



## **Honoring the Heroes**

### **World War II Memorial**

#### ***The inscription on the Announcement Stone at the Ceremonial Entrance***

HERE IN THE PRESENCE OF WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN, ONE THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY FATHER AND THE OTHER THE NINETEENTH CENTURY PRESERVER OF OUR NATION, WE HONOR THOSE TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICANS WHO TOOK UP THE STRUGGLE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND MADE THE SACRIFICES TO PERPETUATE THE GIFT OUR FOREFATHERS ENTRUSTED TO US: A NATION CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY AND JUSTICE.

#### **History of the WWII Memorial**

\* Map to WWII Memorial is on Page 5

The Second World War brought the United States out of the Great Depression and the nation emerged as a world power. The World War II Memorial is a reminder of the sacrifice, unity and service of a unique generation of Americans.

The effort to create a National World War II Memorial began in 1987 by World War II veteran Roger Durbin, who served under General Patton. He approached Ohio Representative Marcy Kaptur who introduced a bill however it failed to capture enough votes to pass. The bill was introduced two more times with the similar fate. The World War II Memorial Act was signed into law by President Bill Clinton on May 25 of 1993, becoming Public Law 103-32.

Construction began in September 2001 and the Memorial was opened to the public on April 29, 2004, and was dedicated by President George W. Bush on May 29, 2004, two days before Memorial Day.

The World War II Memorial honors the service of sixteen million members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, the support of countless millions on the home front, and the 405,399 who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th Century, the memorial is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people.

The Memorial is flanked by the Washington Monument to the east and the Lincoln Memorial. Flagpoles frame the entrance to the memorial and bases of granite and bronze are adorned with the military service seals of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Army Air Forces, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

## **THE DESIGN**

### **Pavilions or "Victory Arches"**

Two 43-foot pavilions serve as markers and entries on the north and south ends of the plaza. Bronze baldacchinos are an integral part of the pavilion design. Four bronze columns support four American eagles that hold a suspended victory laurel wreaths to memorialize the victory of the WWII generation. Inlaid on the floor of the pavilions are the WWII victory medal surrounded by the years "1941-1945" and the words "Victory on Land," "Victory at Sea," and "Victory in the Air." These sculptural elements celebrate the victory won in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters.

### **Bas-Relief Panels**

The twenty-four bronze bas-relief panels, created by sculptor Ray Kaskey, flank the Ceremonial Entrance, 12 depict the Atlantic front and 12 depict the Pacific front. They offer a glimpse into the human experiences at home and at war. They breathe new life into familiar black and white photographs or

newsreels—especially, when a visiting veteran describes one of the scenes. The memorial also features areas where veterans’ recollections come flooding back, triggered by the sight of dozens of battle names and military campaign designations carved into stone. The panels depict the all-out mobilization of America’s agricultural, industrial, military, and human resources that transformed the country into the arsenal of democracy as well as the breadbasket of the world.

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

### **Pillars**

Fifty-six granite pillars celebrate the unprecedented unity of the nation during WWII. The pillars are connected by a bronze sculpted rope that symbolizes the bonding of the nation. Each state and territory from that period and the District of Columbia is represented by a pillar adorned with oak and wheat bronze wreaths and inscribed with its name; the pillars are arranged in the order of entry into the Union, alternating south to north across the plaza beginning adjacent to the Field of Gold Stars. The 17-foot pillars are open in the center for greater transparency, and ample space between each allows viewing into and across the Memorial.

## **Freedom Wall**

The Freedom Wall is on the west side of the memorial, with a view of the Reflecting Pool and Lincoln Memorial behind it. A field of 4,000 sculpted gold stars, each one represents 100 American military deaths, commemorate the more than 400,000 Americans who gave their lives.

When an American went off to fight, the family often displayed in their window a flag bearing a blue star on a white field with a red border. If one of those dreaded telegrams arrived informing them of their family member's death, they would replace the blue star with a gold one; revealing that family's sacrifice. "Here We Mark The Price Of Freedom" is inscribed below the Freedom Wall.

## **Kilroy**

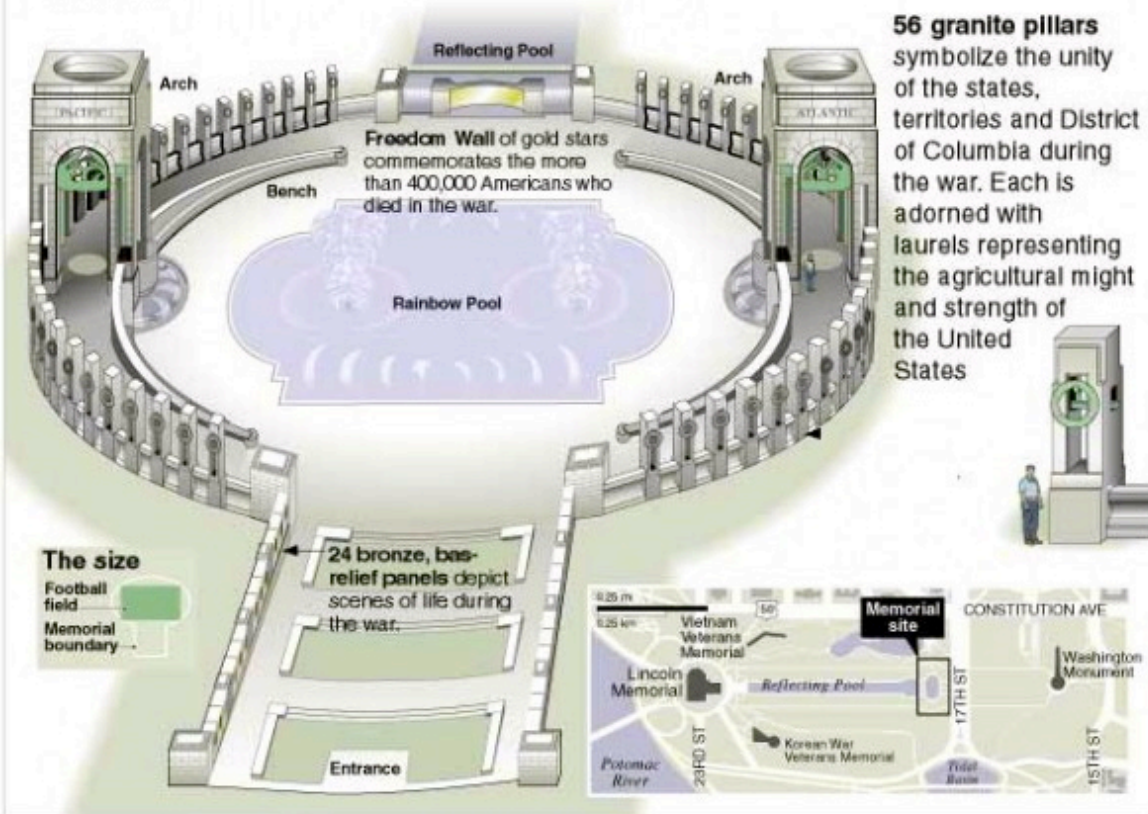
"Kilroy was here", accompanied by a cartoon drawing of a man looking over a wall, was a popular piece of graffiti drawn by American troops in the Atlantic Theater and then later in the Pacific Theater. It came to be a universal sign that American soldiers had come through an area and left their mark. 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. Hint~ look behind the Delaware and Pennsylvania pillars.



# The National World War II Memorial

Two arches represent the Atlantic and Pacific victories. Inside, bronze columns support eagles holding a victory laurel. The WWII victory medal is embedded on the floor.



SOURCES: American Battle Monuments Commission; Leo A. Daly Architects

Emily Branaman/AP

## Vietnam War Memorial



Korean War Memorial

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WWII War Memorial

## **KOREAN VETERANS MEMORIAL**

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is located near the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. 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. The war was one of the most hard fought in our history.

During its relatively short duration from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, 54,246 Americans died in support of their country. Of these, 8,200 are listed as missing in action or lost or buried at sea. In addition 103,284 were wounded during the conflict.

The 19 stainless steel statues, sculpted by Frank Gaylord of Barre, are approximately seven feet tall and represent an ethnic cross section of America. The advance party has 14 Army, 3 Marine, 1 Navy and 1 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.

The Mural Wall was designed by Louis Nelson of New York, NY and fabricated by Cold Spring Granite Company, Cold Spring, MN. 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.

The Pool of Remembrance, at the apex of the triangle, is surrounded by linden trees. A stone wall juts into the pool, an allegorical reference to the Korean peninsula. On it are inscribed statistics of the number of military taken as prisoners of war, killed in action, and missing in action, along with the motto "Freedom is not free" inlaid in silver.

### **VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL**

The Memorial (wall) was designed by an undergraduate at Yale University, Maya Ying Lin, born in Athens, Ohio. She wanted to create a park within a park - a quiet protected place onto itself, yet harmonious with the overall plan of Constitution Gardens. The walls have a mirror-like surface (polished black granite) reflecting the images of the surrounding trees, lawns, monuments, and visitors. The walls seem to stretch into the distance, directing us towards the Washington Monument, in the east, and the Lincoln Memorial, to the west, thus bring the Vietnam Veterans Memorial into a historical context.

As of 2013, there are 58,286 names listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A diamond next to the name indicates the person was killed, a cross indicates the person is missing. If a body is identified, the cross is circled.

**THE THREE SERVICEMEN**~ In January 1982, the decision was made to add a flagstaff and sculpture on the Memorial site in order to provide a realistic depiction of three Vietnam servicemen and a symbol of their courage and devotion to their country.

**VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL STATUE**~ In 1993, the Vietnam Women's Memorial by sculptor Glenna Goodacre was added to the Memorial site to represent the heroic work of women who served in the Vietnam War.

## **LINCOLN MEMORIAL**

Located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, the Lincoln Memorial honors Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. Lincoln was President during the Civil War (1861-65). The memorial, which was built between 1914 and 1922, symbolizes his belief that all people should be free.

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.

\*\*\*\* Restrooms and elevator can be found, as you face Lincoln, on the left side of the memorial.

## **OTHER MEMORIALS**

### **ARLINGTON CEMETERY**

Arlington National Cemetery, the most famous cemetery in the country, is the final resting place for many of our nation's greatest heroes, including more than 300,000 veterans of every American conflict, from the Revolutionary War to Iraq and Afghanistan. Since its founding in 1866, Arlington National



Cemetery has provided a solemn place to reflect upon the sacrifices made by the men and women of the United States Armed Forces in the name of our country.

The cemetery property is on the former grounds of Arlington House, the mansion of George Washington Parke Custis, the adopted grandson of President George Washington, and his wife, Mary Lee Fitzhugh. Mary and George Custis lived at Arlington until their deaths in 1853 and 1857, respectively, passing the property on to Mary Anna. Although Robert E. Lee never owned the property, he and Mary Anna lived there until 1861 when Virginia seceded from the Union and Lee took command of the Virginia State Military while Mary Anna took safety elsewhere. Lee never returned to Arlington House.

On average, 28 burials occur each weekday, for a total of nearly 6,900 each year. Flags at Arlington National Cemetery are flown at half-staff from 30 minutes prior to the first funeral until 30 minutes past the last funeral.

Arlington National Cemetery burial eligibility requirements are stricter than all other national cemeteries.

## **TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNNS**

Adjacent to the amphitheater is the Tomb of the Unknowns, a burial vault containing the remains of three unidentified service members, one each from World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. The Tomb is made from Yule marble quarried in Colorado. It consists of seven pieces, with a total weight of 79 tons. The Tomb was completed in 1932, at a cost of \$48,000.

**HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER  
KNOWN BUT TO GOD**

Inscription on the Tomb of the Unknowns

## **TOMB SENTINELS**

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Sentinels, all volunteers, are considered to be the best of the elite 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), headquartered at Fort Myer, Va. and in any weather by Tomb Guard sentinels.

Do they guard in a blizzard or a bad thunderstorm? YES, BUT the accomplishment of the mission and welfare of the Soldier is never put at risk. The Tomb Guards have contingencies that are ready to be executed IF the weather conditions EVER place the Soldiers at risk of injury or death – such as lightning, high winds, etc. This ensures that Sentinels can maintain the Tomb Guard responsibilities while ensuring soldier safety. It is the responsibility of the Chain of Command from the Sergeant of the Guard to the Regimental Commander to ensure mission accomplishment and soldier welfare at all times.

The Sentinel does not change the way he guards the Tomb, even at night when there is no one around. The Sentinels do this because they feel that the Unknown Soldiers who are buried in the Tomb deserve the very best they have to give.

## **FIRST LT. AUDIE MURPHY**

Second only to President John F. Kennedy's gravesite, Audie Murphy's final resting place is without a doubt one of the most popular places visited at Arlington National Cemetery. Despite the size of the cemetery, finding the exact location of Audie Murphy's burial site is easy. It is directly across the street from the front of the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater.

First Lt. Audie Murphy is our nation's most-decorated soldier, earning an unparalleled 28 medals, including three from France and one from Belgium. Murphy had been wounded three times during the war, yet, in May 1945, when victory was declared in Europe, he had still not reached his 21st birthday.

A special flagstone walkway has been constructed to accommodate the large number of people who stop to pay their respects to this hero. At the end of a row of graves, his tomb is marked by a simple, white, government-issue tombstone, which lists only a few of his many military decorations.

### **UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WAR MEMORIAL**

"In honor and in memory of the men of the United States Marine Corps who have given their lives to their country since November 10, 1775."

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 the defense of the United States since 1775. The thirty-two foot high figures shown raising a 60-foot bronze flagpole in the statue occupy the same positions as 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.

### **UNITED STATES NAVAL MEMORIAL**

The United States Navy Memorial is home to the Memorial Plaza, which features Stanly Bleifield's famous statue, The Lone Sailor. The Lone Sailor — a tribute to all personnel of the sea services — overlooks the Granite Sea, an exact replication of the world's oceans. Surrounding the Granite Sea are two fountain pools, honoring the personnel of the American Navy and the other navies of the world. The southern hemisphere of the Granite Sea is surrounded by 26 bronze bas-reliefs commemorating events, personnel, and communities of the various sea services.

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MEMORIAL

The United States Air Force Memorial honors the service and sacrifices of the men and women of the United States Air Force and its predecessor organizations, including the Aeronautical Division, U.S. Signal Corps; the Aviation Section, U.S. Signal Corps; the Division of Military Aeronautics, Secretary of War; the Army Air Service; the U.S. Army Air Corps; and the U.S. Army Air Forces.

The US Air Force Memorial is dominated by three tall spires, ranging from 201-270 feet in height. The spires symbolize a flying maneuver, known as a “bomb-burst”, where the planes fly close to each other upwards and then split in different directions. The spire structures are made of stainless steel plates with high-strength concrete filling the lower 2/3rds of each spire while the upper third is hollow stainless steel. The United States Air Force star emblem is embedded in granite beneath the spires.

The Memorial also has a paved runway entry, a bronze Honor Guard statue, and walls with inscriptions and for visitors to pay tribute to fallen airmen.

### Sources

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