracy.

Jefferson Memorial:

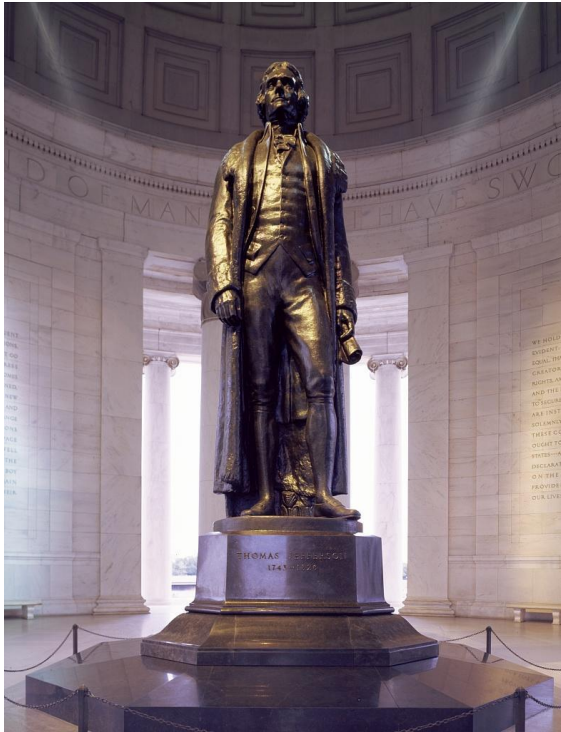
Who was Thomas Jefferson? He was the third President of the United States (1801-1809). He was a Founding Father of the United States, the first Secretary of State, and the principal author of the Declaration of Independence. He was probably the most influential of the Founding Fathers for his promotion of the ideals of Republicanism in the fledgling country.



(Ravi) Creative Commons Share-Alike License CC-BY-SA 3.0

The Jefferson Memorial, dedicated by President Franklin Roosevelt on April 13, 1943, stands directly across the Tidal Basin, with a direct view from the White House. The Jefferson Memorial building is a circular, open-air structure featuring a shallow dome supported by a circular colonnade composed of Ionic columns, with two porticos. The stairs rise to a portico with a triangular pediment, which features a sculpture by Adolph A. Weinman, depicting the five members of the drafting committee of the Declaration of Independence submitting their report to Congress. A statue of Jefferson by Rudolph Evans stands in the center of the chamber and is surrounded by columns and quotes from Jefferson. (National Park Service, 2021)

The Jefferson Memorial is a symbol of freedom.



C3. The US Capitol

The US Capitol building is one of the most recognizable government buildings in the world. Anchoring the east side of the National Mall, it contains the houses of Congress and many of the congressional offices (Congress has grown so big that some offices are in nearby buildings connected to the Capitol by underground tunnels).



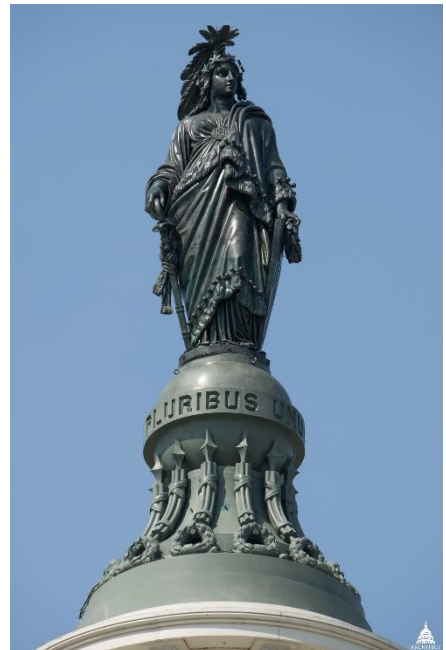
Inside the Capitol:

The Rotunda is a large, domed, circular room located in the center of the US Capitol. It was inspired by the Pantheon, a temple in Rome. The curved sandstone walls are divided by fluted Doric pilasters with wreaths of olive branches carved in the frieze above. The floor is composed of concentric rings of waxed Seneca Sandstone arrayed around a central circular white marble slab. The space is used for ceremonial events such as the laying in state of eminent citizens and the dedication of works of art. (Architect of the Capitol, Accessed in 2021) The walls of the rotunda are filled with paintings and sculptures depicting scenes of early American history and early explorers. The dome has a fresco of Washington rising to the heavens in glory. The statues and busts in the Rotunda are primarily of presidents, but also include sculptures of Alexander Hamilton, Martin Luther King Jr., and Suffragettes.



The Dome. The dome that sits atop the Capitol Rotunda is made of iron. It is 288 feet tall and 96 feet in diameter. It replaced the first dome once the Capitol was expanded in the 19th Century. It was designed by Thomas Walter, the 4th Architect of the Capitol, and was constructed from 1855 to 1866. There are actually two domes, an interior and an exterior. Inside, the interior dome rises 180 feet over the rotunda floor, and outside the exterior dome rises 288 feet, including the Statue of Freedom on top of the dome.

The Statue of Freedom. Mounted atop the apex of the outside dome is the Statue of Freedom. It stands 19 feet 6 inches tall and weighs approximately 15,000 pounds. The statue was made in 1863 by Thomas Crawford. It is a classical female figure with long flowing hair wearing a helmet with a crest of an eagle's head and feathers. She wears a classical dress secured with a brooch inscribed "U.S." Over it is draped a heavy, flowing, toga-like robe fringed with fur and decorative balls. Her right hand rests upon the hilt of a sheathed sword wrapped in a scarf; in her left hand she holds a laurel wreath of victory and the shield of the United States with 13 stripes. The helmet is encircled by nine stars. Ten bronze points tipped with platinum are attached to her headdress, shoulders and shield for protection from lightning. She stands on a cast-iron pedestal topped with a globe encircled with the motto E Pluribus Unum (Out of many, one). The lower part of the pedestal is decorated with fasces (symbols of the authority of government) and wreaths. (Architect of the Capitol, Accessed in 2021)





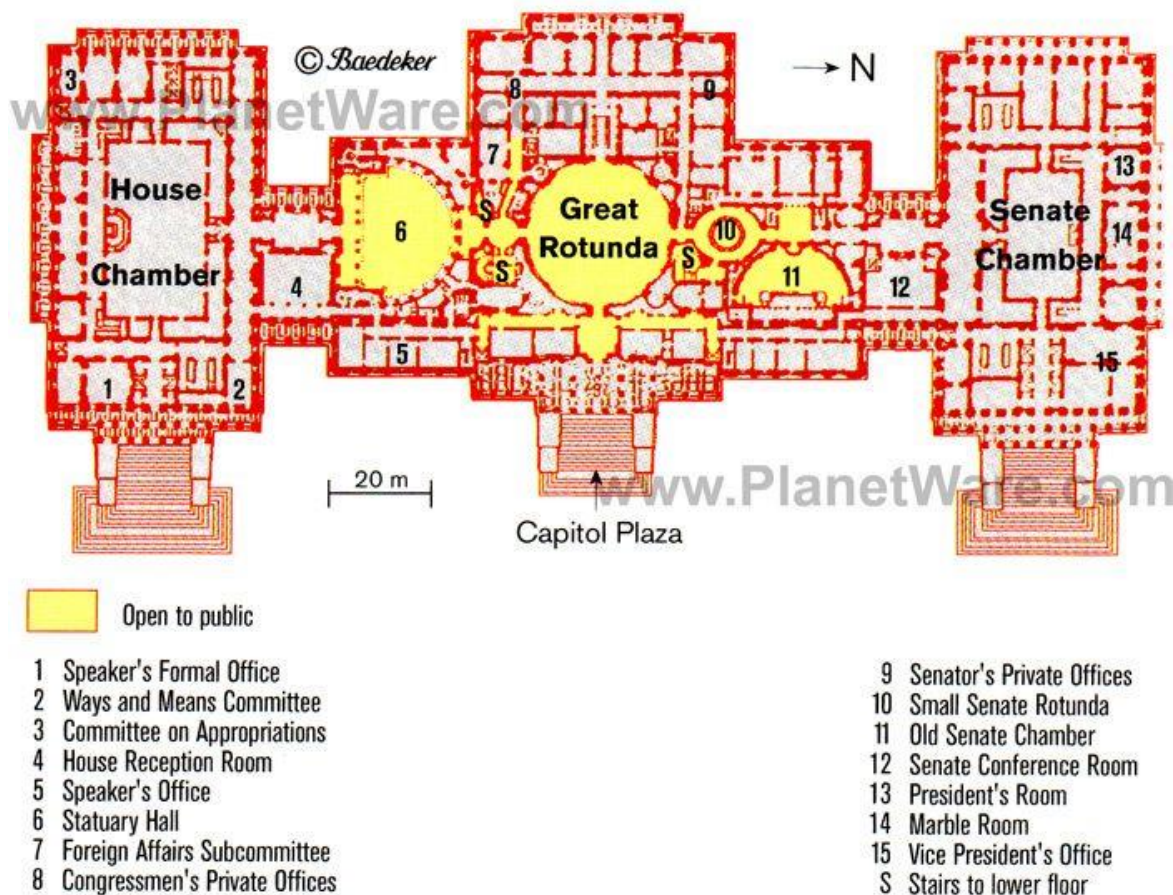
National Statuary Hall. Each state is asked to donate up to two statues representing their state to the US Capitol. These used to all be displayed together, but are now spread out in different areas of the Capitol. California's two statues are one of Ronald Reagan in the Rotunda and one of Father Junipero Serra in National Statuary Hall.

The "Whispering Gallery". The half-dome shape of the National Statuary Hall produces an acoustical effect whereby, in some spots, a speaker many yards

away may be heard more clearly than one closer at hand.

The Senate and House Galleries are on the second floor of the Capitol. You can visit them by getting a pass from your senator or congressional representative's office. This is where the Senate and the House meet to hold sessions of Congress.

Principal Floor



(Planetware.com, Accessed in 2021)



Senate Chamber



House Chamber



Art in the Capitol. There's so much art displayed throughout the Capitol it's not realistic for us to try to sum it up. From the official statues donated by the states to the many paintings, friezes, busts, statues, tile, and architectural decoration, most of the building outside of individual offices is full of art. Much of the background art displayed in the Capitol was designed or painted by Constantino Brumidi. The Brumidi Corridors are vaulted, ornately decorated hallways such as depicted in this photo. (Architect of the Capitol, Accessed in 2021) Much of the capitol has massive paintings of early America and its founding.

C4. The White House

Located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, the White House is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the country. It is the official residence and workplace of the President of the United States. All presidents except George Washington have lived there for at least part of their term (some have temporarily lived elsewhere during renovations). The White House was first known as the President's House, and was completed in 1800, and occupied by President John Adams. The house was rebuilt and restored after it was burned by the British in August 1814. It has been renovated and updated several times.

The White House has six floors--two basements, two public floors, and two floors for the First Family. Visitors who tour the White House are able to see the most beautiful and historic rooms in the house including the East Room, the Green Room, the Blue Room, the Red Room, and the State Dining Room. These rooms are used by the President and First Lady to entertain guests and to receive leaders of other countries. The Oval Office is where the President does the business of the country--signing bills and Executive Orders and meeting with staff, visitors, and guests.

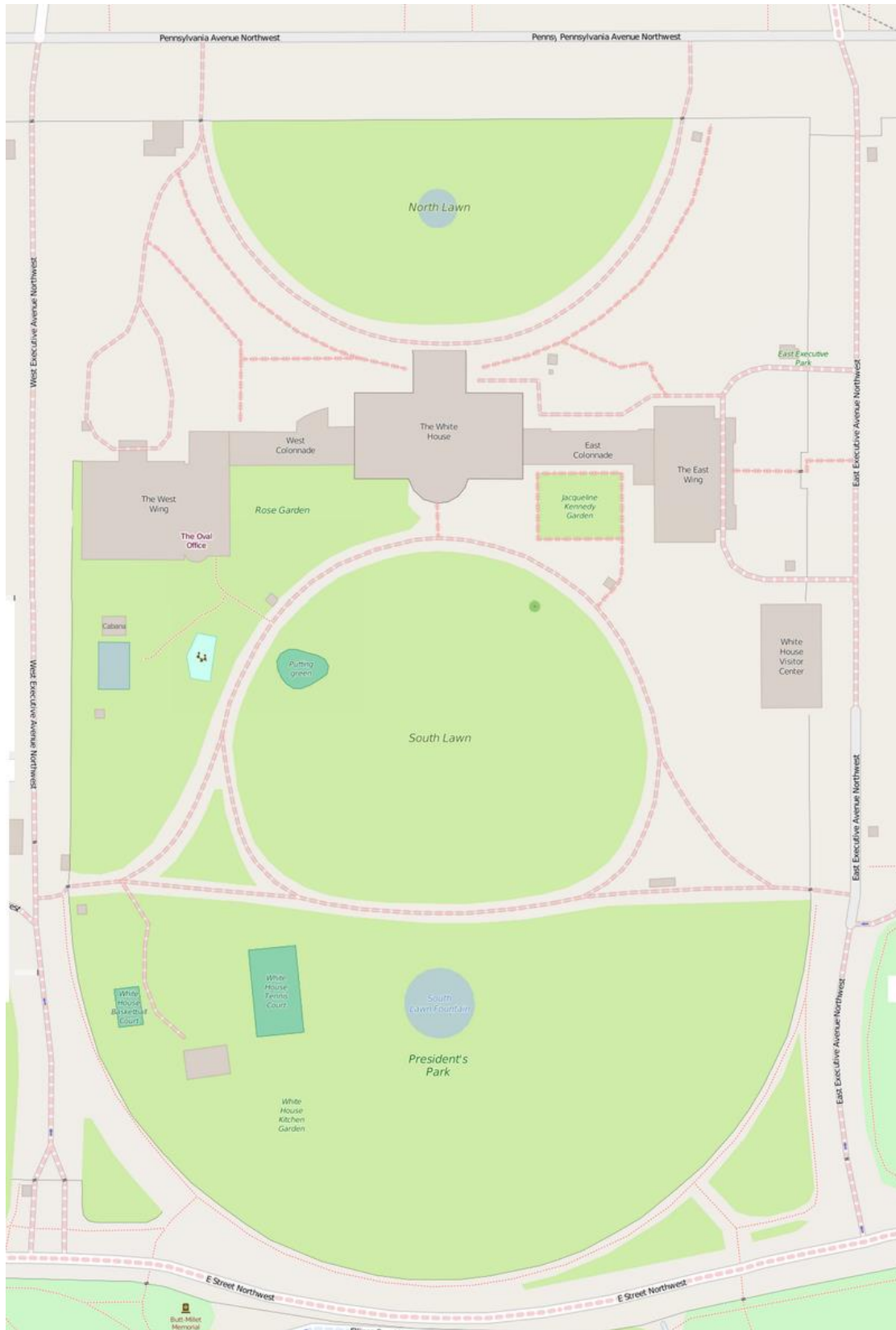
The president's family lives on the top two floors. The presidential offices are located in the West Wing.

- There are 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, and 6 levels in the Residence. There are also 412 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, 8 staircases, and 3 elevators.
- The White House kitchen is able to serve dinner to as many as 140 guests and hors d'oeuvres to more than 1,000.
- The White House requires 570 gallons of paint to cover its outside surface.
- At various times in history, the White House has been known as the "President's Palace," the "President's House," and the "Executive Mansion."
- President Theodore Roosevelt officially gave the White House its current name in 1901.

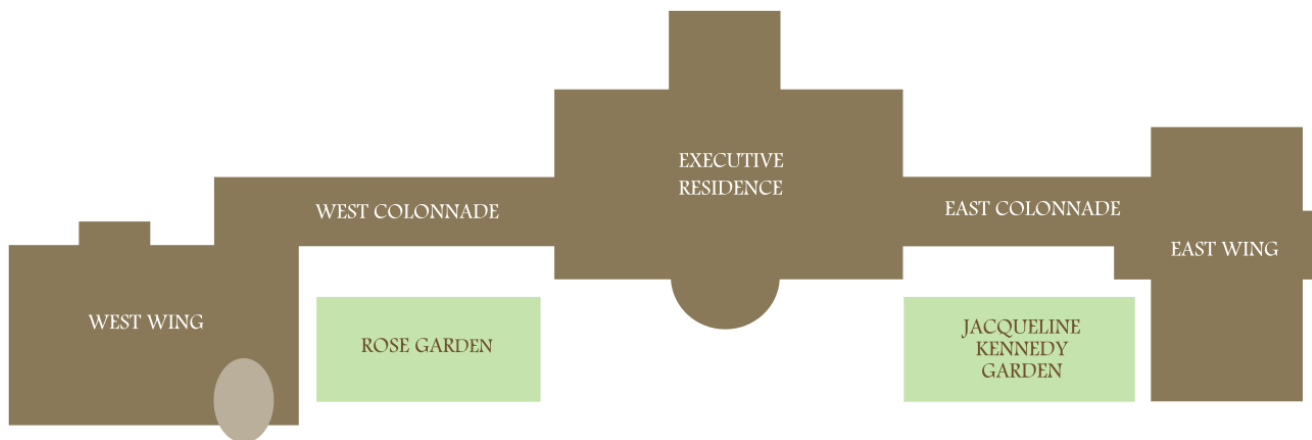
(The White House, Accessed in 2021)

View of the White House from the North

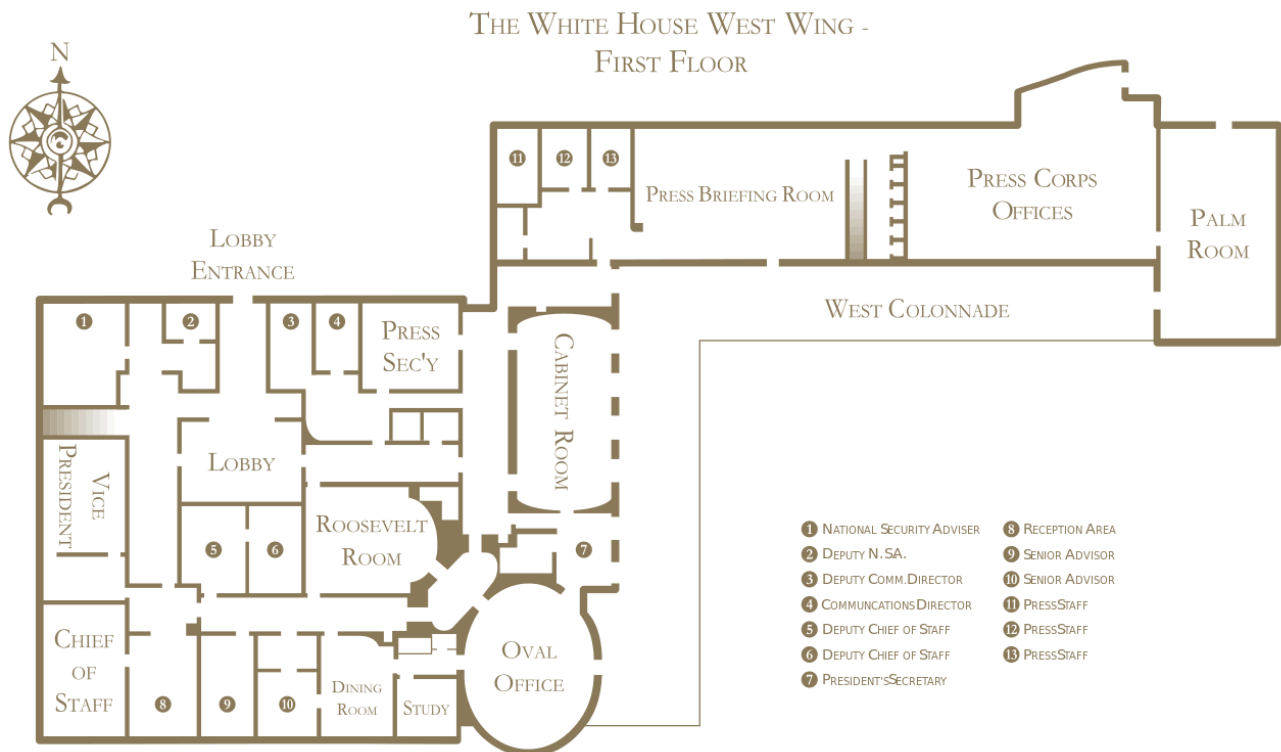




By © OpenStreetMap contributors - <http://www.openstreetmap.org/>, CC BY 2.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=40173732>

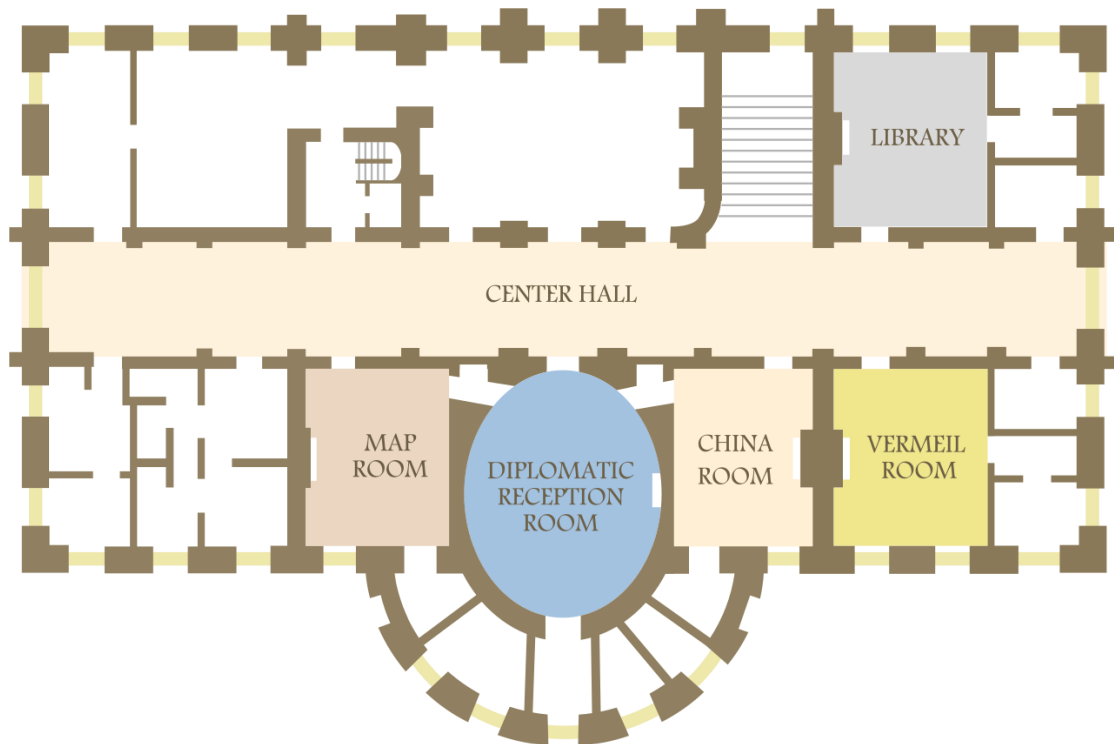


By Sushiflinger and ZooFari - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6909343>



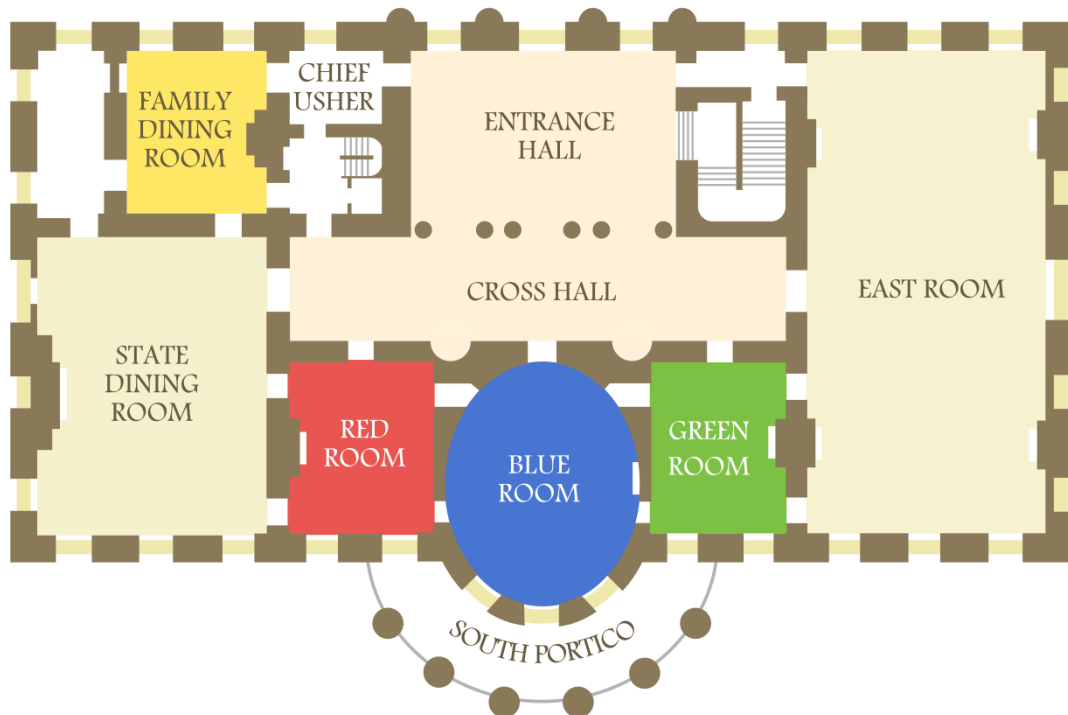
By Adam Lenhardt - Adapted from File:White_House_West_Wing_-_1st_Floor.png by Sarfa, using this Washington Post feature and the 2007 recreation of the first floor by Peter Sharkey as references., CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11255958>

Ground Floor

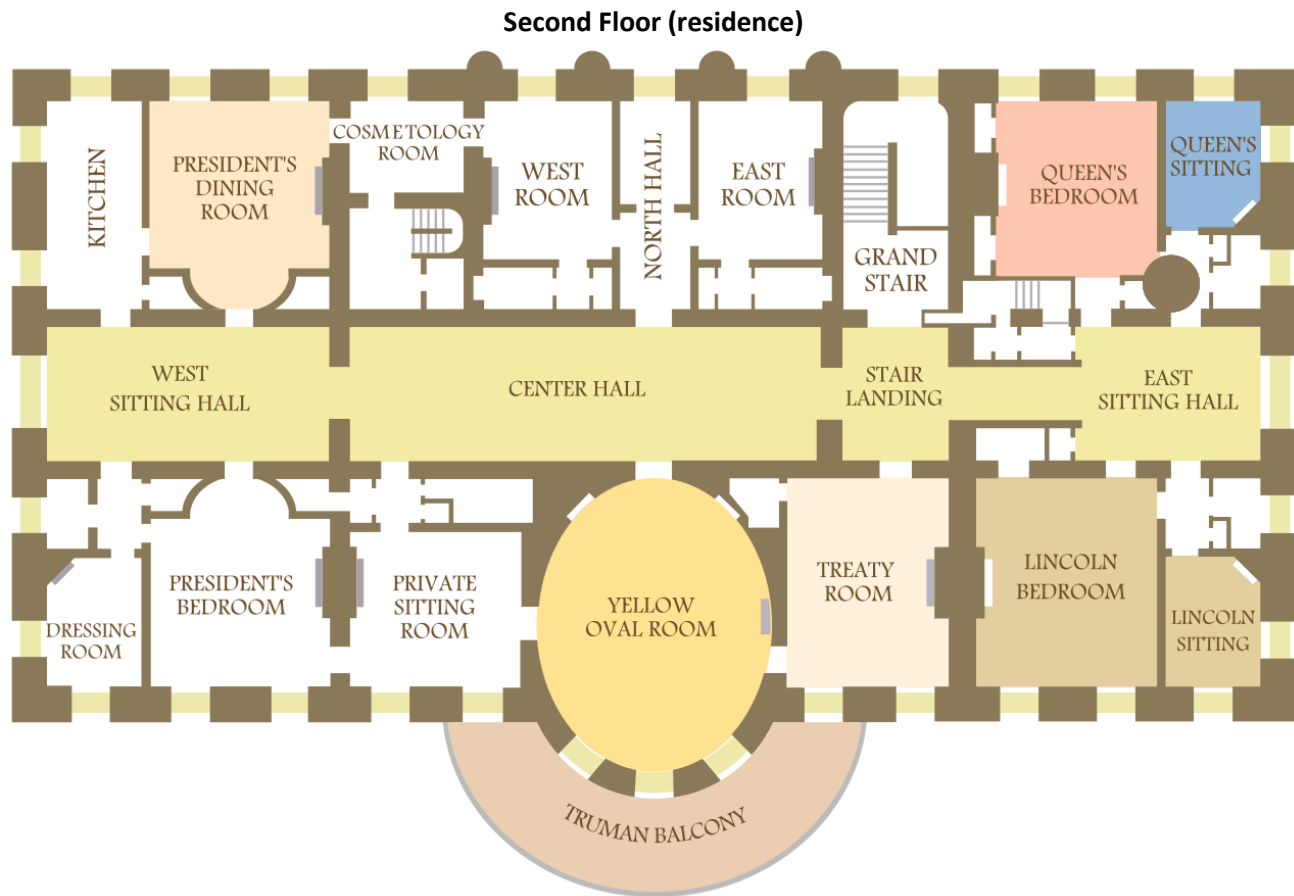


By SVG: ZooFari; Raster: GearedBull - SVG work by ZooFari, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6922509>

State Floor



By SVG: ZooFari; Raster: GearedBull - SVG work by ZooFari, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6930352>



By SVG: ZooFari; Raster: GearedBull - SVG work by ZooFari, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6952491>

View of the White House from the South



C5. The Statue of Liberty

The statue, which stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor, is the symbol of liberty and democracy. It represents a woman wearing robes and holding in her right hand a torch and in the left hand a plaque on which is written the Independence Day of the U.S.A.- 4th of July 1776. The seven arms of the crown she is wearing stand for the seven continents. Liberty Island is right next to Ellis Island, where millions of immigrants processed into the United States from 1892 to 1954. The Statue of Liberty is seen as welcoming immigrants to our shores.

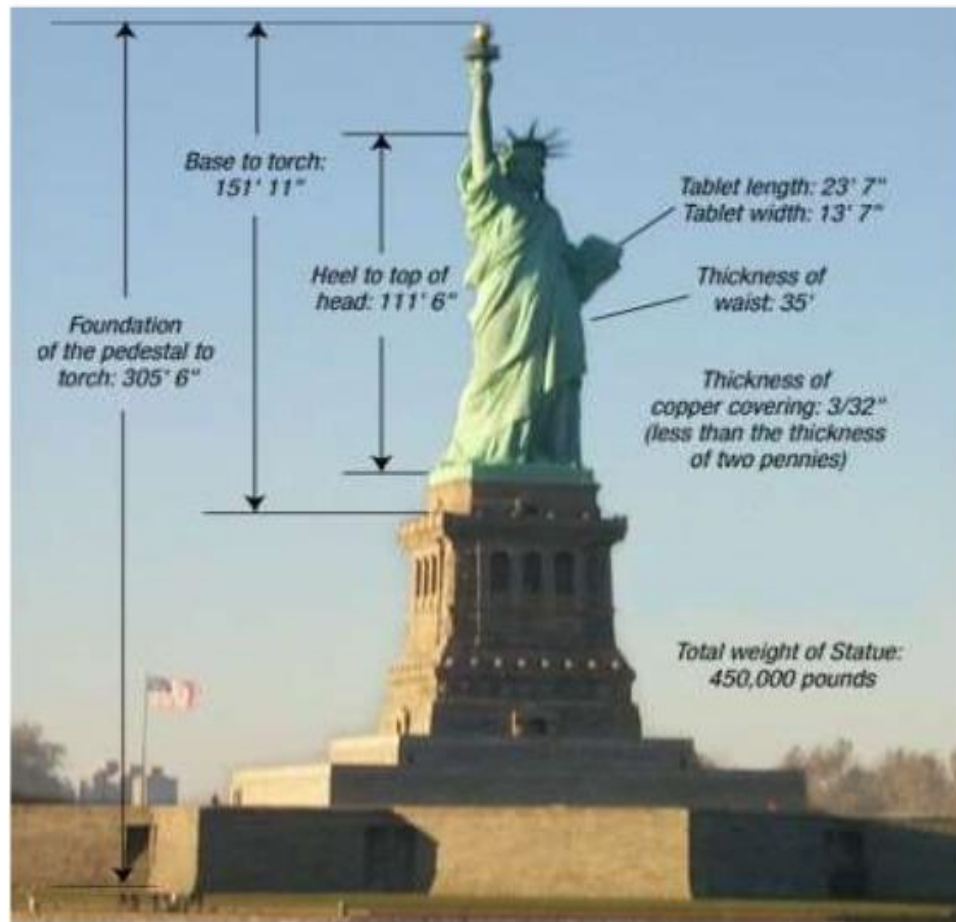


The statue was a gift from the people of France to the people of America, in shared honor of liberty and democracy. It was designed by a French sculptor, Frederic-Auguste Bertholdi and it took him ten years to complete it. The statue is made of copper and it is supported by a metal framework which was especially constructed by Gustave Eiffel the engineer who also build the Eiffel Tower in Paris. It was built in the 1880's in France and shipped to New York. It was installed on Liberty Island and dedicated on October 28, 1886. (Explorra, Accessed in 2021)



The statue is 151 feet high. It sits on a pedestal that is 89 feet tall, on a base that is 65 feet tall. The crown is the tallest point inside the statues where the public is allowed. There are windows overlooking New York City. When open, you can purchase tickets and walk up the 363 steps to the crown (about 27 stories).

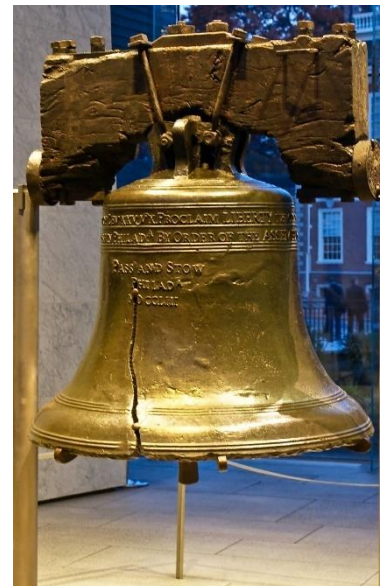
HEIGHT & WEIGHT



C6. The Liberty Bell

The Liberty Bell began life as another bell, ordered from London in 1751 and shipped to Philadelphia to ring in the Pennsylvania State House. That bell cracked the first time it was rung, so local metalworkers melted it down and cast a new bell. This bell would ring to call lawmakers to their meetings and the townspeople together to hear the reading of the news. Benjamin Franklin wrote to Catherine Ray in 1755, "Adieu, the Bell rings, and I must go among the Grave ones and talk Politicks." (National Park Service, Accessed in 2021)

The State House Bell, as it was first known, hung in the state house (now called Independence Hall) in Philadelphia. No one recorded when it cracked, but it's thought to have happened in the 1840's from many years of hard use. City workers tried to repair it, but made it worse, and the bell has not rung since then. The bell is three feet tall. The circumference around the bottom is 12 feet. The crack is just over two feet long.



There are several inscriptions on the bell:

“Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the inhabitants thereof” is a quote from the King James Bible, Leviticus 25:10.

“By Order of the ASSEMBLY of the Province of PENSYLVANIA [sic] for the State House in Philada”

Pass and Stow are the metalworkers who fashioned the bell

Philada – an abbreviation for Philadelphia

MDCCLIII – Roman numerals for 1753

The bell was just another bell during the American Revolution. It didn’t achieve icon status until the 1830’s, when abolitionists took it as a symbol for freeing slaves and the abolition of slavery. Other causes later used its symbol as well, and today it is known internationally as a symbol of Liberty.

The Liberty Bell is on display across from Independence Hall in Philadelphia, in Independence National Historical Park.

C7. Mount Rushmore

One of the, let’s say more *unique* symbols of America is Mount Rushmore. Located in South Dakota, it is a rock mountain face that has been sculpted into the faces of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. These four presidents were selected to represent America’s birth, growth, development, and preservation. (National Park Service, Accessed in 2021)



(National Park Service, Accessed in 2021)

Conceived as an idea to attract tourists, sculptor Gutzon Borglum created the sculpture between 1927 and 1941. The heads are approximately 60 feet high. They were originally designed to be head-to-waist sculptures, but funding ran out. Jefferson was originally going to be to Washington’s right, but the rock was found to be unsuitable, so what had been started was blasted out, and Jefferson was moved to Washington’s left.

The Four Presidents

George Washington:

First President of the United States.
1732-1799. President 1789-1797.
Commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

Thomas Jefferson:

Third President of the United States.
1743-1826. President 1802-1809.
Primary drafter of the Declaration of Independence. Made the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

Theodore Roosevelt:

26th President of the United States.
1858-1919. President 1901-1909.
Leader of Rough Riders during the Spanish American War. Negotiated the construction of the Panama Canal. Broke up monopolies and promoted workers' rights.

Abraham Lincoln:

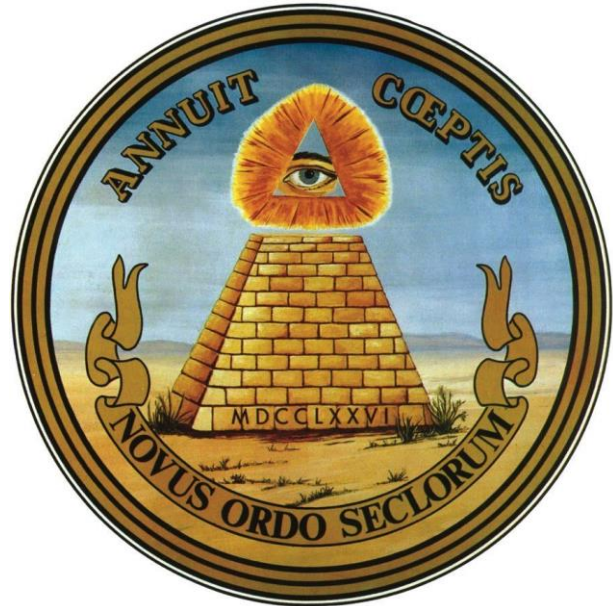
16th President of the United States.
1809-1865. President 1861-1865.
Assassinated in office. Led the Union during the Civil War. Issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

Mount Rushmore is in the Black Hills of South Dakota, an area sacred to the Lakota Sioux Native American tribe. The Black Hills was originally ceded to the Sioux tribe in perpetuity by treaty in 1868, but taken away in the 1870's when gold was discovered. The existence of the sculpture of four white men who they consider to have been complicit in killing many of their people and taking their land is considered an insult by the tribe – in addition to the desecration of the sacred mountain itself. The area was referred to as the Six Grandfathers by the Lakota. (PBS Editors, Accessed in 2021)

An ironic consequence of the creation of the sculpture on Mount Rushmore was the creation of a competing sculpture nearby by Korczak Ziolkowski, sponsored by Sioux Chief Henry Standing Bear. Ziolkowski started a project to carve the great Sioux chief Crazy Horse into Thunderhead Mountain 17 miles from Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills. He started carving in 1948, and it remains unfinished today. The face of Crazy Horse is there, and work continues on the rest of the sculpture. It, too, lies on sacred land, and has its own controversies. The Ziolkowski family continues to work on the project, which is twice as large as the Mount Rushmore sculpture and designed for the entire mountain, not just one face. (Pasley, 2019)



C8. United States and State of California Seals



The Great Seal of the United States. Creating an official symbol of the United States was a collaborative effort by America's Founding Fathers that began on July 4, 1776. Finalized on June 20, 1782, the Great Seal is a unique combination of symbols and mottos that convey their vision of America.

Front: On the breast of the American bald eagle is a shield with thirteen vertical white and red stripes beneath a blue chief. In the eagle's right talon is an olive branch, and in his left a bundle of thirteen arrows. In his beak is a scroll inscribed with the motto E Pluribus Unum. Over the head of the eagle, a golden glory is breaking through a cloud and surrounding a constellation of thirteen stars on an azure field.

Back: In the zenith of an unfinished pyramid is an eye in a triangle surrounded with a golden glory. Much speculation has taken place about the meaning of these two symbols. Over the eye are the words Annuat Coeptis (providence favors our undertakings). On the base of the pyramid are the numerical letters MDCCLXXVI (1776), and underneath, the motto Novus Ordo Seclorum (new order of the ages).

Symbology:

(MacArthur, Accessed in 2021)

American Bald Eagle	Symbol of the United States of America, representing freedom
Shield	13 vertical stripes representing 13 original states supporting a Chief (the blue part) representing Congress
Olive Branch	Represents peace
Bundle of 13 Arrows	Represents war
E Pluribus Unum	Latin Motto: "From Many, One"
Glory	Heraldic term for an emanation of light rays, usually golden
Constellation of 13 Stars	The 13 original states. Arrangement of the stars went from a random arrangement to a hexagram (two triangles intersecting to form a six-pointed star)

Unfinished Pyramid	The pyramid symbolizes strength and duration. There are 13 layers of stones. It is unfinished, always growing.
Eye	The Eye of Providence (all-seeing eye of God) surrounded by glory represents divine providence, whereby the eye of God watches over humanity
Annuity Coeptis	Latin Motto: "(Providence) favors our undertakings. Annuity Coeptis means 'favors undertakings. The Eye of Providence is the subject.
MDCCLXXVI	1776 in Roman Numerals
Novus Ordo Seclorum	Latin Motto: "A New Order of the Ages"

The Great Seal of the State of California was adopted by the Constitutional Convention of 1849. California's seal has 31 stars on the upper edge. There's a grizzly bear feeding on grape vines next to a sheaf of grain. Below the Sierra Nevada Mountains, a miner works near the Sacramento River, which is shown busy with commercial traffic. The word "Eureka" (Greek for "I have found it") is the California State Motto. Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom, overlooks the scene.

Symbology:

31 Stars	31 is the number of states that existed in 1850 when California was admitted to the Union
Grizzly Bear	State Animal of California, abundant wildlife in the state
Grape Vines	Significant crop in California
Sheaf of Grain	Represents the agricultural richness of California
Sierra Nevada Mountains	Overlook most of California, and site of the 1849 Gold Rush
Gold Miner	Another symbol of the 1849 Gold Rush
Sacramento River	Significant river; leads to the mountains of the Gold Rush
Ships on River	Symbolizes significant commercial traffic contributing to California's economy
"Eureka"	Greek motto: "I have found it" referring to the discovery of gold
Minerva	Roman goddess of wisdom who sprang full grown from the brain of Jupiter; California sprang full grown as a state without first going through the status of being a territory



C9. Patriotic Holidays

There are six national patriotic holidays:

- President's Day – 3rd Monday in February
- Memorial Day – Last Monday in May
- Flag Day – June 14
- Independence Day – July 4
- Constitution Day – September 17
- Veteran's Day – November 11



President's Day:

- Celebrated annually on the 3rd Monday in February
- Commemorates all who have served in the office of President of the United States
- Officially, the U.S. government still calls the day "Washington's Birthday"
- Some think it is a combination of Lincoln's Birthday and Washington's
- President Nixon wanted it to be a celebration of all Presidents, and he signed a proclamation to that effect, though it is not an official law



Memorial Day:

- Last Monday each May
- Honors all who have died in the service of our country, especially in the United States Military forces
- In 1886, General John Logan declared first official Memorial Day for Civil War soldiers

*Remembering those
who paid for our
freedom.*



Flag Day:

- June 14th
- Celebrates the day our flag became an official symbol of our country on that day in 1777 by an Act of the Second Continental Congress
- Not a federal holiday, but President Woodrow Wilson in 1916 declared it a national day to celebrate the flag's history and meaning

Independence Day:

- July 4, 1776 was the date the colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain
- Now a national holiday; the most patriotic of all holidays

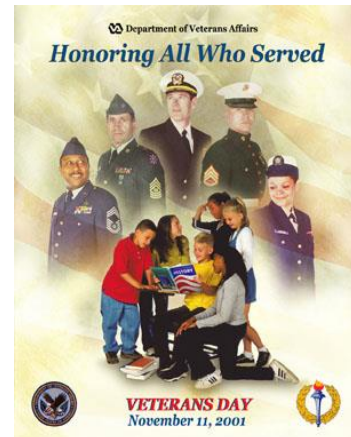


**Constitution Day:**

- Commemorates the day in 1787 when the new states adopted the new U.S. Constitution
- September 17
- Not an official holiday; rather it is an “observance”

Veteran’s Day:

- November 11
- Used to be called Armistice Day
- Celebrates the day that World War 1 officially ended in 1918
- Commemorates the signing of the “armistice” or peace treaty between the Allies and Germany
- Celebrates all who have served in our nation’s military

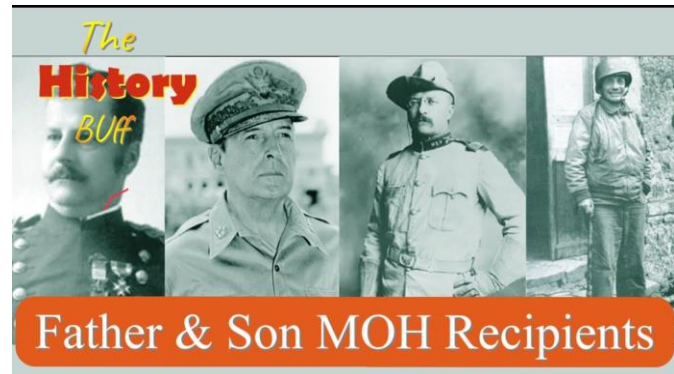
**C10. The Medal of Honor**

The Medal of Honor is the highest and most prestigious military decoration awarded within the US military services. It awards Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coastguardsmen, and eventually Guardians (Space Force members) who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor. It is presented by the President but is awarded in the name of the United States Congress, so is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor. The award itself is a medal with a drape worn around the neck. The drape and corresponding ribbon is blue with white stars. There are three variations of the medal; one each for the Army; Navy, Marines & Coast Guard; and Air Force & Space Force.



The Medal of Honor was first authorized by the Navy in 1861, followed by the Army in 1862. There have been 3526 Medals of Honor awarded to 3507 individuals as of 2020. 40% of those were awarded during the Civil War. Because there were no other military decorations authorized at the time, the medal was awarded for less significant acts during that conflict. 19 servicemen have been awarded the Medal of Honor twice. Five of those were Marines awarded both the Army's and Navy's Medal of Honor for the same action during World

War I. Two father-son pairs have received the Medal of Honor: Arthur (1863) and Douglas MacArthur (1942) and Theodore (1898) and Teddy Jr. Roosevelt (1944). Only one woman has received the award so far – Doctor Mary Walker for her service as a physician to the Army during the Civil War. The award was later rescinded in 1917 (she continued to wear it until her death in 1919), and even later (in 1977) the Army's Board for Correction of Military Records restored it.



Periodically, the President, Congress, or Department of Defense have gone through the list of awardees and officially deleted some, and occasionally started the ball rolling to upgrade some lesser awards to the Medal of Honor. There have been a significant number of awards upgraded from the Distinguished Service Cross because it appears those individuals did not receive the MOH solely due to their race. In 1917, the Medal of Honor Board deleted 911 awards – this was by far the biggest change made to the awardee list. After this point, the award has gotten progressively harder to get, and the rules have been mostly followed. Still, there have been exceptions to rules made over the years. For example, Charles Lindbergh was awarded the MOH in 1927 for his remarkable solo flight across the Atlantic. Foreign “Unknown Soldiers” have received the award as a way of honoring the soldiers of other countries fighting alongside US armies. America’s “Unknown Soldiers” have received the award up through the Vietnam War. More than half of the recipients of the MOH received the award posthumously (after they died).

Requirements for award of the Medal of Honor:

- *Must be so outstanding it clearly distinguishes his/her gallantry beyond the call of duty*
 - *Must involve the risk of his/her life*
 - *Must be the type of deed which, if not done, would not subject him/her to any justified criticism – no one expects such rare heroism*
 - *Deed must be witnessed by at least two eyewitnesses*
-

Nominees for the Medal of Honor go through an extensive nomination and interview process beginning with their commanding officer and ending with the President. It is an extraordinarily rare honor reserved for the very best servicemembers.

Congress designated March 25 as *National Medal of Honor Day*.

Being awarded the Medal of Honor comes with a few perks. By law, recipients have several benefits: (Military Regulations, Accessed in 2021)

- Name entered on Medal of Honor Roll
- Special MOH Pension above and beyond the normal military pension (about \$1400/month)
- Enlisted recipients of the Medal of Honor are entitled to a supplemental uniform allowance
- Special air transportation benefits for MOH Awardees and their family
- Special identification cards and commissary and exchange privileges
- Eligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery if not otherwise eligible
- Fully qualified children of recipients automatically appointed to any of the US service academies
- 10% increase in retired pay
- MOH Flag
- Invitation to all future presidential inaugurations and inaugural balls
- Most states offer a special license plate for certain types of vehicles to recipients at little or no cost to the recipient. The states that do not offer Medal of Honor specific license plate offer special license plates for veterans for which recipients may be eligible.



Although not required by law or military regulation, members of the uniformed services are encouraged to render salutes to recipients of the Medal of Honor as a matter of respect and courtesy regardless of rank or status, whether or not they are in uniform. This is one of the few instances where a living member of the military will receive salutes from members of a higher rank.



There are thousands of amazing stories about Medal of Honor recipients. We recommend you check some of them out online.

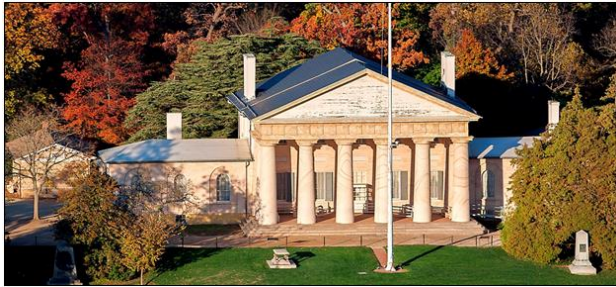
C11. Arlington National Cemetery & Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Arlington National Cemetery is the premier United States military cemetery. It covers more than 600 acres in Arlington County, overlooking Washington DC. It is divided into sections, which tend to



concentrate groups of graves. For example, there is a section (60) for victims of the War on Terror, a Nurse's Section, Chaplain's Hill, and even a Confederate Section. Section 27 holds the graves of former slaves. More than 400,000 people have been buried at Arlington National Cemetery, and there is currently space for tens of thousands more, lasting at current rates at least into the 2040s. (History.com Editors, 2017)

The cemetery was established during the Civil War on the grounds of Arlington House. This was property owned by Mary Anna Custis Lee, great-granddaughter of Marth Washington, and wife of Robert E. Lee, the Confederate general. When Virginia voted to join the Confederacy at the beginning of the Civil War, the Lees vacated the house (General Lee was already engaged in running the Army of Northern Virginia) and moved to Richmond. The Union Army occupied the house and grounds. It was first used as a military post and town for freed slaves, and in 1864, the Army started using it as a cemetery. Brigadier General Montgomery Meigs commanded the garrison and established the cemetery and fought the Lees for years to retain the cemetery and lands as property of the US Government. After the war, the Lees tried to get the property back, but were unsuccessful. Finally, in 1882, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Lees (at this point, Custis Lee, son of Mary and Robert). The US government was forced to purchase the property for its fair market value, which they did. (Poole, 2009)



"Arlington House is the nation's memorial to Robert E. Lee. It honors him for specific reasons, including his role in promoting peace and reunion after the Civil War. In a larger sense it exists as a place of study and contemplation of the meaning of some of the most difficult aspects of American History: military service; sacrifice; citizenship; duty; loyalty; slavery and freedom. (National Park Service Editors, Accessed in 2021). Arlington House originally stood as a memorial

to George Washington. The Custis/Lee family had many of Washington's possessions in a collection they shared with the public. Most of this was later moved to Mount Vernon.

Each year, nearly 5 million visitors pass through the cemetery's Visitor's Center to pay respects to the many heroes buried in this place. As a shrine to many American war dead and veterans' graves, Arlington National Cemetery is a focal point to our commemoration of their service to the United States. Famous Americans buried there include:

- President John F. Kennedy's grave is marked with an 'eternal flame.' The remains of his wife, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, their son Patrick, stillborn daughter Arabella, brothers Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Senator Edward M. "Ted" Kennedy are buried nearby.
- President William Howard Taft
- General of the Armies John J. Pershing
- Astronauts Gus Grissom and Roger Chaffee (killed in Apollo 1 command module fire)
- Astronaut John Glenn
- 367 Medal of Honor recipients, including Audie Murphy
- Almost 100 flag officers (generals/admirals)
- Thousands of military heroes
- Hundreds of thousands of servicemembers



Kennedy's Grave

Explore the lists of notable graves at: [Arlington National Cemetery > Explore > Notable Graves \(arlingtoncemetery.mil\)](https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Notable-Graves)

There are many memorials to individuals and groups in Arlington Cemetery. Some also contain or are amongst graves, others just memorial statues or markers. (Arlington National Cemetery, Accessed in 2021)

Check out some of these hyperlinks to memorials and monuments:

- [Argonne Cross \(World War I\)](#)
- [Battle of the Bulge Memorial](#)
- [Beirut Barracks Memorial](#)
- [Canadian Cross of Sacrifice](#)
- [Chaplains Hill Monuments](#)
- [Coast Guard Memorial](#)
- [Confederate Memorial](#)
- [Sir John Dill Memorial Grave](#)
- [Group Burials](#)
- [Iran Rescue Mission Memorial](#)
- [Major General Philip Kearny Memorial Grave](#)
- [President John F. Kennedy Memorial Grave](#)
- [Robert F. Kennedy Grave](#)
- [Korean War Memorial Contemplative Bench](#)
- [McClellan Gate](#)
- [Memorial Amphitheater](#)
- [Memorial Avenue](#)
- [Nurses Memorial](#)
- [Pan Am Flight 103 Memorial Cairn](#)
- [Pentagon Group Burial Marker \(9/11\)](#)
- [Rough Riders Memorial](#)
- [General Philip H. Sheridan Memorial Grave](#)
- [Space Shuttle Challenger Memorial](#)
- [Space Shuttle Columbia Memorial](#)
- [Spanish-American War Memorial](#)
- [Spanish-American War Nurses Memorial](#)
- [President William Howard Taft Memorial Grave](#)
- [Tanner Amphitheater](#)
- [Third Infantry Division Memorial](#)
- [Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns](#)
- [Tomb of the Unknown Soldier](#)
- [USS Maine Memorial](#)
- [USS Serpens Memorial](#)
- [USS Thresher National Commemorative Monument](#)
- [Woodhull Memorial Flagstaff](#)
- [Women in Military Service for America](#)

Arlington National Cemetery's most iconic memorial is the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**. The neoclassical, white marble sarcophagus stands atop a hill overlooking Washington, D.C. Since 1921, it has provided a final resting place for one of America's unidentified World War I service members, and Unknowns from later wars were added in 1958 and 1984. The Tomb has also served as a place of mourning and a site for reflection on military service. (Arlington National Cemetery, Accessed in 2021)

Throughout history, armies have been unable to identify many deceased soldiers' bodies. Up until the Vietnam War, unknown remains were buried in mass or unlabeled graves. After World War I, Great Britain and France moved to honor their war dead, with special memorials to "all the unknowns." Unidentified soldiers' bodies were selected to represent their comrades and buried in Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. America followed suit, selecting an unidentified body from cemeteries in France and bringing it to Arlington for burial in 1921. The Tomb sarcophagus is decorated with three wreaths on each side panel (north and south). On the front (east), three figures represent Peace, Victory, and Valor. The back (west) features the inscription "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God." (Arlington National Cemetery, Accessed in 2021)



In 1958, unknown soldiers were selected to represent the dead from World War II and the Korean War. The caskets lay in state in the Capitol for two days before interment at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In 1984, a body was selected to represent the dead from the Vietnam War. Technology and practice had advanced at this point, and almost every body (other than those missing in action) was able to be identified. There was only one that wasn't, and it was interred at the Tomb. In 1998, the Vietnam Unknown was finally identified as Lieutenant Michael Blassie. His family requested the body for burial in Missouri. Since then, the crypt designated for the Vietnam Unknown has been vacant. No bodies have gone unidentified from any later wars, and it's likely none will be identified in the future.



Guarding the Tomb has become a very special duty. The 3rd Infantry Regiment, known as "The Old Guard," is the Army's official ceremonial unit, and is responsible to guard the Tomb, escort the President for memorial ceremonies in and around Washington, and provide funeral honors in Arlington National Cemetery. Soldiers selected to be Tomb Guards are handpicked and rigorously trained. They have come from every state in the union and represent every walk of life. They are men and women from many different backgrounds and specialties. For some this is their first unit in the Army, others are veterans of many years. Over the years there have been Regular Army and as well as Draftees. The duty at the Tomb is not for everyone, with the majority of soldiers

who begin Tomb Guard training unable to meet the standards. Each soldier must have strong military bearing, discipline, stamina and present an outstanding soldierly appearance. Each Sentinel must be able to flawlessly perform seven different types of walks, honors and ceremonies. They must retain vast amounts of knowledge concerning the Tomb, Arlington National Cemetery, the United States Army and their unit. (Society of the Honor Guard, Accessed in 2021) It usually takes six to twelve months of training to earn the Tomb Guard badge.

Each element of the Tomb Guard's routine has meaning. The Guard marches 21 steps down the 63-foot long black mat behind the Tomb, turns and faces east for 21 seconds, turns and faces north for 21 seconds, executes a sharp Left or Right Shoulder Arms putting the rifle on the shoulder closes to the visitors, signifying that he or she stands between the Tomb and any possible threat, and then takes 21 steps down the mat. The number 21 symbolizes the highest symbolic military honor that can be bestowed: the 21-gun salute. The Changing of the Guard, every 30 minutes April-September, every hour October-March, and every two hours when the cemetery is closed, is a stylized ritual they go through, day and night. It represents the ultimate in precision and attention to detail. View this in the following video:



C12. The World War II Memorial

The nation has many memorials, mostly in Washington DC. The more significant ones we'll look at are the World War II Memorial, the Marine Corps Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and the Vietnam War Memorial.

The World War II Memorial honors the service of 16 million members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, the support of countless millions on the home front, and the ultimate sacrifice of 405,399 Americans. On May 29, 2004, a four-day "grand reunion" of veterans on the National Mall culminated in the dedication of this tribute to the legacy of "The Greatest Generation." Twenty-four bronze bas-relief panels flank the ceremonial entrance. To many, these panels stir memories as they tell the story of America's experience in the war. Granite columns representing each U.S. state and territory at the time of World War II ring an impressive pool with water shooting high into the air. Quotes, references to theaters, campaigns, and battles, and two massive victory pavilions chronicle the efforts Americans undertook to win the war. A wall of 4,048 gold stars reminds all of the supreme sacrifice made by over 400,000 Americans to make that victory possible. (National Park Service, Accessed in 2021)



**Bas-Relief Panels:**

There are 24 bronze **bas-relief panels** flanking the formal 17th Street entrance to the memorial. Each panel measures two feet tall by five feet long and was designed by Maryland artist Ray Kaskey. Twelve scenes from the home front and the Pacific Theater are displayed on the south walk and twelve scenes from the home front and the European Theater are along the northern walk.

Bas-Relief bā-ri-'lēf
Sculptural relief in which the projection from the surrounding surface is slight and no part of the modeled form is undercut.

Atlantic Front Panels

Lend Lease
Bond Drive
Women in Military
Rosie the Riveter/Aircraft Construction
Battle of the Atlantic
Air War/B-17
Paratroopers
Normandy Beach Landing
Tanks in Combat
Medics in Field
Battle of the Bulge
Russians meet Americans at the Elbe.

Pacific Front Panels

Pearl Harbor
Enlistment
Embarkation
Shipbuilding
Agriculture
Submarine Warfare
Navy in Action
Amphibious Landing
Jungle Warfare
Field Burial
Liberation
V-J Day

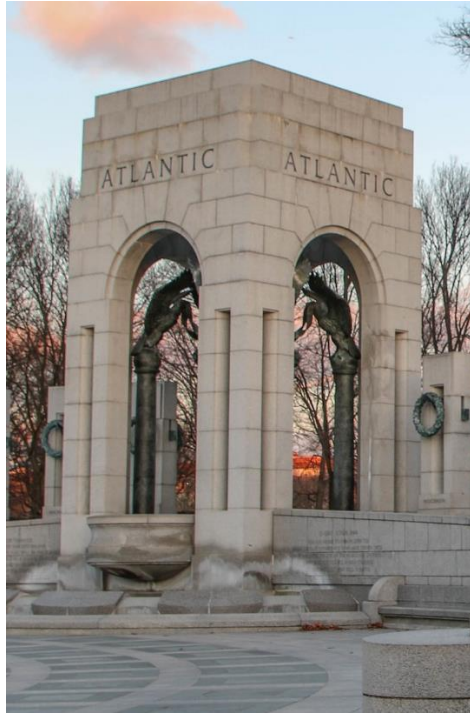


Pillars:

There are 56 pillars – one for each state and the territories of Alaska, Hawaii, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Philippines, American Samoa, and the US Virgin Islands, all of which played a part in fighting this war.



There are two **victory pavilions**, one each for the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters of Operation. These have a large rendering of the World War II Victory Medal on the floor, and the names of the great battles fought in that theater of operations. There are bald eagles holding aloft a laurel wreath – an ancient symbol of victory.

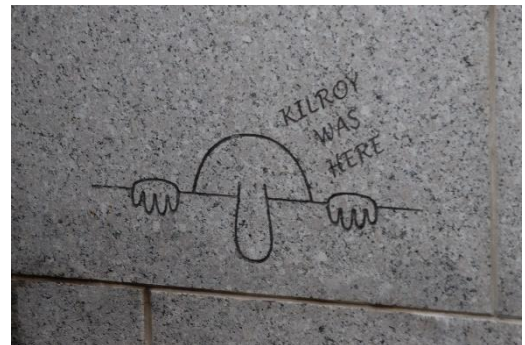


The Freedom Wall: On the west side of the memorial, a wall of gold stars brings home the scope of World War II. Each star represents 100 Americans who died in the war. There are just over 4000 stars reflecting the loss of 405,399 Americans. The field of stars is underscored by a granite marker embedded with the words "Here We Mark the Price of Freedom."

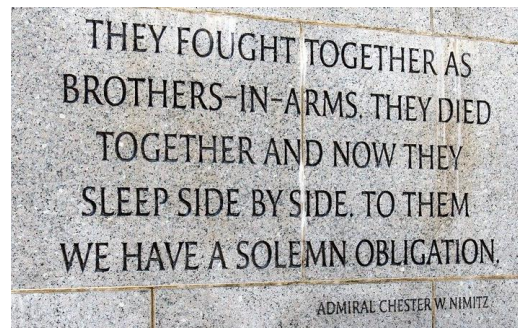
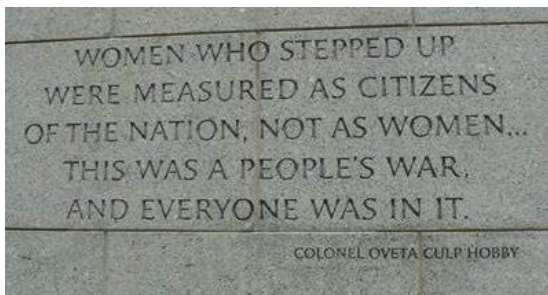


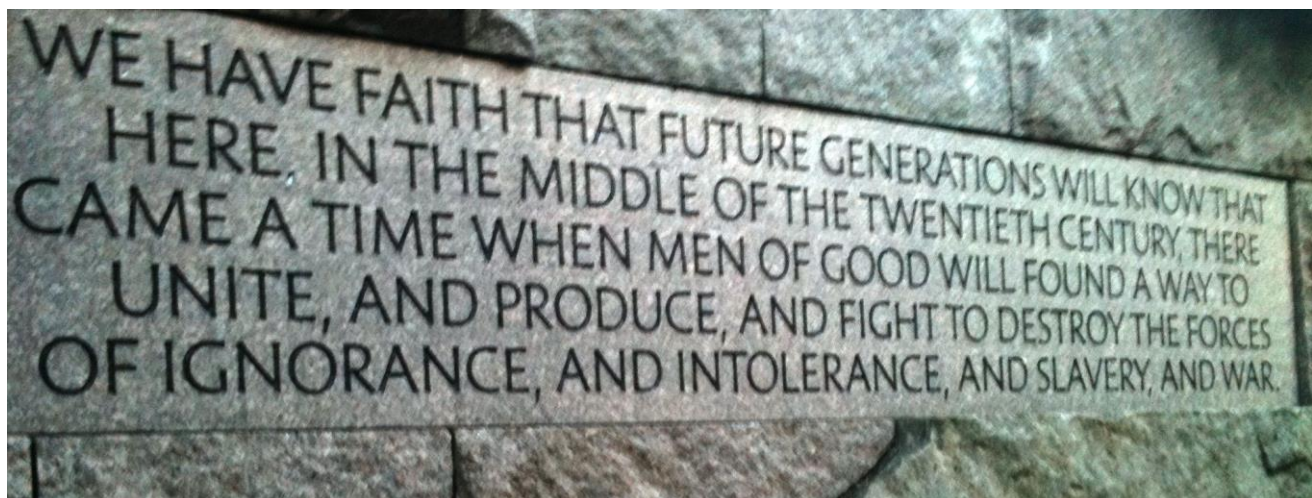
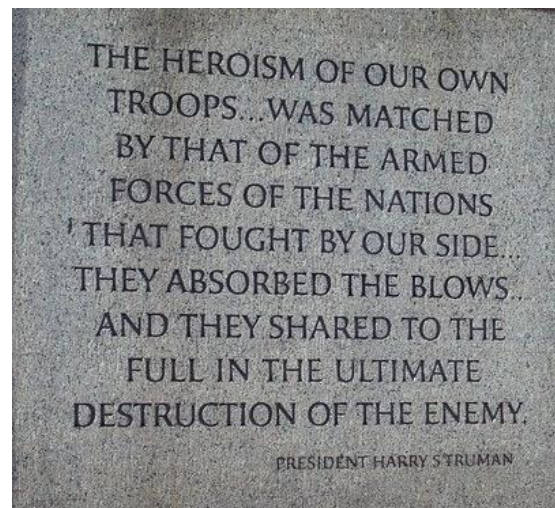
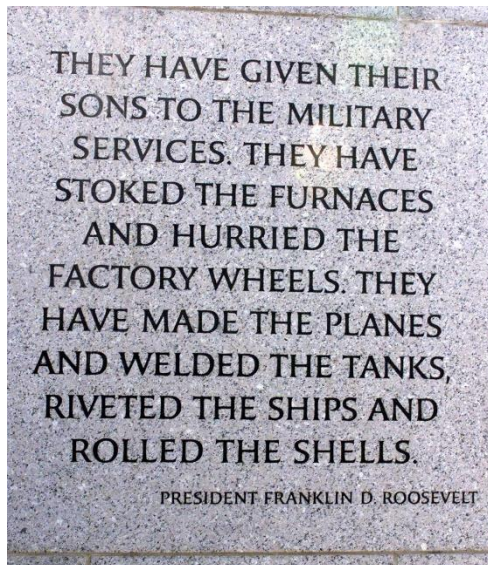
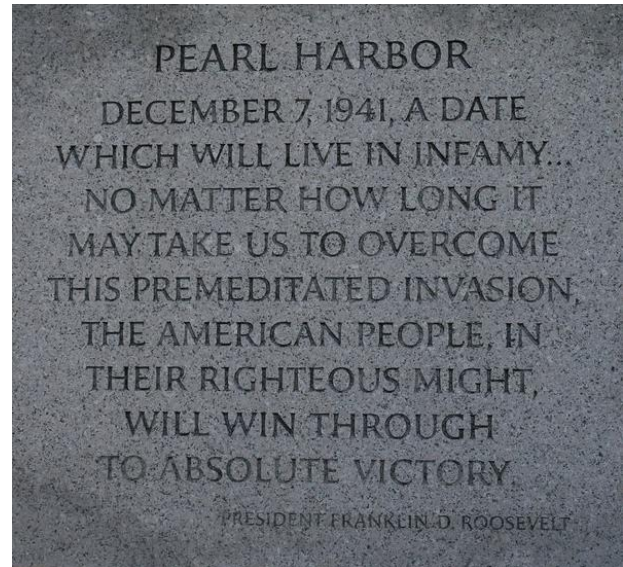
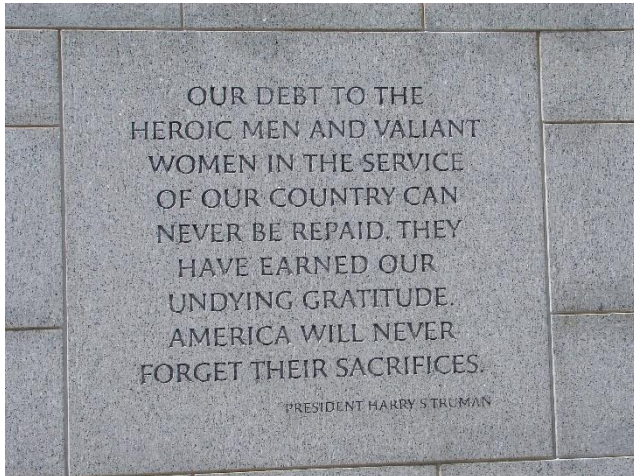
Fountain:**Kilroy:**

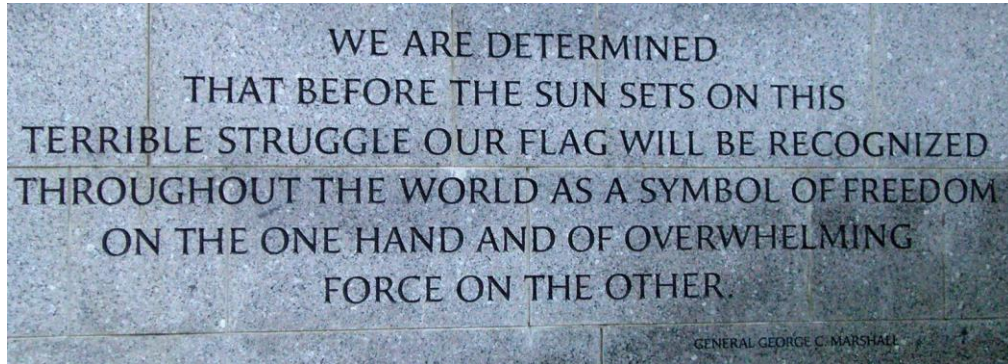
“Kilroy was here”, accompanied by a cartoon drawing of a man looking over a wall, was a popular piece of graffiti drawn by American troops in the Atlantic Theater and then later in the Pacific Theater. It came to be a universal sign that American soldiers had come through an area and left their mark. Its origins most likely come from a British cartoon and the name of an American shipyard inspector. The myths surrounding it are numerous and often center on a German belief that Kilroy was some kind of superspy who could go anywhere he pleased. There are two Kilroys hidden in the memorial.



Quotations: Throughout the memorial are quotations from World War II leaders, and tributes to those who did so much to win this war. Here are a few:







Information and images taken from:
(National WWII Memorial, Accessed in 2021)
(National Park Service, Accessed in 2021)

C13. The Marine Corps War Memorial

The United States Marine Corps War Memorial represents this nation's gratitude to Marines and those who have fought beside them. While the statue depicts one of the most famous incidents of World War II, the memorial is dedicated to all Marines who have given their lives in defense of the United States since 1775.
(National Park Service, Accessed in 2021)



Watch the video at this site: [US Marine Corps War Memorial Videos - George Washington Memorial Parkway \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/audiovideo/gwmp/C6F0781C-BF0A-B19D-3711F8575E7C62F4/gwmp-RaisingTheFlag1080p2398StereoMixFinal071519_640x360.mp4)

Or:

https://www.nps.gov/audiovideo/gwmp/C6F0781C-BF0A-B19D-3711F8575E7C62F4/gwmp-RaisingTheFlag1080p2398StereoMixFinal071519_640x360.mp4

The Picture behind the Statue: The tiny island of Iwo Jima lies 660 miles south of Tokyo. Mount Suribachi, an extinct volcano that forms the narrow southern tip of the island, rises 550 feet to dominate the ocean around it. US troops had recaptured most of the other islands in the Pacific Ocean that the Japanese had taken in 1941 and 1942. In 1945 Iwo Jima became a primary objective in American plans to bring the Pacific campaign to a successful conclusion.

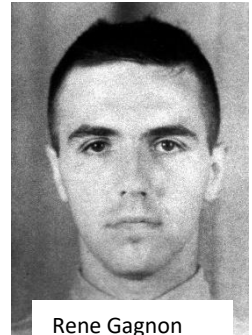
On the morning of February 19, 1945, the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions invaded Iwo Jima after an ineffective 72-hour bombardment. The 28th Regiment of the 5th Division, was ordered to capture Mount Suribachi. They reached the base of the mountain on the afternoon of February 21 and, by nightfall the next day, had almost completely surrounded it. On the morning of February 23, Marines of Company E, 2nd Battalion, started the tortuous climb up the rough terrain to the top. At about 10:30 am men all over the island were thrilled by the sight of a small American flag flying from atop Mount Suribachi. That afternoon, when the slopes were clear of enemy resistance, a second, larger flag was raised in the same location.

Making of a Memorial:

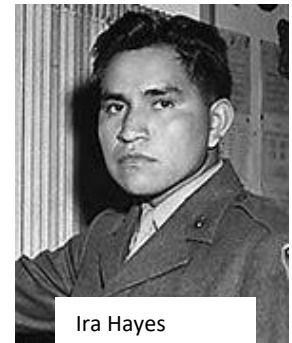
Joe Rosenthal of the Associated Press caught the afternoon flag-raising in an iconic photograph that eventually won a Pulitzer Prize. Sculptor Felix W. de Weldon, then on duty with the US Navy, was so moved by the image that he constructed first a scale model and then a life-size model of it. **Rene Gagnon, Ira Hayes, and John Bradley** posed for the sculptor as he modeled their faces in clay. These three men were believed to be the survivors of the famous flag raising (the others were killed on Iwo Jima). The US Marine Corps has since concluded that John Bradley was not in the famous image of the flag raising. To learn more about the identities of the flag raisers, please read the [US Marine Corps statement on the Iwo Jima flag raisers](#). All available pictures and physical statistics of the three who had given their lives were collected and then used in the modeling of their faces.

Once the statue was completed in plaster, it was carefully disassembled and trucked to Brooklyn, N.Y., for casting in bronze. The casting process, which required the work of experienced artisans, took nearly 3 years. After the parts had been cast, cleaned, finished, and chased, they were reassembled into approximately a dozen pieces--the largest weighing more than 20 tons--and brought back to Washington, D.C., by a three-truck convoy. Here they were bolted and welded together, and the statue was treated with preservatives.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower dedicated the memorial in a ceremony on November 10, 1954, the 179th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps.



Rene Gagnon



Ira Hayes



John Bradley

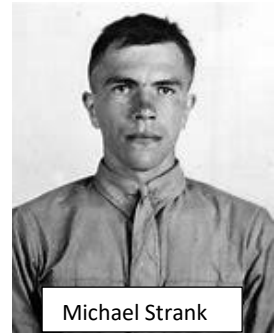


Franklin Sousley

Memorial Statistics

Thirty-two-foot-high figures are shown raising a 60-foot bronze flagpole. The flag flies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by presidential proclamation.

The figures in the statue occupy the same positions as they were identified at the time in Rosenthal's historic photograph. Ira Hayes is the figure farthest from the flagpole with both hands reaching up. **Franklin Sousley** is in front of Hayes, to the right. John Bradley is in front of Sousley. **Michael Strank** is in front of Hayes, to the left. Rene Gagnon is in front of Strank. Harlon Block is at the foot of the flagpole. These were the men believed to have been the actual flag raisers when de Weldon created the statue. Since then, the US Marine Corps has concluded that John Bradley was not in the iconic photograph. Researchers discovered that Harold Schultz was in actually in Sousley's position and Soulsley was in Bradley's position. To learn more you can read the [**US Marine Corps's statement on the Iwo Jima flag raisers.**](#)



Michael Strank

The M-1 rifle and the carbine carried by two of the figures are 16 and 12 feet long, respectively. The canteen would hold 32 quarts of water. The figures stand on a rock slope above a granite base. The entire memorial is about 78 feet tall. Granite for the base came from Sweden. The names and dates of every principal Marine Corps engagement since the founding of the Corps form a gold ring around the base. The entire cost of the statue (\$850,000) was donated by US Marines, friends of the Marine Corps, and members of the Naval Service. No public funds were used for this memorial. (National Park Service, Accessed in 2021)



Harold Schultz

C14. The Korean War Veterans Memorial

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is located near the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. It was dedicated on July 27, 1995. The memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed services during the three-year period of the Korean War. From June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, 54,246 Americans died in support of their country. Of these, 8,200 were listed as missing in action, or lost or buried at sea. In addition, 103,284 were wounded during the conflict. As an integral part of the memorial, the Korean War Honor Roll was established, honoring those U.S. military personnel who died worldwide during the war. (American Battle Monuments Commission, Accessed in 2021)

Statues: The 19 stainless steel statues were sculpted by Frank Gaylord of Barre, Vt. and cast by Tallix Foundries of Beacon, N.Y. They are approximately 7-feet tall and represent an ethnic cross section of America. The advance party has 14 Army, three Marine, one Navy and one Air Force members. The statues stand in patches of juniper bushes and are separated by polished granite strips, which give a semblance of order and symbolize the rice paddies of Korea. The troops wear ponchos covering their weapons and equipment. The ponchos seem to blow in the cold winds of Korea. (American Battle Monuments Commission, Accessed in 2021) The statues appear to be a patrol of military men moving toward the American flagpole.



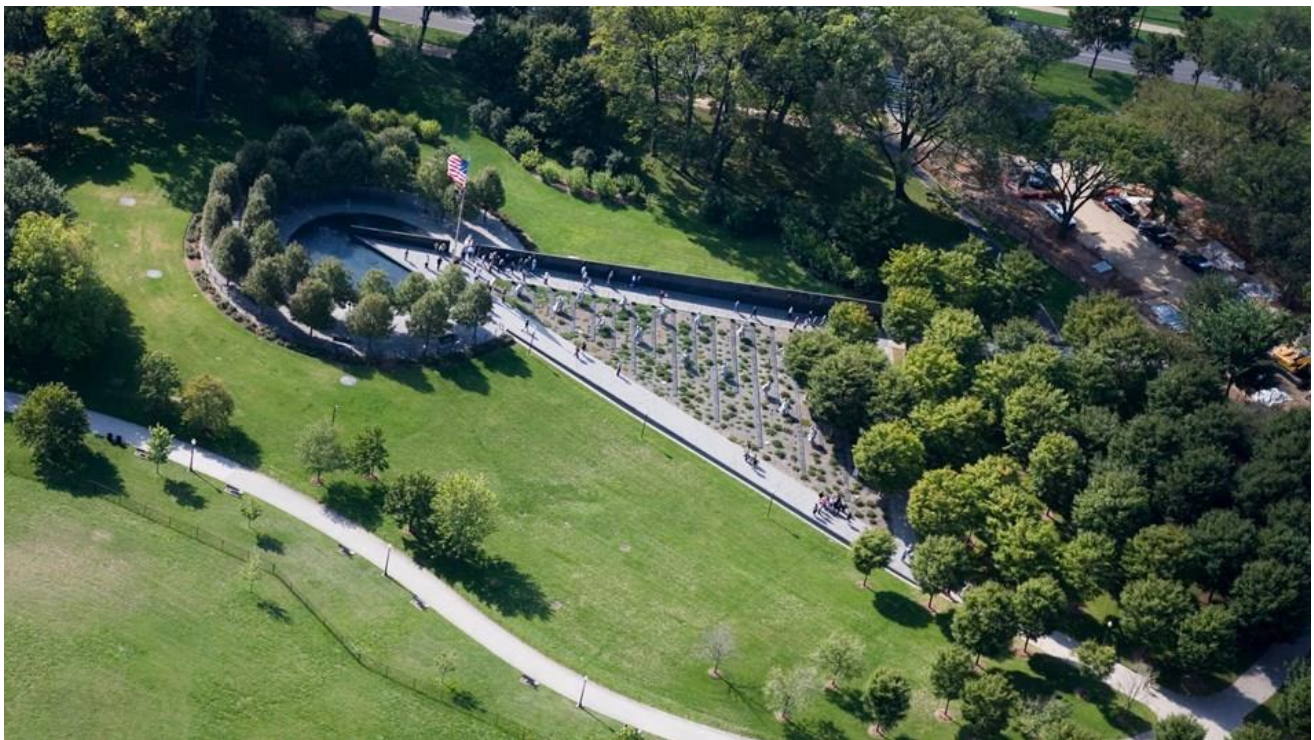




Mural Wall: The mural wall was designed by Louis Nelson of New York, N.Y. and fabricated by Cold Spring Granite Company, Cold Spring, Minn. The muralist, sculptor and architect worked closely to create a two-dimensional work of art adjacent to the three-dimensional statues. The wall consists of 41 panels extending 164 feet. Over 2,400 photographs of the Korean War were obtained from the National Archives. They were enhanced by computer to give a uniform lighting effect and the desired size. The mural, representing those forces supporting the foot soldier, depicts Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard personnel and their equipment. The etchings are arranged to give a wavy appearance in harmony with the layout of the statues. The reflective quality of the academy black granite creates the image of a total of 38 statues, symbolic of the 38th parallel and the 38 months of the war. When viewed from afar, it also creates the appearance of the mountain ranges of Korea. (American Battle Monuments Commission, Accessed in 2021)



Pool of Remembrance: The point of the triangle enclosing the statues reaches into a circular pool approximately 128 feet in diameter. Water is fed into the pool from its bottom and it flows over a stepped weir to give a pleasant rippling sound. Surrounding the pool are 28 linden trees shaped to create a barrel effect, which will allow the sun to reflect on the pool. Seven benches, located under the trees, provide a place for visitors to rest and reflect on the terrible price the youth of America paid during the war. On the wall that extends into the pool area, written in 10-inch silver letters, is the reminder: Freedom is not free. (American Battle Monuments Commission, Accessed in 2021)



Honor Roll: A kiosk containing the Korean War Honor Roll stands at the west entrance of the memorial. It is serviced by a park ranger, who provides assistance to visitors. The Honor Roll computer contains the names of all military personnel who lost their lives during the Korean War, including the individual's name, service, rank, service number, date of birth, hometown or county of entry into the service, cause of death, date of death; and, if the information is furnished to ABMC, the serviceman's unit, awards, circumstances surrounding the death or missing in action, and photograph.

UN Curb and Dedication Stone: The curb running along the northern side of the statues contains an alphabetical listing of the 22 nations that participated in the Korean War. Seventeen nations provided combat units and five medical support. At the point of the triangle leading to the American flag is the dedication stone, which reads:

**Our nation honors her sons and daughters
who answered the call to defend a country
they never knew and a people they never met**



C15. The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, also called **The Wall**, national monument in Washington, D.C., honoring members of the U.S. armed forces who served and died in the Vietnam War (1955–75). The memorial, located near the western end of the Mall, is a black granite V-shaped wall inscribed with the names of the approximately 58,000 men and women who were killed or missing in action. It was designed by American architect Maya Lin. The Wall was completed in 1982.



**The Three Soldiers and
The Women's Memorial:**

On November 11, 1984, the servicemen (Three Soldiers) statue and a U.S. flag were formally added to the memorial, and the combined monument was placed under the control of the National Park Service. In 2009 the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the site. In 1993 the Vietnam Women's Memorial was unveiled a short distance from the wall. The bronze sculpture, depicting three women caring for an injured soldier, recognized the work of the more than 10,000 women who served in Vietnam, most of whom were nurses. (Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2017)

Moving Walls. There are a number of 50% to 80% size replicas of The Wall, some of which are transportable, some fixed. The Moving Wall travels around America, staying in small towns and cities for 5-6 days, hosted by veterans' organizations.



C16. Significant American Accomplishments

The US and Americans have achieved many great things, and here we list 10 of them. Not all significant inventions or achievements are necessarily for humanitarian purposes, some of them are for war. Some, like DDT and the polio vaccines saved millions of lives. We list 10 that we find interesting and significant.

10. The Internet, circa 1985.

Although no official opening date exists, the Internet was an American concept actually put forth by the US Government in the 1960's, interlinking thousands of public and private computer and communication systems, going into effect in the mid-1980's. During the first few years, almost all Internet use was by government and academic users, with the 1990's seeing enormous expansion in use by businesses and private individuals. About 100 times more people use the Internet today than in 1995 and well over 90% of US classrooms have Internet access. [Here are 10 Other ways the Internet has changed our lives.](#)

9. Cell Phones, 1973.

First shown to the world in 1973 by American television and radio manufacturer, Motorola, the cell phone has become a worldwide device that makes communications in most civilized places oh so easy. It is hard to even remember what teenagers did before this invention.



8. Machine Guns, 1862, 1884.

Dr. Gatling invented his hand cranked multi-barrel gun in time for limited use during the Civil War, and his guns were still in service until 1911. Hiram Maxim, born in Maine, immigrated to England at age 41 and perfected his automatic machine gun, the first modern such weapon, which was used from then until the 1950's. The Maxim Gun is the basis for other machine guns that have followed.

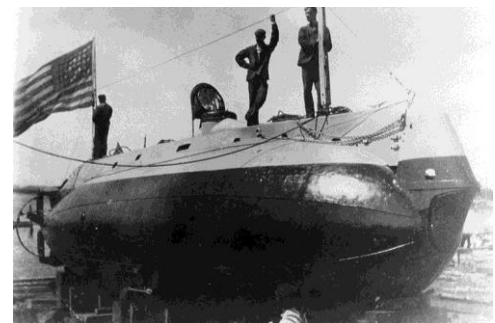
7. Panama Canal, 1914.

A project that dwarfed the problems in building the Suez Canal (or any other canal), the US accomplished what the French could not, and provided easy access between the Atlantic and Pacific. Facing incredible engineering obstacles and especially disease, this US achievement accommodates close to 15,000 ships passing through per year and is approaching its millionth customer. The canal and canal zone were turned over to Panama on December 31, 1999. Modifications to accommodate much larger ships are being undertaken at this time.

6. Modern Submarine, 1900.

Invented by John Holland, an Irish American who sold his idea to the US Navy, which commissioned their first submarine, the USS Holland, in 1900. Other attempts at undersea craft go back a few hundred years, including the US *Turtle* and the CSS *Hunley*, but these were limited range hand powered craft. In the 19th Century, attempts were made at producing steam powered subs, but no practical model appeared until Holland invented a sub that ran on a gasoline internal combustion engine on the surface and on powerful electric batteries and motors under water.

Unfortunately, Holland was allowed to sell his designs to other countries and the US Navy failed at a big chance to have a monopoly on modern submarines.



5. Trans-Oceanic Cable Communication, 1858.

American Cyrus West Field masterminded the massive project of laying a telegraph cable from North America to Europe, producing the first trans-Atlantic electronic communication, featuring a message between Queen Victoria (United Kingdom) and President Buchanan (US). An improved version was completed in 1866, and later telephone and other electronic data transmission cables were laid across other oceans as well as the Atlantic. Before this project, communication from Europe to North America took 10 days by boat, but with the cable it would take only a few minutes.

4. First Nuclear Reactor, 1942.

Built in Chicago as part of the *Manhattan Project*, *Chicago Pile-1* became the first man-made nuclear reactor with a controllable self-sustaining nuclear reaction. This led to the production of nuclear electricity producing plants, a potential source of energy for humankind without burning fossil fuels, if only we could design and supervise enough safety measures into such plants. (Note: Scientists from other countries contributed to this project, but there is a reason it was done in the US, where money, safety, and freedom made it possible.)

3. Model T Ford, 1908.

Built from 1908 to 1927 this was not the first practical car, but it was the first mass produced practical car that *normal* people could afford, costing as low as \$260. At one point in the 1920's, almost half the cars in the world were Model T Fords, truly the car that put the masses behind the steering wheel. 15 million were built.

**2. First in Flight, 1903.**

Many inventors around the world were working on controlled, powered, manned flight projects, but the Wright brothers from Ohio were the first to make it reality. Unfortunately, they also invented the airplane crash fatality.

1. Men on the Moon, 1969.

The US moon landing in 1969 and subsequent lunar forays made the US not only the *first* to the moon, but also the *only* country ever to accomplish a manned moon landing. The Apollo program also provided some really neat photography.

(Dan, 2016)



References

(n.d.).

American Battle Monuments Commission. (Accessed in 2021). *Korean War Memorial*. Retrieved from American Battle Monuments Commission: <https://www.abmc.gov/about-us/history/korean-war-memorial>

Architect of the Capitol. (Accessed in 2021). *Various*. Retrieved from Explore the Capitol Campus: <https://www.aoc.gov/explore-capitol-campus>

Arlington National Cemetery. (Accessed in 2021). *Monuments and Memorials*. Retrieved from ArlingtonNationalCemetery.mil: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Monuments-and-Memorials>

Arlington National Cemetery. (Accessed in 2021). *The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier*. Retrieved from ArlingtonNationalCemetery.mil: <https://arlingtoncemetery.mil/explore/tomb-of-the-unknown-soldier>

Dan, M. (2016, July 16). *10 Great American Achievements*. Retrieved from History & Headlines: <https://www.historyandheadlines.com/10-great-american-achievements/>

Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2017, September 15). *Vietnam Veterans Memorial*. Retrieved from Britannica.com: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Vietnam-Veterans-Memorial>

Explorra. (Accessed in 2021). *Statue of Liberty*. Retrieved from Explorra: https://www.explorra.com/attractions/statue-of-liberty_8793

Fenderich, C. e. (n.d.). Design of the National Washington Monument in the City of Washington cropped. *Wikimedia Commons*. Wikimedia Commons.

French, D. s. (n.d.). *Abraham Lincoln*.

History.com Editors. (2017, September 28). *Arlington National Cemetery*. Retrieved from History.com: <https://www.history.com/topics/landmarks/arlington-national-cemetery>

MacArthur, J. (Accessed in 2021). *Great Seal*. Retrieved from Great Seal: <http://www.greatseal.com/index.html>

Military Regulations. (Accessed in 2021). *Medal of Honor*. Retrieved from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medal_of_Honor

National Park Service. (2021). *Thomas Jefferson Memorial Features*. Retrieved from National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/thje/learn/historyculture/memorialfeatures.htm>

National Park Service. (Accessed in 2021). *History of the Marine Corps Memorial*. Retrieved from National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/historyculture/usmcwarmemorial.htm>

- National Park Service. (Accessed in 2021). *Mount Rushmore*. Retrieved from National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/moru/index.htm>
- National Park Service. (Accessed in 2021). *The Liberty Bell*. Retrieved from Independence: <https://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/historyculture/stories-libertybell.htm>
- National Park Service. (Accessed in 2021). *World War II Memorial*. Retrieved from National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/wwii/index.htm>
- National Park Service. (Accessed in 2021). *World War II Memorial History & Culture*. Retrieved from National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/wwii/learn/historyculture/index.htm>
- National Park Service Editors. (Accessed in 2021). *Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial*. Retrieved from National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/arho/index.htm>
- National WWII Memorial. (Accessed in 2021). *National WWII Memorial*. Retrieved from National WWII Memorial: <http://wwiimemorial.com/>
- Pasley, J. (2019, September 26). *Inside the controversial 70-year journey to build Crazy Horse, the world's largest monument that still isn't finished*. Retrieved from Business Insider: <https://www.businessinsider.com/crazy-horse-monument-isnt-finished-70-years-on-photos-2019-9>
- PBS Editors. (Accessed in 2021). *Native Americans and Mount Rushmore*. Retrieved from PBS: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/rushmore-sioux/>
- Planetware.com. (Accessed in 2021). *17 Top-Rated Tourist Attractions in Washington DC*. Retrieved from United States Capitol and Capitol Hill: <https://www.planetware.com/tourist-attractions/district-of-columbia-usdc.htm>
- Poole, R. (2009, November). *How Arlington National Cemetery Came to Be*. Retrieved from Smithsonian Magazine: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/how-arlington-national-cemetery-came-to-be-145147007/>
- Ravi, J. (n.d.). *Jefferson Memorial*.
- Scholastic Travel Inc. (2012, March 28). *Scholasticatravel.com*. Retrieved from 5 Must-See Washington DC Museums: <https://scholasticatravel.com/2012/03/28/5-must-see-washington-d-c-museums/>
- Society of the Honor Guard. (Accessed in 2021). *Who are the Tomb Guards?* Retrieved from Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: <https://tombguard.org/guards/who-are-the-tomb-guards>
- The White House. (Accessed in 2021). *The White House - various sub-pages*. Retrieved from The White House: <https://www.whitehouse.gov>