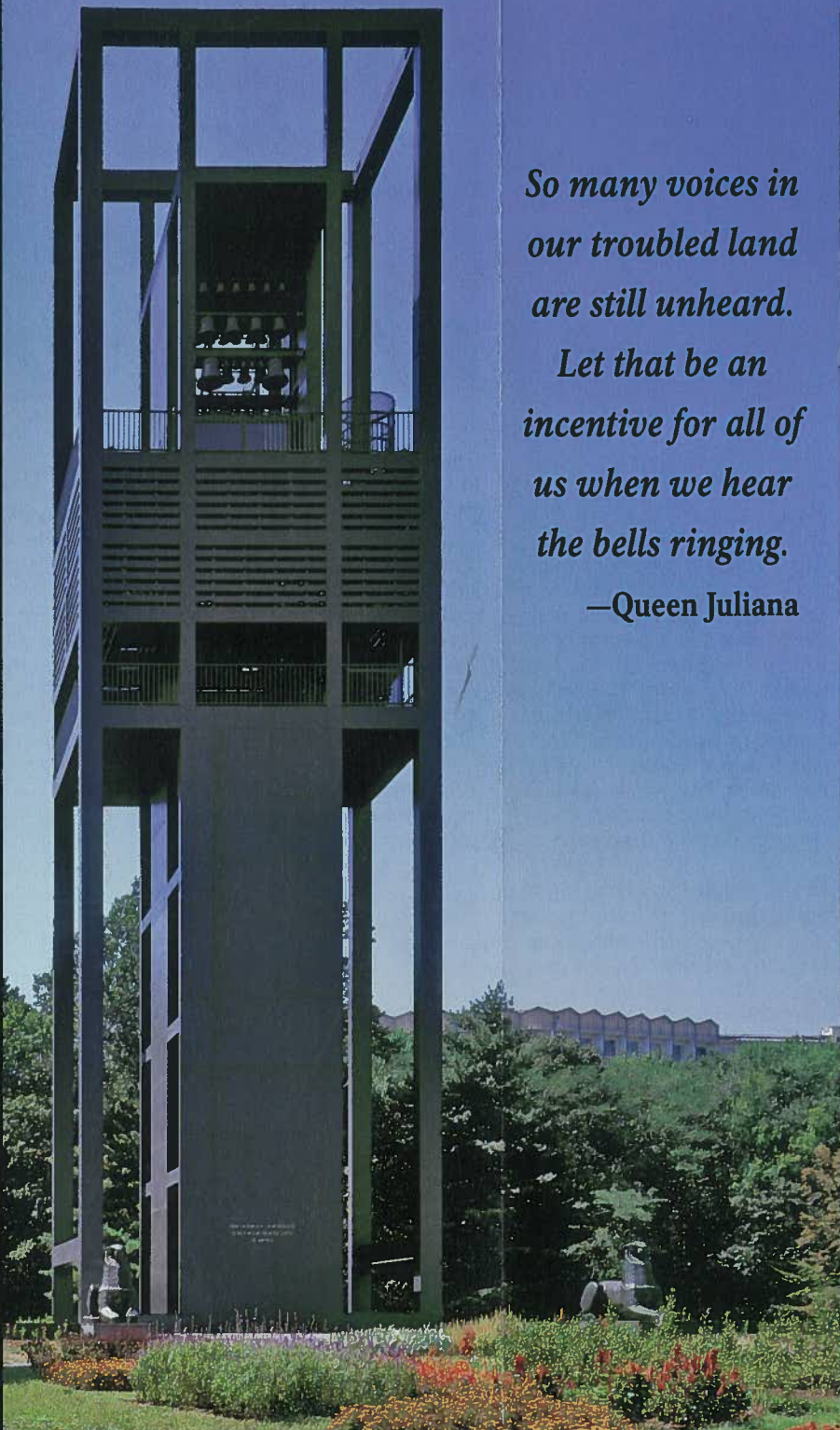


Netherlands Carillon

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington
Memorial Parkway
District of Columbia/Maryland/Virginia



*So many voices in
our troubled land
are still unheard.
Let that be an
incentive for all of
us when we hear
the bells ringing.*
—Queen Juliana



Queen Juliana and President Harry S. Truman during her 1952 visit.

HARRY S. TRUMAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM



Each bell carries an emblem and verse signifying a group within Dutch society.

A Gift of Friendship

Near the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial stands a large bell tower, the Netherlands Carillon. This was a gift "From the People of the Netherlands to the People of the United States" in gratitude for American aid during and after World War II. The carillon symbolizes and is dedicated to the friendship between two countries and their common allegiance to the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy.

The idea for this symbolic gift came from a Dutch government official. Endorsed by Queen Juliana, the concept and the drive for funds to build the carillon and tower met with generous response from all sections of the Netherlands.

On April 4, 1952, during a visit to the United States, Queen Juliana presented a small silver bell to President Truman as a token of the carillon to come.

First installed at a nearby site in 1954, the tower and 49-bell carillon were moved to their present location in 1960. Dutch- and American-sponsored renovations were completed in 1995. A 50th bell was dedicated on May 5 of that year, on the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands from the Nazis.

Design and Construction

The 50-bell carillon is cast from a bronze alloy of about four-fifths copper and one-fifth tin. Its total weight is 61,438 pounds. The largest bell, or bourdon, is six feet, nine inches in diameter and weighs 12,654 pounds; the smallest bell, or treble, is eight inches in diameter and weighs 35 pounds. Each bell carries an emblem, as well as a verse by Dutch poet Ben van Eyssesteijn. The smallest bells contain verses about youth.

COVER © CAROL HIGSMITH
PANOPIA © JOHN SKOWRONSKI





Edward M. Nassor, volunteer carillon director, performs on-site.

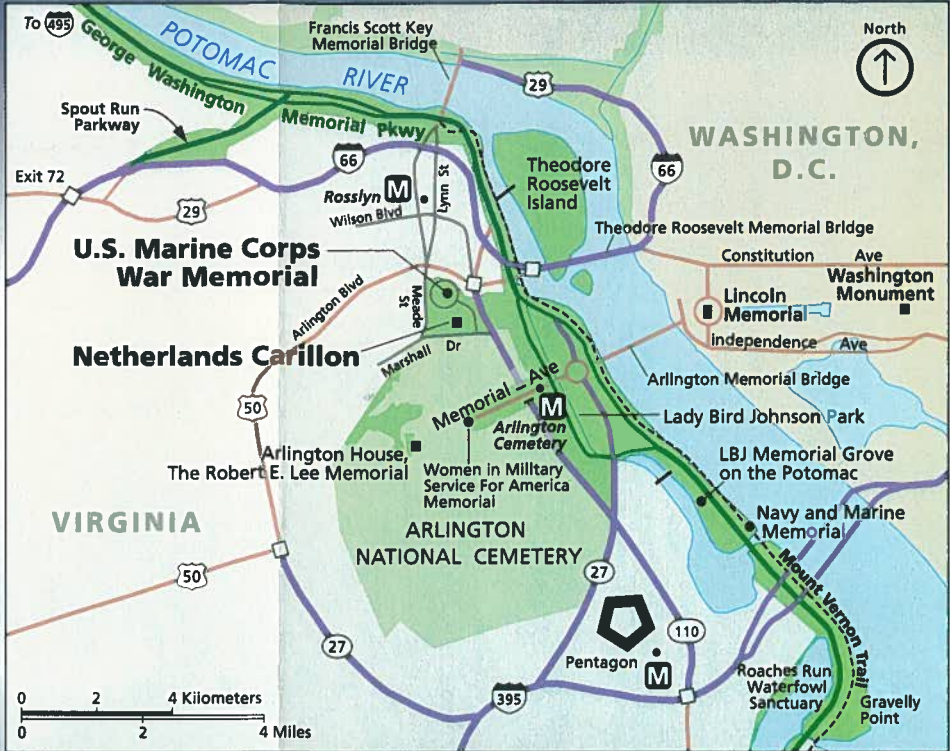
Planning Your Visit

Getting Here The United States Marine Corps War Memorial and Netherlands Carillon are in Virginia along the northern edge of Arlington National Cemetery, across from major monuments and memorials in Washington, D.C. You can get here via the Arlington Cemetery or Rosslyn Metro stations and via U.S. 50 and I-66.

Concerts Carilloners give free concerts on Saturdays from about late May through September. For concert schedules, check the panel on the carillon or contact the park: 703-289-2500; www.nps.gov/gwmp.

Accessibility, Safety, Regulations The United States Marine Corps War Memorial and Netherlands Carillon are administered by George Washington Memorial Parkway, part of the National Park System. For information about safety and accessibility (service animals are welcome) and firearms regulations contact the park: 703-289-2500; www.nps.gov/gwmp.

To learn more about national parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities, please visit www.nps.gov.



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More Information
 George Washington Memorial Parkway
 Turkey Run Park
 McLean, VA 22101
 703-289-2500
www.nps.gov/gwmp



Tulips, a national symbol of the Netherlands, bloom each spring in a spectacular display in front of the carillon. Afterwards, some 5,400 other flowers are planted annually in the beds surrounding the memorial. Please don't pick the flowers, so others may enjoy them.

The tower housing the carillon, designed by Dutch architect Joost W.C. Boks, is an open steel structure reinforced by steel plates. It is about 127 feet high, 25 feet deep, and 36 feet wide, and stands on a quartzite plaza 93 feet square. The plaza is enclosed by a low lava stone wall. Two bronze lions designed by Dutch sculptor Paul Koning guard the approach to the plaza. A rectangular staircase leads to a platform (not open to public). From there a circular staircase winds up to the glass-enclosed playing cabin 83 feet above ground.

Operation of the Carillon The carillon is tuned to the chromatic scale. Its 50 bells give it two notes more than four octaves. In the playing cabin are the clavier's wooden levers and pedals. These connect directly to the movable inner clappers of the stationary hanging bells, permitting the carillonner to achieve a full musical expression. Eighteen bells of the carillon are programmed to play a medley of songs by computer at 12 pm and 6 pm daily.

