

**The United States
Marine Corps War
Memorial**

**The Netherlands
Carillon**

Arlington, Virginia



the united states marine corps war memorial

“uncommon
valor was
a common
virtue.”



The Marine Corps War Memorial stands as a symbol of this grateful Nation's esteem for the honored dead of the U.S. Marine Corps. 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.

From Flag-raising to Memorial

The small island of Iwo Jima lies 660 miles south of Tokyo. One of its outstanding geographical features is Mount Suribachi, an extinct volcano that forms the narrow southern tip of the island and rises 550 feet to dominate the area. By February 1945, U.S. troops had recaptured most of the territory taken by the Japanese in 1941 and 1942; still uncaptured was Iwo Jima, which 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 a somewhat ineffective bombardment lasting 72 hours. The 28th Regiment, 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 a.m., 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 by five Marines and a Navy hospital corpsman: Sgt. Michael Strank, Cpl. Harland H. Block, Pfc. Franklin R. Sousley, Pfc. Rene A. Gagnon, Pfc. Ira Hayes, and PhM. 2/c John H. Bradley, USN.

Newsphotographer Joe Rosenthal caught the afternoon flag-raising in an inspiring Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph. When the picture was later released, sculptor Felix W. de Weldon, then on duty with the U.S. Navy, was so moved by the scene that he constructed a scale model and then a life-size model of it. Gagnon, Hayes, and Bradley, the three survivors of the flag-raising (the others having been killed in later phases of the Iwo Jima battle), posed for the sculptor who modeled their faces in clay. 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 re-assembled 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.

Erection of the memorial, which was designed by Horace W. Peaslee, was begun in September 1954. It was officially dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on November 10, 1954, the 179th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Memorial Statistics

The 32-foot-high figures are shown erecting a 60-foot bronze flagpole from which a cloth flag flies 24 hours a day in accordance with Presidential proclamation of June 12, 1961. They occupy the same positions as in Rosenthal's historic photograph. Hayes is the figure farthest from the flag staff; Sousley to the right front of Hayes; Strank on Sousley's left; Bradley in front of Sousley; Gagnon in front of Strank; and Block closest to the bottom of the flagstaff. The figures, placed on a rock slope, rise about 6 feet from a 10-foot base, making the memorial 78 feet high overall. 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 base of the memorial is made of rough Swedish granite. Burnished in gold on the granite are the names and dates of every principal Marine Corps engagement since the founding of the Corps, as well as the inscription: "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." Also inscribed on the base is the tribute of Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz to the fighting men on Iwo Jima: "Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue."

The entire cost of the statue and developing the memorial site was \$850,000—all donated by U.S. Marines, former Marines, Marine Corps Reservists, friends of the Marine Corps, and members of the Naval Service. No public funds were used for this memorial.

the netherlands carillon

“so many voices in
our troubled world
are still unheard”

“From the People of the Netherlands to the People of the United States.” This simple dedication on the Netherlands Carillon expresses the gratitude of the Dutch people for American aid received during and after World War II. The carillon itself symbolizes the friendship between the peoples of the Netherlands and those of the United States—a friendship that, because of a common allegiance to the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy, has weathered temporary differences of opinion. To this friendship and to these principles, the Netherlands Carillon is dedicated.

The idea for this symbolic gift came from G. L. Verheul, a Dutch government official in The Hague. When the concept took shape, the drive for funds to build the carillon and the tower met with generous response from all sections of the Netherlands. Queen Juliana early endorsed the project, and on April 4, 1952, during her visit to the United States, she presented a small silver bell to President Truman as a token of the carillon to come. In ceremonies at Meridian Hill Park in Washington, D.C., the Queen spoke of the importance of the small bells of the carillon:

To achieve real harmony, justice should be done also to the small and tiny voices, which are not supported by the might of their weight. Mankind could learn from this. So many voices in our troubled world are still unheard. Let that be an incentive for all of us when we hear the bells ringing.

During the next few years, the bells were completed and sent to Washington, D.C. On May 5, 1954, the 49-bell carillon was installed in a temporary tower in West Potomac Park, where it was formally accepted by the United States. The present tower was built near the U.S.M.C. War Memorial, and in 1960 the bells were installed. On May 5, 1960, the 15th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands from the Nazis, the carillon was officially dedicated.

Design and Construction

The 49-bell carillon is cast from a bronze alloy of about four-fifths copper and one-fifth tin. Its total weight is 61,403 pounds. The largest bell or “bourdon” has a diameter of 6

feet 9 inches and weighs 12,654 pounds; the smallest bell is 9 inches in diameter and weighs 37.5 pounds. Each bell carries an emblem signifying a group of Dutch society. The smallest bells represent the youth of the Netherlands. The verses cast on each bell were composed by the Dutch poet, Ben van Eysselsteijn.

The tower housing the carillon was designed by a leading Netherlands architect, Joost W. C. Boks. It is an open steel structure reinforced by steel plates with a bronze baked-enamel finish. The tower is about 127 feet high, 25 feet deep, and 36 feet wide. It stands on a quartzite plaza 93 feet square and is enclosed by a low lava stone wall. Two bronze lions, designed by Dutch sculptor Paul Koning, guard the plaza steps. A rectangular staircase leads to a fenced-in platform, from which a small circular staircase winds up to the glass-enclosed playing cabin 83 feet from the ground.

Planted on the surrounding grounds are 13,000 tulip bulbs. An additional 5,000 representing 50 varieties form the beautiful Netherlands Gardens.

Operation of the Carillon

The Netherlands Carillon is tuned to the chromatic scale. Its 49 bells give it one note more than four octaves. Only a trained carillonneur can play a genuine carillon. In the glass-enclosed playing cabin at the top of the tower are the wooden levers and pedals of the clavier. These are connected to the movable inner clappers of the stationary hanging bells. Since striking the wooden levers produces a direct action, the musician is able to achieve a full musical expression.

The carillon is also played by an automatic electronic system. The Westminster Chimes are followed by the striking of the hour during the daylight hours.

About Your Visit

The U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon are located on the Virginia shore of the Potomac River, opposite the National Capital and bordering the northern end of Arlington National Cemetery. From Washington they are easily reached via Memorial Bridge.

Carillon concerts are presented by outstanding carillonners on Saturdays and national holidays from April through August. The United States Marine Corps presents the Marine sunset review parade on Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. June through August.

During concerts visitors are invited to go up into the tower to watch the carillonneur perform and to view the city of Washington.

Safety Note: Persons with cardiac or respiratory ailments should use caution when climbing the stairs of the tower.

Administration

The U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and the Netherlands Carillon are administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Inquiries should be addressed to the Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, McLean, VA 22101. Telephone 703-285-2598 for further information about scheduled events.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

**national park service
u.s. department of the interior**

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