



National Mall Times

August 2009

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Welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks!

August is a great time to experience your national park! Our ranger staff presents interpretive programs throughout the park from bike tours and evening walking tours to shorter detailed programs of each memorial.

To learn more about the future of the National Mall, visit the National Mall Plan website (www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan) to read current alternatives, express ideas, and follow our progress.

Page through this newspaper to find out more about the many fascinating ranger programs offered throughout the park. Our park staff and volunteers will be glad to answer any of your questions. Thanks for visiting, and have a wonderful experience at National Mall and Memorial Parks!

The Cuban-American Friendship Urn

By Ranger Jaime Boyle

"The memory of the *Maine* will last forever through the centuries as will the bonds of friendship between the homeland of Cuba and the homeland of the United States of North America."

- English translation of the Spanish inscription on the Cuban-American Friendship Urn

Situated on Ohio Drive, SW near the 14th Street Bridge in West Potomac Park is the Cuban-American Friendship Urn. Because of its location, it is one of Washington, D.C.'s lonely landmarks and at one point was voted D.C.'s most obscure memorial. Also known as the "*Maine Memorial*," the Urn honors the 266 American sailors and Marines who lost their lives after the battleship USS *Maine* blew up in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898.

In January 1898, Cuban revolutionaries rioted in Havana in a second attempt to gain independence from Spain. President William McKinley believed Americans living in Cuba needed protection and sent the battleship USS *Maine* from Key West, Florida to Havana, arriving on January 25, 1898. The Spanish were wary of American intentions but remained courteous to the ship's captain and his crew. To avoid potential problems, Captain Sigsbee



The USS Maine

prohibited his men from going ashore. At 9:40 P.M., on February 15, 1898, the quiet in Havana was disrupted by the *Maine* exploding.

The cause of the explosion was immediately called into question and the United States Navy Department formed a board of inquiry to investigate. At the time, it was believed that a mine caused the explosion, but no fault was assigned. However, the "Yellow Press" in the United States was quick to blame the Spanish. Two days later, William Randolph Hearst published an unsubstantiated headline: "Destruction of the Warship *Maine* Was the Work of the Enemy," with an illustration portraying Spain as the enemy. Public opinion and Congress began to call for war and on April 25, 1898, Congress formally declared war on Spain. "Remember the *Maine*" became the battle cry of the Spanish-American War.

The Cuban-American Friendship Urn honors those who died as a result of the *Maine* explosion and Americans who helped free Cuba from Spanish rule. The Urn originally sat atop a marble column in Havana, Cuba until damaged by a hurricane in 1926. It was then placed on a marble plinth and sent to the United States in 1928, where it was received by President Calvin Coolidge and positioned outside the Cuban Embassy. When the friendship between the United States and Cuba soured in 1959, the Urn disappeared. It was rediscovered in a National Park Service warehouse in 1992 and placed in its current location.



The Cuban-American Friendship Urn



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024

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www.nps.gov/nama or www.nps.gov/mall
National Mall Plan Website:
www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan

Radio: 1670 AM

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Join National Park Service rangers every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. for FREE guided bike tours of the Nation's Capital. (Family Tours are given on the third Sunday of the month from 2:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.) Tour season begins Saturday, March 28, and continues through Sunday, November 29, 2009. Please bring your own bike, helmet (required), and water. All tours begin at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial plaza.

For more information call Bike Program Coordinator, Ranger Jason Martz at 202-438-4391, or check our website: www.nps.gov/mall.

Saturday, August 1 - Unexplored Tales of the City - Stop me if you've heard this one before...

Join NPS rangers as we explore powerful words which have strengthened the fabric of our national identity. Turns of phrase from speeches delivered by presidents, military leaders, and advocates of social change are as familiar to us as popular songs. There are also those that have gone relatively unnoticed. Today we will explore both, and the powerful nation-changing circumstances which surrounded some of our more influential orators to either speak, or not to speak.

Sunday, August 2 – History of the Mall - Explore the History of America's Front Yard

The history of the National Mall is as diverse and fascinating as the history of our nation itself. From George Washington's vision of the Federal City to the District of Columbia of today, how has this span of green space in the heart of the Nation's Capital been altered over time? How has this area been influenced by great natural, cultural, historical, and social events through time? Join us to see and hear how the National Mall has evolved into what you experience today.

Saturday, August 8 – Unexplored Tales of the City – Civil War at Sea

Join National Park Service rangers on a three-hour tour spanning the great events of the American Civil War at sea. This aspect of the Civil War tends to be unfairly overshadowed by the movements of armies across the landscape. Losing the war at sea was an outcome that neither side could afford; for it directly affected the livelihood of the armies commanded by General Grant, General Sherman, General Lee and a host of others. Pitched battle between ironclad ships, the sinking of a vessel off the coast of France, and the closure of vital ports will be recounted as we pass by several landmarks which remind us of the drama and sacrifice of the Civil War.

Sunday, August 9 – Off the Beaten Path - Top Secret! The History of American Espionage

In times of war and peace, brave men and women have often risked their lives to maintain the safety and security of our nation. In secrecy, spies and soldiers have worked behind enemy lines, gathering information, infiltrating foreign governments, and hurting those that would hurt us. Ever vigilant, clandestine operatives attempt to accomplish their missions and escape with their lives. Living in the shadows and working in silence, their stories are

rarely told. Their daring deeds and dramatic sacrifices deserve our respect. To further explore these fascinating tales of intrigue and danger, join NPS rangers for a bike tour, shining a light on the dark and hidden tales of American espionage.

Saturday, August 15 – People of D.C. - In Command: A Salute to the Greatest Collection of American Military Leaders

In times of war, the fates of our people, our nation, and our way of life



have been determined by the brave men and women of our Armed Forces. To achieve victory, they frequently are led by brilliant commanders and dedicated officers. America's generals and admirals have been some of the finer military leaders in the history of the world. Against extraordinary odds, General George Washington defeated the British Empire and helped win our country its independence. The Civil War saw a progression from some of the army's poor commanders to some of their better. World Wars have brought to prominence commanders whose influence is still felt today. Leaders such as Pershing, Eisenhower, and MacArthur have earned their place in the annals of military history. Join NPS rangers for a salute to these great leaders.

Sunday, August 16 - Off the Beaten Path - Discover Lonely and Overlooked Landmarks

You may have seen them on a map, driven past them hundreds of times, or even walked up to one of them out of curiosity. What are they, whom do they memorialize, and, more importantly, why are they here? In a city of colossal and iconic memorials to great figures and even greater deeds, these smaller statues, urns, and symbolic gestures of friendship and remembrance can be found as well; yet, their stories largely have gone untold, until now. Find out from our rangers the stories of these lonely landmarks.

Sunday, August 16 - Family Tour - Amazing Events in the Nation's Capital - 2:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Whoa... That happened here! Did you know that parts of the city were set ablaze by British soldiers during the War of 1812, or that Abraham Lincoln was not the only president to be assassinated in Washington, D.C.? Have you heard about the Cherry Tree "Rebellion" that almost halted construction of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial? National Park Service rangers will guide families through the ages to discover exciting events that took place in and around the National Mall. From hot air balloons over the White House, to canal boats floating down Constitution Avenue, the National Mall has witnessed scores of amazing and notable events. Parents – Please note: all participants (children and adults) must have their own bike and helmet. Reservations for Family Tours are required. Please call Bike Program Coordinator Ranger Jason Martz at 202-438-4391 to make reservations. Space is limited.

Saturday, August 22 – On This Date in History – The Burning of Washington

August 24, 1814 – After their victory at Bladensburg, the British continued their march south along Maryland Avenue and into the heart of the Federal City. The British set fire to the Capitol Building then proceeded up Pennsylvania Avenue to the President's House where a similar fate awaited the home of the Madisons.

Join National Park Service rangers as they lead a special four-hour bike tour that follows the path of destruction from Capitol Hill, along Pennsylvania Avenue, to the President's House, and culminates at the Octagon House. Rangers will tie together the multiple aspects of the Chesapeake Campaign, the Burning of Washington, and the Treaty of Ghent by utilizing Washington, D.C. landmarks, monuments, personalities, and historic structures. This special four-hour bike tour is free of charge but **reservations are required**. To make reservations email Ranger Jason Martz at Jason_Martz@nps.gov or call 202-438-4391.

Sunday, August 23 - People of DC - "Those Shady Ladies"

Mistresses, spies, and conspirators have been the downfall of politicians the world over, including in Washington, D.C. Join National Park Service rangers as they explore the sites and stories behind the scandals and intrigues here in the Nation's Capital. They will explain the figures who were at the epicenter of scandals that tore a hole in the very fabric of democracy and union. Intrigued? You should be!

Saturday, August 29 – Unexplored Tales of the City - "All men are created equal..." the history of civil rights

At its very essence, the history of the United States is the story of people searching and struggling for freedom and equality. The Founding Fathers proclaimed that all men had "certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." As the nation evolved, many brave and brilliant people have worked to expand that guarantee to women and minorities. Many obstacles and difficulties have stalled that progress, but the will of people to be free can never be suppressed forever. Because of leaders such as Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and all those who have fought for civil rights, America is living up to her promise. Join NPS rangers for a bike tour exploring these dramatic stories and sharing these important ideas.

Sunday, August 30 - Off the Beaten Path - A Brief History of Slavery

Slavery has played a major role throughout American History, stretching from before the United States was formed, to the years following the Civil War in the Industrial Age. Yet, what most Americans think of when they picture slavery is but a small portion of what makes up the history of slavery. Slavery has been with humanity almost since the beginning of civilization and still exists in some forms today. This bike tour will provide a brief history of slavery by tracing its origins, examining how it mutated with different cultures and how it led to the peculiar institution we know from the Civil War era.

Every Saturday in August
"Viva la Revolution": The South American Rebellion from Spain
 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

The statues along Virginia Avenue, N.W. honor those who helped the United States acquire its freedom, as well as Latin American revolutionary leaders. Bernardo Galvez helped the United States during its revolution; Jose San Martin, Simon Bolivar, and Jose Artigas led rebel forces that liberated twelve million people in South America from 1810-1824.

Join a National Park Service ranger for a two-hour walking tour of the history and culture of the Spanish and Latin American statues on Virginia Avenue. The tour will start at the entrance to the Foggy Bottom Metro Station (23rd & I Street, NW) and will end at the intersection of Virginia and Constitution Avenues, NW. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended. There are no public restrooms along the route. Contact Mike Balis at 202-438-9710 for more information.

Monday, August 3
The Art of War: Nose Art of World War II Military Aircraft
 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Far from home, and thousands of miles in the sky, World War II pilots faced the enemy head on. Many airmen balanced their fear by painting the nose of their planes, at first to express individualism, but later to evoke emotional memories of home and life during peacetime. Soldiers are often remembered for their heroism, but once in a while an aircraft becomes synonymous with freedom, liberty, and esprit de corps. These iconic images have transcended time to become not just more than American folk art or graffiti, they were legendary symbols representing a great generation of airmen. Meet at the World War II Memorial visitor information booth to learn more. Contact Joel Yarvis at joel_yarvis@nps.gov for more information.

Tuesday, August 4
Sacrifice and Circumstances
 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

How did a conflict resulting in over 33,000 U.S. combat deaths come to be called "The Forgotten War?" American Soldiers in the Korean War suffered through trying circumstances to protect the free world. Harsh terrain and sub-zero weather were constant companions for U.S. troops who were ill-prepared for what politicians and generals thought would be a quick and decisive battle. The Korean War is often referred to as "The Forgotten War" but we can do our part to remember it. Spend time learning about and reflecting on the circumstances of this war, and the conditions experienced by soldiers. Tour begins at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Contact Victor Pillow at 202-426-6841 x345 for more information.



Tuesday, August 4 & 25
Personalities and Politics: National Mall Presidents
 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

What did the four presidents honored by National Mall memorials do well, and not so well? How did personality and character shape their presidencies? What legacies did they leave after their terms in office concluded? This program begins at the entrance to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact Paul Maisto at paul_maisto@nps.gov for more information.



Thursday, August 6, Tuesday, August 11, & Thursday, August 20
Lincoln & FDR: Through the Camera's Lens
 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Spend an hour looking into the souls of two of our more famous presidents. We'll start with the advent of photography, and how each president and his nation were affected by the camera. Did Lincoln use the lens to further his image and ideals? How did the media react to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his ailment? We'll discuss these and other fascinating details, and view some of the more important images that remain from these two influential presidents. Programs take place at the District of Columbia War Memorial (just to the southwest of the World War II Memorial along Independence Avenue.) Contact Lee Vogtman at 202-426-6841 x346 for more information.

Sunday, August 9 & 23
A Tradition of Honor
 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Join National Park Service rangers for a tour of the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II. Learn more about the internment of over 100,000 Americans without due process, and the service of over three thousand of them. Contact Mike Balis at 202-438-9710 for more information about this program, and where to meet.

Tuesday August 11
Heads or Tails? Making Cents of American Currency
 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

When you look at American currency, what does it mean to you? Many people never take the time to notice who is on a coin or currency. What about its design? Is it symbolic? Whose ideas were these? By understanding the symbolic designs on American currency we can better appreciate the ideologies of hope, optimism, patriotism, and freedom that were envisioned by our Founding Fathers. What qualities about American money give it such a special place in our culture? What is the significance of who is on the money, and how has American money changed over time? The buck stops here! Meet at the Lincoln Memorial to learn more. Contact Joel Yarvis at Joel_Yarvis@nps.gov for more information.

Wednesday, August 12
 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.,
The Atlantic Charter
 9:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

On August 12, 1941 United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt met British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada for an important wartime strategy meeting. One of the important consequences of this particular meeting was the formation of the Atlantic Charter. What was the Atlantic Charter and why was it so important? Come learn more about this important historical meeting and its historical implications at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.

Wednesday, August 12
Twilight Bird Walk around the Tidal Basin
 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

Join a National Park Service ranger on a guided walk around the Tidal Basin to see how many bird species we can identify before the sun sets. Bring your own binoculars or participants can sign out a nature pack which includes a sketch pad, binoculars, books, park brochures, maps and activities for the whole family. Meet at the World War II Memorial ranger station. Contact Robert Steele at 202-438-9574 for more information.

Friday, August 14 & 21
Washington and the Heroes of the Revolution
 6:00pm to 7:00pm

General George Washington led American forces to victory in the Revolutionary War and he did so with the aid of European tactics, troops, and leaders. Join a park ranger to learn about some of these leaders and how they are commemorated in the landscape of the capital city. Tours begin at the Washington Monument, and walking shoes are recommended. Contact Don Stanko at 240-375-4857 for more information.



Saturday, August 15 & 29
FDR and WWII: Post WWII America
 8:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Can a president's policies make a difference? Can war be good for a country? Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and listen to how World War II shaped America both culturally and socially. Program begins at the entrance to the memorial. Contact Tyler Smith at 202-426-6841 x351 for more information.

Ranger Led Programs - Continued

Saturday, August 15 & 29
Meet the Big Four on the Mall
8:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

Come meet four Presidents on the National Mall. Why are Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln represented by a national monument and three memorials on the National Mall? Washington, the first president, is remembered as a military leader during the American Revolution, and the country's first head of state. Jefferson, our third president, is remembered for his wide range of talents, from agricultural pursuits to diplomacy. Franklin Roosevelt, the thirty-second president, led the United States through the Great Depression and the Second World War. Lincoln, the sixteenth president, presided over America's 19th century crisis, the American Civil War. This free walking tour begins at the Washington Monument, and will make stops at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the FDR Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.



Tuesday, August 18
Mason and Jefferson: How Their Beliefs Shaped America
8:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Join us on a walking tour of the George Mason and Thomas Jefferson Memorials as we explore the thoughts and beliefs of two of the men who influenced the documents that we rely on today. Program begins at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact Tyler Smith at 202-426-6841 x351 for more information.

Tuesday, August 25
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.,
Paris Is Liberated!
9:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

Paris, France fell to German forces in June 1940 and Adolf Hitler visited the city shortly after it was captured, but on August 25, 1944 Paris was liberated by Allied forces. Although the city was not of strategic value, it was a great symbol for the Allies, particular the Free French who were given the honor of retaking the city from the Germans. This also meant that the Germans were on the run in France. Why was the city not destroyed by the German commander as ordered by Hitler in 1944? Did the retaking of the city mean that the war would soon be over in Europe? Come and learn about this historical event at the World War II Memorial. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.

Potomac Nature Packs

Birds, Bugs and Trees, OH MY!

Discover the wild side of the National Mall with nature packs designed to engage the entire family. Each pack is filled with a sketch pad, binoculars, books, park brochures, maps and activities for the whole family. These self-guided nature packs allow the whole family to put on their Eagle eyes and explore the unbe-leaf-able sights and sounds of the National Mall!

Packs are available at the Survey Lodge Ranger Station near the southwest corner of the Washington Monument grounds. Packs are available on a first come, first served basis and require an adult's drivers license. One pack per family. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.



Urban Campfire Programs at Sylvan Theater

The National Park Service invites you to attend the third season of Urban Campfire Programs at Sylvan Theater! Enjoy an evening in the Nation's Capital and help National Mall and Memorial Parks commemorate the Bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Bring comfortable chairs or blankets, and spend an hour on the Washington Monument grounds at the historic Sylvan Theater at 15th Street and Independence Avenue, SW. Free parking is available at the nearby Paddle Boat lot near the Tidal Basin. The nearest Metro Station is Smithsonian, just four blocks from the Sylvan Theater. Programs are held weather permitting. Contact Brad Berger at 202-438-4173 for more information.

Saturday, August 1 - William H. Seward
8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

William Seward was Lincoln's biggest rival for the Republican Party's presidential nomination in 1860. As a consolation prize he became Secretary of State instead. Seward was one of the few members of Lincoln's cabinet who developed a friendship with Lincoln and one of the few members to stay on for Lincoln's second term. Their relationship was complex and ego-ridden, yet respectful and warm, and Seward developed a personal connection with Lincoln that would become historical April 14, 1865.

Saturday, August 8 - John Hay and John Nicolay, Lincoln's Secretaries
8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

To learn about the life and presidency of Abraham Lincoln, it is wise to learn about the people who knew him well. Of all the people close to President Lincoln, perhaps

John Hay and John Nicolay, Lincoln's White House secretaries, knew him the best. Throughout the Lincoln presidency, those two young men shared in his public responsibilities and his private life. They lived just down the hall from the Lincoln family and stayed up late into the night with the man they called, "The Tycoon." After Lincoln's death, they became the stewards of his papers and his legacy, writing a massive biography of their idol. Join the National Park Service at the Sylvan Theater to explore the fascinating relationship between one of our great presidents and two of his devoted supporters.

Saturday, August 15 - Salmon P. Chase
8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

In 1861, the arduous task of financing the Civil War fell to the newly appointed Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase. Politically ambitious, Chase was driven by an almost obsessive desire to become the next President of the United States which frequently put him at odds with Abraham Lincoln. Learn more about this turbulent relationship and Chase's use of his position within Lincoln's cabinet to promote his own political agenda.

Saturday, August 22 - Edwin M. Stanton
8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Edwin McMasters Stanton was a self-made man with a brilliant mind, and had a very successful law career when he moved to Washington, DC. A few years prior to the move he had already encountered a lawyer named Abraham Lincoln, to whom he took an instant dislike. When the nation was torn by civil war, Stanton found himself a part

of President Lincoln's cabinet, as Secretary of War. Why would Lincoln offer this important position to a man he knew hated him? How could this man possibly benefit Lincoln and his administration? These are questions that will be answered in this presentation.



Saturday, August 29 - Mary Todd Lincoln
8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Come discover more about the life of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln. Who was she? Where was she from? What was it like to be married to Abraham Lincoln? What was her life like following Lincoln's death? Put on your eagle eyes and elephant ears to learn more about this woman's history. Explore her extraordinary life as told by National Park Service rangers.

Built of Stone, the Geology behind the Monuments and Memorials

By Ranger Miriam Hornstein

The designers of the iconic structures along the National Mall chose stone that would not only make up their vision but demonstrate certain characteristics as well. The stone needed to be pleasing to the eye, easy to quarry and carve into the required shapes, and strong enough to last through harsh weather and environmental conditions. But the final critical measure by which the designers judged their building materials is how they helped set the mood or tell the story of the person or event being commemorated.

When the Washington Monument was constructed in the 1800s, the source for the materials had to be nearby because of the primitive means of transportation. However, the marble for the outside and the solid, robust blue gneiss for the interior were carefully selected by architect Robert Mills. The marble recalls the classic building materials used in Greece and Rome and could be easily carved into the elaborate ornamentation that his original design called for, while the blue gneiss was an engineering necessity.



Michigan Commemorative Stone

But the true mood setters of the Washington Monument are the one hundred and ninety-three commemorative stones that were placed in the interior of the monument. The stones were meant to represent places, such as every state in the Union, and to act as a fundraiser. The Washington National Monument Society made it

clear that they were open to accepting cash along with the donation of the stones; however, most of the stones came without any monetary gift. The most common materials for the commemorative stones are granite, marble, limestone, and sandstone, as these materials were local to the places they symbolize. But some states chose more exotic material. Michigan sent a block of native copper, which is copper as it was removed from the mine—still mixed with silver in this case. Arizona, home to Petrified Forest National Park, sent a stone made from three petrified tree trunks. In 1982, Alaska sent its commemorative stone; it is a solid block of jadeite from Jade Mountain, in Northwest Alaska, and is worth over three million dollars.



Arizona Commemorative Stone



Lincoln Memorial

At the turn of the twentieth century, Henry Bacon designed the Lincoln Memorial to emphasize Lincoln's role as the preserver of our union by selecting specific building materials. Milford Pink granite, from Massachusetts, was used around

the outside base of the memorial to represent the North and marble from Georgia, Tennessee, Colorado, and Alabama embody the East, West and South. Bacon wanted Lincoln's memorial to show, in its building blocks, that a country almost torn asunder by civil war could come together to build something stronger and even more beautiful than before.

In 1982 when the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated, a new era in memorial design on the National Mall began. Previously, memorials were places of overpowering magnificence. But with the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the visitors became included as a part of the memorial and the visit changed to a more personal one-on-one experience. When the design competition for this memorial was held, the controversies of the war were set aside by the winning design submitted by Maya Lin. Her choice of a simple, elegant design that created a quiet protected place unto itself allows all who visit the opportunity to reflect and remember.

Her use of black granite from Bangalore, India was a deliberate choice meant to reinforce the intensely

personal experience of visiting the memorial. The "granite" is not really granite geologically speaking. It is instead a gabbro, a rock composition that if born above

ground and hardened in the open air would be known as basalt. Its hard composition means that it can be polished to a highly reflective surface and remain extremely durable. These characteristics are important, along with the dark color of the stone, because Maya Lin wanted visitors to the memorial to see themselves along with the names engraved in the stone—to know that they are a part of us as we are a part of them.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The source of the black granite that Maya Lin specified in her design can only be found in three areas of the world. Of these three sources, a quarry in India was chosen over those in Canada and Sweden. Ultimately, political differences did play a role in the memorial construction.

When walking through the rooms of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, the granite walls and flooring are an integral part of the memorial. The designer, Lawrence Halprin, was determined to use the reddish-grey New England fieldstone that Roosevelt adored. But there wasn't a quarry that could produce the size or amount of stone needed for the memorial.

The red Carnelian granite from the Cold Springs quarry of South Dakota was the closest color match that could be found. Thirty-one thousand, two hundred and thirty-nine stones—including pavers, were used in the making of the memorial and each of the stones used in building the walls had to be individually designed and cut to amplify the emotional effect of Roosevelt's words to be inscribed upon them. The pavers were designed in a repetitive random pattern that was much easier to fabricate. The rough texture of the granite sets the scene in each of the four rooms of the memorial, creating a reminder that the four terms of Roosevelt's presidency were among the more trying times that this country had faced to date.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

As you visit the memorials and monuments of the National Mall, take a minute to look closely at their basic building blocks. They set the stage for our experiences within them.

Visiting the Washington Monument

Summer Hours: 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.
Monday, May 25 - Monday, September 7

Rest of Year: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

All persons who wish to visit the Washington Monument must have a ticket. One person may pick up to six tickets. Open daily (except July 4 and December 25).

Timed entry tickets are required and may be obtained in two ways:

1. Free, same-day tickets may be picked up at the Washington Monument Lodge (located at the base of the Monument along 15th Street) on a first come - first serve basis, the morning of your visit. Monument Lodge opens at 8:30 A.M.
2. Reserved tickets may be obtained in advance by visiting www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777 (for individuals) or 1-877-559-6777 (for large groups). **Reserved tickets are often booked 30 days ahead of time.** Please plan accordingly. All reserved tickets carry a \$1.50 convenience charge.



The Old Post Office, built between 1892 and 1899, is home to the Bells of Congress, which were a gift from England on our Nation's Bicentennial. From the observation deck, located 270 feet above the street level, the visitor can get a spectacular view of our Nation's Capital.

Operating Hours

Summer: Memorial Day through Labor Day

Monday through Saturday
 9:00 A.M. - 7:45 P.M.
 Sunday and Holidays
 10:00 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.

Winter: Labor Day through Memorial Day

Monday through Saturday
 9:00 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.
 Sunday 10:00 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.



202-606-8691 www.nps.gov/opot

Old Post Office Tower NHS Tours and Presentations

Ranger led walking tours of Pennsylvania Avenue
Upon Request - Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.

Join a park ranger for an interpretive program to learn more about one of Washington, D.C.'s more impressive and fascinating landmarks, the Old Post Office Tower. Tours are by request. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

**For Whom the Bell Tolls:
 The Washington Ringing Society
 and the Bells of Congress**
First Thursday of every month 6:45 P.M.

The art of change ringing goes back to the Middle Ages, and you can experience it first-hand at the Old Post Office Tower! To learn more about the systematic ringing of the Bells of Congress, join members of the Washington Ringing Society the first Thursday of each month for a full explanation of the Bells of Congress, why they are here, and how they work. The program will be followed by their weekly practice session. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

Eastern National

Want to learn more about National Mall and Memorial Parks? Eastern National, a park partner, operates four bookstores throughout the park. The bookstores are located at:

Lincoln Memorial
 9:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

www.easternnational.org

Washington Monument Lodge
 8:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Tourmobile Sightseeing

Get ready for the sights and sounds of the Nation's Capital. Tourmobile Sightseeing's narrated shuttle tours take you right where you want to go. Buy your tickets from the driver, and enjoy unlimited re-boarding. You choose where to stop, stay as long as you want, then board and ride to another historic location.

202-554-5100

www.tourmobile.com

"Monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

National Park Service Organic Act
 August 25, 1916

Daily Ranger Programs



- World War II Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

Join National Park Service rangers to learn more about the meaning, symbolism, and significance of the park's many memorials. No prior sign-up is required, and all programs are free. Program length varies. For more information contact a park ranger at each memorial. Programs are offered at the following memorials...

Scheduled Programs are presented at:

11:00 A.M., 1:00 P.M.,
 3:00 P.M., 5:00 P.M.

**Additional programs on request.