



National Mall and Memorial Parks

March 2011 • Volume 4, Issue 3

DAILY INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS



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 ranger at each memorial.

Programs are offered at the following memorials...

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

Scheduled Programs are presented at:
10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m.,
8 p.m., and 10 p.m., staff permitting.

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This newspaper is also available online. Visit www.nps.gov/nama and click on NEWS.

Editor In Chief: Susan Martin
Editor: Ruth Epstein

View This as That Call...

By Ranger Brad Berger

In the late hours of March 22, 1820 cries of lamentation were heard in the northwest corner of Lafayette Square, a mere stone's throw from the White House. One of the nation's more experienced naval officers passed on after an ordeal of suffering which lasted more than 12 hours. How did a strong, fit man of 41 years die so quickly? The answer lies in a twisted path of military engagement, litigation, hearsay and correspondence which began almost 13 years earlier.

The Napoleonic age was a time of virtually constant warfare. Warring powers, chiefly in the form of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte of France and the ministries serving the Prince Regent of Great Britain engaged in economic warfare in addition to direct military action, making free trade a difficult, if not impossible endeavor. A key factor in this struggle was the Royal Navy.

This mighty weapon of Great Britain tightened the noose around the maritime trade of France. The British Admiralty was especially concerned

Commodore James Barron was entrusted as Flag Officer of the squadron. On June 22, shortly after the Chesapeake left Norfolk, warships of the Royal Navy approached the Chesapeake. Requests to the Chesapeake to submit to an inspection by the British officers were refused. Captain S.P. Humphreys of the HMS Leopard resorted to the strength of her guns and ultimately subdued the Chesapeake. The Chesapeake fired only one shot in response as her guns and deck were not prepared for action. This was such a curious condition that Barron's conduct was brought under inquiry by the navy and ultimately he faced court martial. A hero of the war against the Barbary pirates, Barron's fellow naval officer



Commodore Stephen Decatur

about desertion and officers in the service of the Crown periodically stopped vessels in order to determine if deserters were aboard.

Conversely, officers of the fledgling U.S. Navy stood vigil against depredations by the ship of any nation against American naval or commercial vessels. The balmy days of early summer of 1807 witnessed the USS Chesapeake being fitted in Norfolk for patrol.

Stephen Decatur advised at the inquiry as well as the court martial. The highly irregular circumstance of serving on both panels did not sit well with Decatur, for he begged to be relieved of the dual duty claiming, "It is probable that I am prejudiced against Commodore Barron." Nevertheless, he was refused this request. Ultimately in

Decatur Continued on page 4

NATIONAL MALL AND MEMORIAL PARKS
900 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024



Park Headquarters: 202-485-9880
Visitor Information: 202-426-6841

Park Websites: www.nps.gov/nama
www.nps.gov/mall

National Mall Plan Website:
www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan

Radio: 1670 AM

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March

Don't Forget...

Daily ranger programs presented at the memorials, staff permitting: 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., 10 p.m..

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------|--|----------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 🕒 11 a.m. 🕒 5 p.m. 🕒 6 p.m. | 5 🕒 5 p.m. |
| 6 🕒 2 p.m. | 7 🕒 6 p.m. | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 🕒 5 p.m. 🕒 6 p.m. | 12 🕒 5 p.m. |
| 13 🕒 3 p.m. 🕒 6 p.m. | 14 | 15 🕒 6 p.m. | 16 🕒 5 p.m. | 17 | 18 🕒 5 p.m. 🕒 6 p.m. | 19 🕒 2 p.m. 🕒 7 p.m. |
| 20 🕒 6 p.m. | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 🕒 8 a.m. 🕒 2 p.m. |
| 27 🕒 1 p.m. 🕒 2 p.m. | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

National Cherry Blossom Festival March 26 - April 10. For more information turn to pages 6 - 7.

PROGRAMS

Friday, March 4, 11, 18
Women in WWII
5 – 5:30 p.m.
6 – 6:30 p.m.

American women served on the home front and in the military during WWII. Come learn about military programs created for women during WWII, specific individual women who served, and new roles women played in American agriculture and industry. Meet at the World War II Memorial. For more information contact Ranger Victor Pillow at 202-286-1624.

Friday, March 4
Thomas Jefferson 1st U.S. President in DC?
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join park staff in 1776 attire in remembering Thomas Jefferson as the first U.S. President to take the oath of office in Washington, DC in 1801. Also, sign with a Quill pen a good luck sheet for President Jefferson. Meet at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. For more information contact Ranger Mike G. Rose at 202-438-9667.

Saturday, March 5
The Women of the Civil War
5 - 6 p.m.

They tended soldiers and fought alongside them. They supported President Lincoln or plotted against him. They were nurses and spies, heroines and traitors. Come learn about the many ways that women participated in the Civil War. Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. For more information contact Ranger Kathy Kagle at 202-438-5377 or Park Guide Susan Philpott at 202-233-3520.

Sunday, March 6 & 27
From the Right to Vote to the Vote for Rights - Alice Paul, Suffragettes, & Pennsylvania Avenue
2 – 2:30 p.m.

Come learn about the women who influenced the face of American politics. Alice Paul led a successful campaign for women's suffrage that resulted in the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920. For more information contact Ranger Kayla Hentz at 202-606-8691.

Monday, March 7 & Tuesday, March 15
The Women in Abraham Lincoln's Life
6 – 6:30 p.m.

Abraham Lincoln's great success was influenced by the love and support of the women around him. Come hear the story of the remarkable women who were close to our 16th president. Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. For more information contact Ranger Matt Hornberger 202-233-3540.

Saturday, March 12
Rosie the Riveter
5 - 6 p.m.

The advent of World War II drastically impacted American values and attitudes. One significant factor was the push to bring women into the workforce in large numbers. Come and learn about the many women who entered the workforce during WWII. Meet at the World War II Memorial. For more information contact Ranger Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066.

Sunday March 13
Women's History for Kids
6 – 7 p.m.

Join a Park Ranger to learn about women's history. Listen to a story about First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Bring your Junior Ranger Booklet! Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. For more information contact Ranger Kristel Nelson at 252-305-7835.

Sunday, March 13
First Lady of the World: Eleanor Roosevelt
3 - 4 p.m.

Truman dubbed her "First Lady of the World;" polls in 1999 were still listing her among the most admired persons in the world; and her accomplishments still affect us today. Join us in celebrating her legacy with a review of her achievements. Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. For more information contact Ranger Jan Buerger at 202-497-1397.

Wednesday, March 16
FDR and the Women in His Life
 5 – 5:45 p.m.

Explore the personal, political, and psychological implications strong women bore on Franklin Roosevelt's life. History was affected by these relationships. Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. For more information contact Ranger Paul Maisto at 240-375-6375.

Saturday, March 19 & 26
The Early Days of Pennsylvania Avenue
 2 – 3 p.m.

Pennsylvania Avenue has been a highly symbolic and functional part of the U.S. Government since its creation in the early 1790s. Come learn about its beginnings and the events that shaped its character. Meet at Freedom Plaza. For more information contact Ranger Jason Barna at 202-606-8691.

Saturday, March 19
Women During WWII
 7 – 8 p.m.

Women of WWII served near the war fronts and there were those who served on the home front. There were nurses in the Philippines who become POWs, women who were WACs, WAVEs, and Spars, while others worked in the shipyards and factories during WWII. Meet at the World War II Memorial. For more information contact Ranger Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066.

Sunday, March 20
Truman's First Lady of the World: Eleanor Roosevelt
 6 – 7 p.m.

Harry Truman gave this appellation to a remarkable First Lady. Learn more about her at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. For more information contact Ranger Lowell Fry at 202-438-9603.



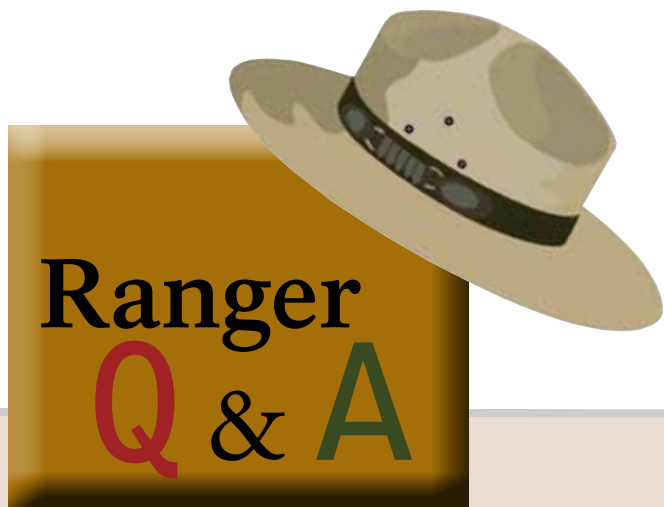
Sunday, March 27
Cherry Blossom
 1 – 4 p.m.

If you want to enjoy the warm weather and experience the famous blossoms without all the traffic, you'll love our ranger-led bike tours! No two tours are ever the same. All riders MUST provide their own bike, helmet and water. Meet at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. For more information contact Ranger Richard Ayad at 202-438-3456.



Saturday, March 26
Cherry Blossom
 8 – 9 a.m.

Come and explore the cherry blossoms in the quiet of the morning with a 3.5-mile run through the park with a ranger. Interpretive stops about the history of these famous trees are included. Please bring your own water. Meet inside the circle of flags at the Washington Monument. For more information contact Ranger Susan Martin at 202-437-1888.



Interview with Ranger Adam Cochran



Ranger Adam Cochran

National Park Service Ranger Adam Cochran blends the characteristics of rangers cut from the old cloth, like John Muir, with the spirit of movie icon Indiana Jones. Adam is an intrepid adventurer. From his background growing up in the mountains of Sandpoint, ID, he has continued to hitchhike the world visiting over 40 countries on five continents. Adam first began working for the National Mall and Memorial Parks in 1996.

Q. How did you come to be a park ranger on the National Mall?

A. First of all, I love nature. I grew up in open spaces and was a Boy Scout. I remember seeing Indiana Jones and wanting to experience similar adventures. When I first came to Washington, DC I took a job as an archaeologist with the Museum of Natural History. Though the job was interesting enough, I did not want to be indoors or work in an office. A year later I took a ranger job here at the National Mall.

Q. How was the transition to being a park ranger on the National Mall?

A. The National Mall is unique because we have so many sites, the rangers here rotate daily from site to site. We have a vast history to learn, and sharing this information with the public keeps you interested and busy.

Q. What is the most interesting part of your job?

A. The people that I work with! I have made lifelong friends among the National Mall rangers and through my collateral duty as the Fire Management Officer (FMO) for the park.

Q. Describe your FMO duty.

A. I train and prepare rangers for wildland fighting. These particular fires range from three-foot flames to 300-foot flames and everything in between! I have fought fires in California, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Arkansas, Virginia and Maryland.



Ranger Cochran fighting a fire in Maryland

Ranger Q & A Continued on page 10

February 1808, Barron was found guilty of failure to have his vessel prepared to engage an enemy and was cashiered from naval service for five years.

Under this penalty, Barron found service in Europe commanding commercial ships. February 1813 came and went, effectively ending Barron's banishment. The end of Barron's sentence fell directly in the middle of the War of 1812. Since his sentence was over, he applied for reinstatement in the navy. Unfortunately for Barron, the war concluded with no positive answer to his inquiries and several more years passed before he won reinstatement,

ultimately returning to the country in 1818. His reputation damaged, Barron never regained his former prestige. In the wake of his return, comments of invective were uttered at the mention of his name. This vitriol echoed in the halls of government and gala balls of the national capital and word spread quickly to Barron of such talk. Of particular interest were words allegedly uttered by a member of President Monroe's administration, the

naval commissioner Stephen Decatur. Decatur, whose reputation grew ever higher after his service in the War of 1812, traded his base of operations from a frigate to a home in Lafayette Square, a minute's walk from the executive mansion. Friends of Commodore Barron made sure Decatur's remarks struck home. On June 12, 1819, Barron wrote to Decatur, "I have been informed in Norfolk that you have said that you could insult me with impunity, or words to that effect." Barron's letter touched off a series of accusations and rebuttals that lasted into the next year. An ominous piece of correspondence was written on October 31 when Commodore Decatur denied having challenged Commodore Barron to decide the matter with weapons. He commented that he was under the impression from a common acquaintance that Barron intended to leave Virginia with a view of traveling to the capital to issue a challenge. He wrote: "I then stated to that gentleman, as I have to all others with whom I have conversed about the subject, that, if you made the call, I would meet you; but that, on all scores, I should be much better pleased, to have nothing to do with you." Seemingly tiring of the affair after further correspondence, Decatur, on December 29, wrote to Barron: "I have now to inform you, that I shall pay no further attention to any communication you may make to me, other than a direct call to the field." Barron's reply of January 16 sealed the compact, stating: "whenever you will consent to meet me

on fair and equal grounds, that is, such as two honorable men may consider just and proper, you are at liberty to view this as that call..."

In the ensuing weeks arrangements were made by their seconds, or representatives, which resulted in an interview, or duel on March 22, 1820. A gala hosted by Decatur and his wife on March 19, 1820, celebrating the wedding of President Monroe's daughter Maria served witness to a melancholy scene. At this festive time the solemn, reflective Decatur mentioned to his friend Commodore David Porter, who intended to host a similar gathering the following week, "I may spoil your party." The

22nd was a Wednesday and Commodore Decatur rose before the first rays of the sun scored the cool morning air. How ironic that this, the first day of spring, a symbol of renewal of life, fell witness to a gentlemen's ritual legendary for claiming lives prematurely.

After a long stroll to a spot near the Capitol where

he breakfasted, Commodore Decatur departed by carriage for a secluded area across the district line in Maryland. This was a favored spot by many for such events before and after what happened that Wednesday morning. Known as the Bladensburg Dueling Ground, it was close enough to the district so that those transgressing in this illegal activity could cross the district boundary quickly into relative safety from Maryland authorities. Shortly after 9 a.m., the pistols were loaded by the seconds. The two naval officers faced each other at the distance of eight paces or 24 yards. Prior to the count, Barron proclaimed: "I hope on meeting in the next world we will be better friends than in this." "I have never been your enemy sir," echoed from Decatur's lips. At the count of three, the idyllic setting was disturbed by the report of the weapons. Both men fell simultaneously. In a morning fraught with bitter irony, the men came to an understanding. Barron immediately forgave the perceived insult received from Decatur. Both believed their wounds to be mortal ones, yet only one was correct. Carried home from the scene, Commodore Decatur suffered hours of agonizing pain from his abdominal wound. His death brought an end to the life of an American hero, while Commodore Barron, who recovered from his thigh wound, lived 31 more years in relative anonymity in comparison with Decatur's legend. Barron ultimately passed on in the year 1851, at that time a standing officer in the U. S. Navy.



Commodore James Barron



How to Visit the Washington Monument

Washington Monument admission is free, but does require a ticket for everyone over the age of two. Open daily except July 4 and December 25.

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

1. The Washington Monument Lodge, located along 15th Street, opens at 8:30 a.m. for distribution of free, same day, timed tickets on a first come, first-served basis. One person may pick up as many as six tickets as well as select their preferred ticket time from what remains available for that operating day.
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 or more ahead of time. Please plan accordingly. All reserved tickets carry a \$1.50 convenience charge.

Operating Hours:

Sept. 7-May 30: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
May 31 - Sept. 6: 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**National Mall and Memorial Parks
Cell Phone Tours**

Lincoln Memorial: 202-747-3420
First Amendment: 202-595-0085
Cherry Blossom Festival: 202-747-3465

Women in Wartime

By Ranger Victor Pillow

American women have served in wartime since the American Revolution. During the war, some women would become “camp followers,” following the soldiers and taking care of them. Have you ever heard the name Molly Pitcher? As the story goes, a woman named Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley was with her husband at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. During this time Molly was a common nickname for women named Mary and so, as she carried water to the soldiers during the battle, the men would cry out, “Molly Pitcher! Molly Pitcher!” From this grew the legend of Molly Pitcher. When Mary’s husband was killed she took his place at the cannon, fighting bravely alongside the men.

At least 250 women served disguised as men during the Civil War: some served for patriotism, some to follow their husbands and some to escape their binding roles in Victorian society. In 1777 Sybil Ludington, the 16-year-old daughter of an American militia colonel, rode through the countryside of New York mustering the local militia to meet at her family home and retaliate against a British raid. The distance she traveled was twice

that of Paul Revere’s ride, riding 40 miles from 9 p.m. until dawn. Deborah Sampson, AKA Robert Shurtleiff, dressed as a man, joined the Continental Army

and served in three campaigns. To avoid detection as a woman, she even went as far as to secretly extract a musket ball from her own thigh after being wounded in 1782. Her secret would have still

remained today if a doctor had not realized her sex while she was unconscious, almost dead from fever in 1783. Her commanding general kept her secret because

members of the military. Women went on to play other vital roles in the U.S. military’s medical field. Harriet Tubman was a nurse for soldiers and helped Southern slaves escape to the North through the Underground Railroad. At one point she also acted as an armed scout and helped free 700 slaves during Union assaults on a collection of plantations along the Combahee River in South Carolina. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker became the first female surgeon in the U.S. Army after being commissioned as a civilian-contract acting assistant surgeon. After being captured as a prisoner of war and then released during a POW exchange, she was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Andrew Johnson.

During WWII, women’s roles expanded with the Women’s Army Corps or WAACs. The WAACs opened up more than 200 jobs to women in uniform. By the end of the war, nearly 100,000 women served in these new roles. WWII



Molly Pitcher at the Battle of Monmouth, engraving by J.C. Armytage, c1859

he knew she was an excellent soldier. She was honorably discharged, as a man, in October 1783. These women did not stop serving even though they were not officially

Women in Wartime Continued on page 8

Eastern National Bookstores



Serving the Visitors to America’s National Parks and Other Public Trusts

National Mall and Memorial Parks is a very inspiring and powerful place, but your experience does not have to end in Washington, D.C. Continue learning more about park sites and American history by visiting the many Eastern National bookstores throughout the park. Capture the moment, take home a book, and explore the ideas and values that make visiting National Mall and Memorial Parks such a stirring experience. Eastern National, a park partner, operates four bookstores located at:

Washington Monument Lodge
8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Lincoln Memorial
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Sept. 7 - Mar. 25: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Mar. 26 - Sept. 6: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
Sept. 7 - Mar. 25: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Mar. 26 - Sept. 6: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

www.easternnational.org



Washington Monument Lodge

Park Concessionaires

Guest Services, Inc. manages all retail operations for National Mall and Memorial Parks. This includes refreshment kiosks and gift stores throughout the park. They also operate the following recreational opportunities...



GUEST SERVICES

Tidal Basin Paddle Boats

202-479-2426

www.tidalbasinpaddleboats.com

East Potomac Tennis Center

202-554-5962

www.eastpotomactennis.com



Tourmobile Sightseeing provides live, narrated shuttle tours with hop on/hop off service. You choose where to stop, stay as long as you want, then reboard and ride to another historic location. Purchase your tickets directly

from the driver at any tour stop or any seasonal ticket booth.

Adults: \$27.00

Children 3-11: \$13.00

202-554-5100

www.tourmobile.com

National Cherry

National Park Service Programs and Partner Tents



National Cherry Blossom Festival March 26 - April 10, 2011

The National Park Service welcomes you to the 2011 National Cherry Blossom Festival! Start your visit at the Tidal Basin Welcome Area. This convenient location for services offered by the National Park Service and its partners provides visitor services, first aid, food, souvenirs, books and more. Learn about the history of the cherry trees by attending one of the many park ranger programs throughout the park. We have something for everyone! Park rangers and volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions concerning the Festival. For details, consult map on other side.

Festival Tents:

Hours of Operation and Location

Welcome and Information Tents

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Every Day)
Tidal Basin Welcome Area

11 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Friday and Saturday)
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Sunday through Thursday)
Sylvan Theater

Food Tents

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Every Day)
Tidal Basin Welcome Area

Souvenirs/Bookstore Tent

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Every Day)
Tidal Basin Welcome Area

First Aid Tent

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Every Day)
Tidal Basin Welcome Area

Bloomin' Jr. Ranger Tent

10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Bicycle Parking - BRING YOUR OWN LOCK!

Thomas Jefferson Memorial &
Independence Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets

Note: Dates and hours of operation are subject to change.

Ranger Led Programs:

Hours of Operation and Location

Cherry Talks

11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. (Every Day)
Learn more about the history of the blossoms on these daily programs.
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial &
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Lantern Walks

8 p.m. - 10 p.m. (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
Enjoy the memorials and blossoms at night.
Departing from: NPS Welcome Tent at Tidal Basin
Welcome Area. Bring your own flashlight.

Bike Tours

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. (Sundays)
Enjoy the cherry blossoms without all the traffic!
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Cherry Chit-Chat Runs

8 a.m. - 9 a.m. (Saturdays)
Lace up your shoes and join a Park Ranger for a 3.5
mile run and learn about the blossoms.
Washington Monument

Bloomin' Jr. Ranger

10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
Earn your Jr. Ranger Badge with hands-on
activities!
3 p.m. Special Ranger Activity
Thomas Jefferson Memorial

Ranger Audio Tours

Dial (202) 747-3465 to learn more about the
blossoms.

Bike Tours

Join park rangers for guided bike tours of the cherry trees. Different tours will cover different information, but all reveal the historical and cultural significance of the trees. All riders MUST provide their own bike, helmet and water.

The bike tour season begins during the National Cherry Blossom Festival and continues through fall: Saturday, March 27 – Sunday, November 20, 2011.

Cherry Chit-Chat Runs

If you are interested in a more fast-paced exploration of the National Mall and the cherry blossoms, join park rangers for one of our Cherry Chit-Chat Runs. It's a great way to get your daily exercise and see the park from the perspective of morning's first light. The tour is comprised of a morning run around the National Mall with stops to highlight the history, beauty and culture of the cherry blossoms. While the exact routes and stops along the tour may vary by day, please be prepared for a distance of up to 3.5 miles at a good running pace. Also, remember to dress appropriately and bring water.

Bloomin' Jr. Ranger Activities

Children, ages 6-12, join park rangers at the Bloomin' Jr. Ranger Tent for hands-on activities. Make a paper lantern, color a picture, or write a Haiku poem. Complete three of the many activities to earn a Bloomin' Jr. Ranger badge or earn your badge by participating in a special one-hour educational program offered at 3 p.m.

Free Bicycle Self Parking

Located at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Independence Ave. between 14th and 15th Sts. Please bring your own lock.

Cherry Blossom Trail Guide

These guides provide more information on the flowering cherry trees and suggested walking routes. For example, learn about the 350-year-old granite Japanese lantern that was dedicated in 1954, the 100th anniversary of Commodore Perry's opening of trade with Japan. You can pick up a guide at any of our information tents.

In Case of Emergency
Call U.S. Park Police
202-610-7500
Lost and Found
202-426-6849



Remember,
Paddles Says:
"Please Do Not Pick
The Blossoms."

Cherry Talks

Join park rangers to learn more about the history and culture associated with the Japanese gift of flowering cherry trees. How did a shipwrecked 14-year-old boy contribute to the original treaty of friendship between the United States and Japan? What is the link between the samurai and the cherry blossoms? Different talks cover different topics - enjoy more than one.

Lantern Walks

See the blossoms in a new light. Guided by festive lanterns, rangers will lead you on an evening walk around the Tidal Basin. This two hour, two mile tour provides the time to explore a wide range of information about the flowering cherry trees at a leisurely pace. Please bring your own flashlight.



Blossom Festival

Frequently Asked Questions About the Festival

What is the Tidal Basin Welcome Area?

This location provides information, food, first aid and a gift shop for the 2011 National Cherry Blossom Festival. Most services in the Welcome Area are open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Where can I find information once I arrive in the park?

You can obtain information, maps, and publications at the Tidal Basin or Sylvan Theater Welcome Areas, the Survey Lodge Ranger Station or any of the monuments or memorials.

Is there anything to eat around here?

You can find food at the Tidal Basin Welcome Area and at the concession stands throughout the park. Most of the major Smithsonian museums have cafés as well.

Where and when are the fireworks?

The fireworks will take place at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, along the Southwest Waterfront along Maine Avenue.

Where and when is the parade?

The National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade will take place from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, April 9. The parade route runs along Constitution Avenue starting at 7th Street, NW and ending at 17th Street, NW.

What is going on with all the construction?

This year there are many great additions to, and renovations on, the National Mall. The National Park Service is committed to standing by our mission to "preserve and protect" the great spaces that make up our National Parks. We apologize in advance for kicking up a bit of dust, but we are sure you will appreciate the end results.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial:

As you approach the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, you will see evidence of a long-term construction project. The park is rebuilding the seawall that separates the Tidal Basin from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

Currently, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Plaza and the western walkways around the Thomas Jefferson Memorial are closed. The memorial itself remains open.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial: Construction for this memorial has also begun. The pathways around this construction site are open with minor detours. Just follow the temporary pathways to reach the Lincoln Memorial or the WWII Memorial.

Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool:

This 2-year project will rejuvenate the almost 90-year-old memorial pool. Expect alternating closures of Elm Walk pathways or use Independence Ave. to navigate your way.

District of Columbia World War I Memorial:

This clean-up project will restore this often overlooked yet lovely memorial. The memorial area is temporarily closed.

17th & Constitution and Independence Ave. Levee Project:

This project aims to prevent possible flooding. Expect walking pathway detours in these areas.

Where is the performance stage this year?

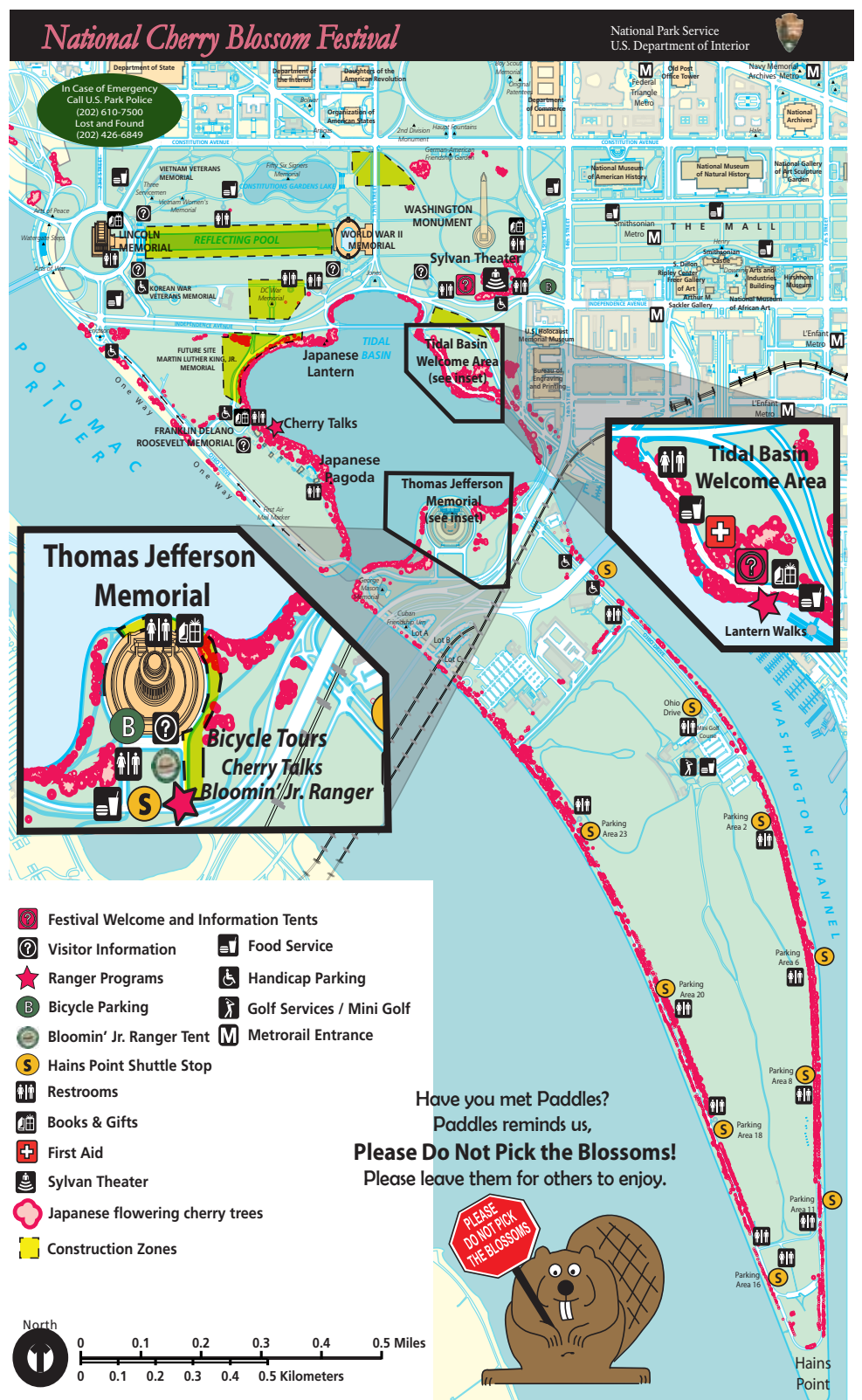
Because of ongoing construction around the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Performance Stage has been relocated to the Sylvan Theatre on the grounds of the Washington Monument.

Is there a free shuttle bus?

Yes, you can park in the middle of the cherry blossoms along East Potomac Park and enjoy free shuttle service from the Hains Point parking areas to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Shuttles run at 20 - 30 minute intervals.

Hours of Operation:

Daily 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
March 26 - April 10 The shuttle is FREE.



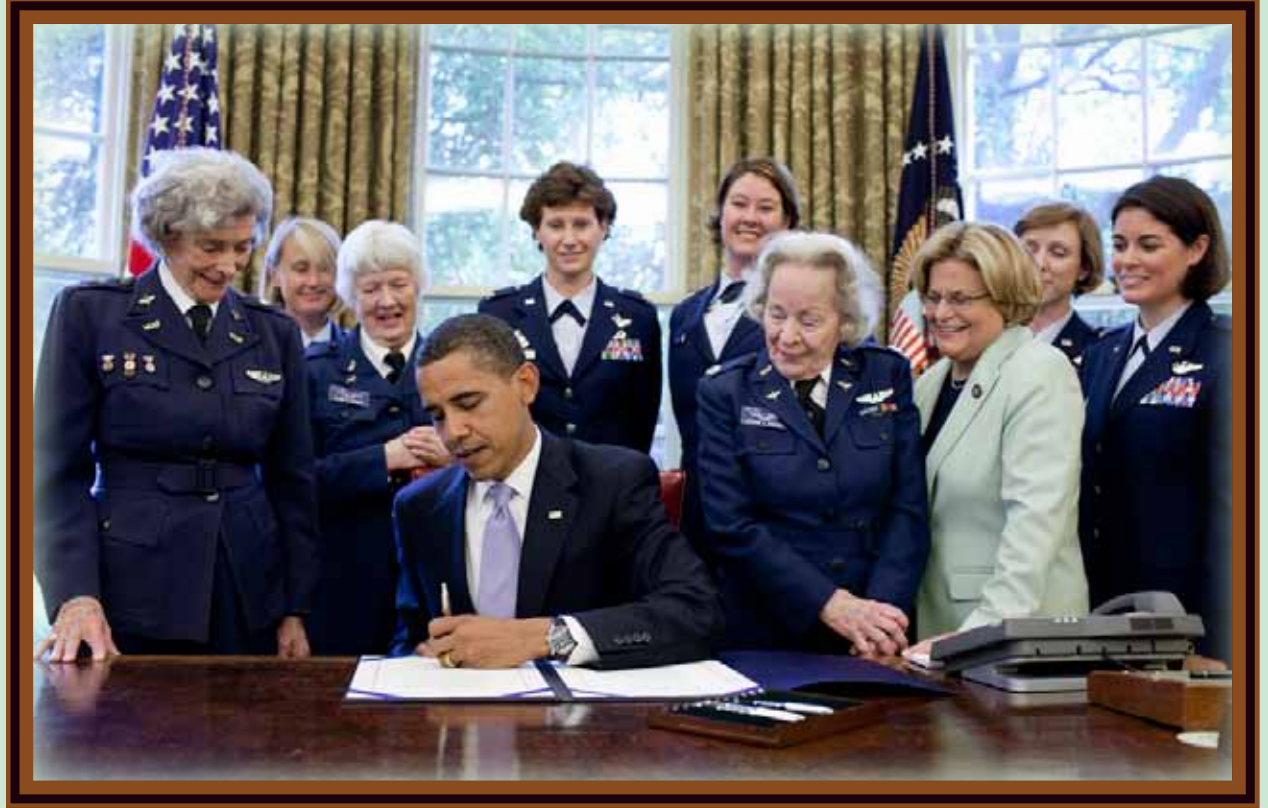
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The Blossoms.”**

Women in Wartime from page 5

also saw the creation of the Women Air Force Service Pilots or WASPs who ferried more than 50 percent of military aircraft in our country. On June 1, 2009, with three of the roughly 300 WASPs still surviving, President Obama and the congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to those WASPs who fought bravely for their country.

In our modern times, women have taken flying military aircraft to the next level. They have piloted attack aircraft such as the A-10 Thunderbolt, the Super Cobra attack helicopter and the Kiowa Warrior armed reconnaissance helicopter. The Kiowa Warrior was recently piloted by Captain Kimberly Hampton during Operation Iraqi Freedom. On January 2, 2004, Captain Hampton became the first female military pilot to be shot down and killed as a result of hostile enemy fire. So when visiting the many memorials in the park, remember the women who served and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



President Barack Obama signing the WASP Congressional Gold Medal into law. July 2009

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Here are 30 places, people, and ideas that are found or represented on the National Mall. Look for these in the box reading forward, backward, up, down and diagonally in all directions.

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bill of Rights | 11. Independence | 21. National Mall |
| 2. Building | 12. Jefferson | 22. Paul |
| 3. Capitol | 13. John | 23. Ranger |
| 4. Constitution | 14. Jones | 24. Roosevelt |
| 5. Eleanor | 15. Lincoln Memorial | 25. Smithsonian |
| 6. Ericsson | 16. Mason | 26. US Grant |
| 7. Fala | 17. Memorials | 27. Visitor |
| 8. FDR | 18. MLK Jr | 28. Volunteers |
| 9. George | 19. Monument | 29. Washington |
| 10. Inalienable | 20. Museums | 30. White House |

Here are 5 scrambled words that describe an individual represented on the National Mall. Unscramble them and guess who it is.

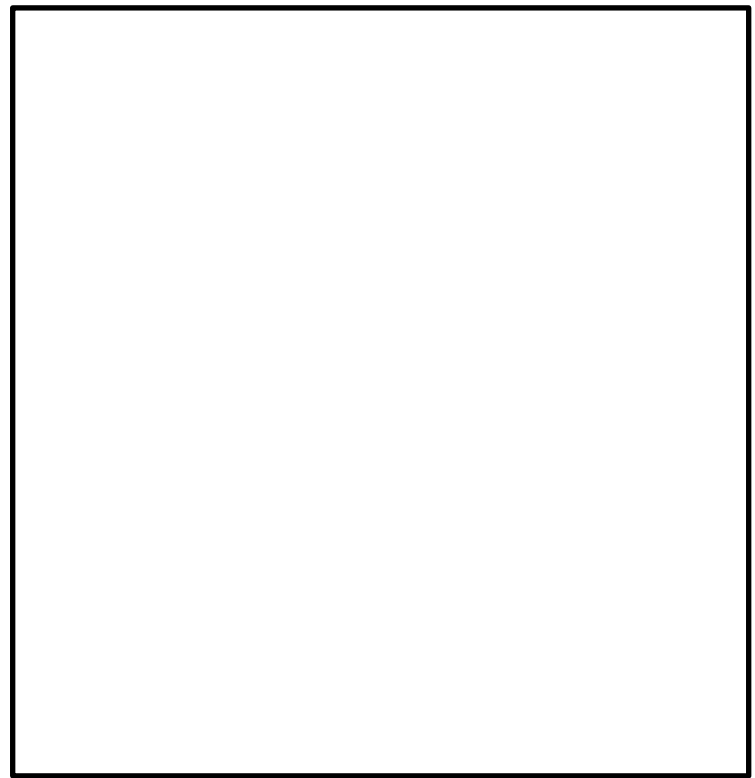
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KIDS' Column



Write a word in Japanese

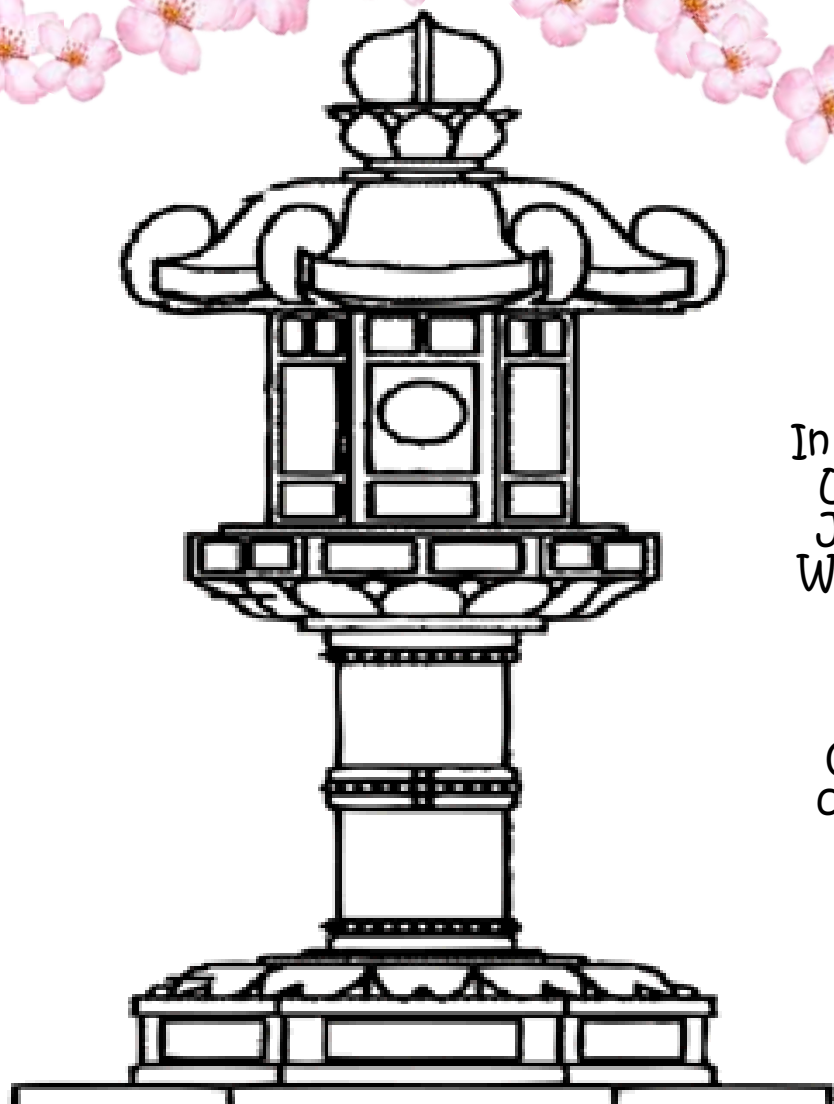
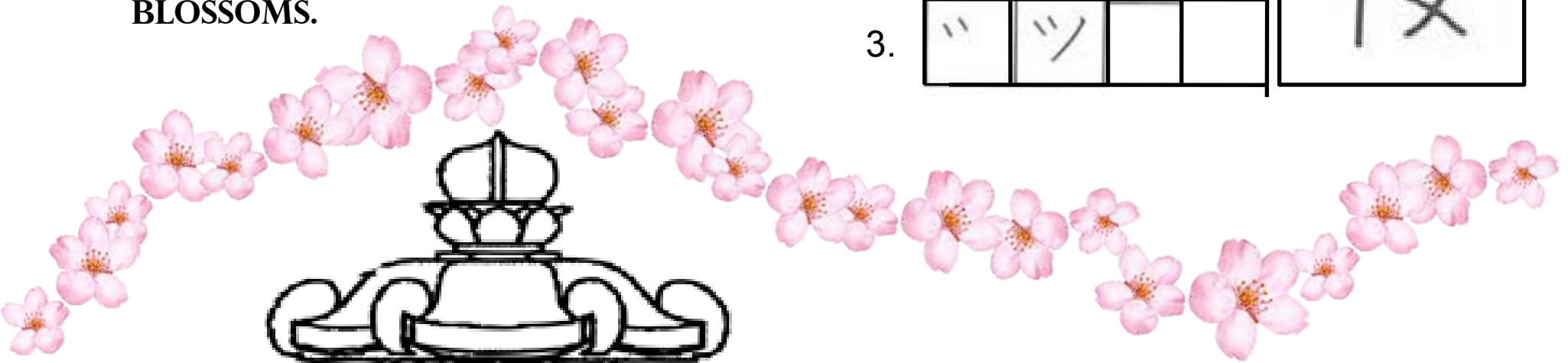


SAKURA

SAKURA IS THE JAPANESE WORD FOR BLOSSOM. IT IS USED WHEN TALKING ABOUT CHERRY BLOSSOMS.

Use the steps below to write the word.

| | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 一 | 十 | オ | 木 | 桜 |
| 2. | く | 女 | 女 | | |
| 3. | 〃 | ツ | | | |



In 1954, The Japanese Ambassador to the United States presented a 300-year-old Japanese Stone Lantern to the City of Washington, DC. The 8-ft.-tall lantern is made of granite and weighs 20 tons.

Color in the stone lantern and help us celebrate the National Cherry Blossom Festival!



Message from the Superintendent

March is a great time to experience your national park. Our ranger staff presents interpretive programs throughout the park including park-wide walking tours and 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 see how the final plan looks, express ideas, and follow our progress. Also take a few minutes to visit our partner's website, www.nationalmall.org to see how they are moving forward to help us make the vision of the Plan a reality.

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.

Acting Superintendent Maria Burks

“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

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 unbelievable 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.



Old Post Office Tower

This unique site stands on Pennsylvania Avenue near the halfway point between the White House and the Capitol. The Old Post Office Tower ranks third in height among the buildings of the Nation's Capital, soaring to a majestic 315 feet. At the 270 foot level, there is an observation deck allowing visitors an awe-inspiring view of Washington D.C. and the surrounding area. Beneath the observation deck is the tower clock, now more than a century old. On the tenth floor are the beautiful Bells of Congress. These bells are replicas of those at London's Westminster Abbey and were a Bicentennial gift from the Ditchley Foundation in England.



www.nps.gov/opot

Operating Hours

Summer: Memorial Day through Labor Day

Monday through Saturday
9 a.m. - 7:45 p.m.
Sunday and Holidays
10 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Winter: Labor Day through Memorial Day

Monday through Saturday
9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Sunday and Holidays
10 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Ranger Programs:

Park Rangers are available throughout the tower to provide information. Have a question? Just ask!

Twenty for the Tower on the Half-Hour

Daily at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

The Old Post Office Tower always has time for you. Do you have 20 minutes for the Tower? Join a National Park Service ranger to learn what connects Ben Franklin to this fascinating piece of iconic architecture on Pennsylvania Avenue - America's 'Main Street.' Meet at the Ben Franklin statue along Pennsylvania Avenue. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

Ranger Q & A Continued from page 3

Q. What is it like to fight wildfires?

A. Wildfires vary. They require different strategies of

containment, but at every fire we are protecting and preserving the parks. And that's at the heart of our job as rangers. The mission of the

National Park Service is by definition to "protect and preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources" and that's what we do every time my colleagues

and I go out on a fire. I thrive on the camaraderie among firefighters across the Department of Interior (DOI) as well as other federal and state agencies.

Be sure to visit the updated Lincoln Memorial website! <http://www.nps.gov/linc>

Highlights include a new Lincoln Memorial Construction Flipbook and an Interactive Site. The flipbook utilizes historic photographs to tell the story of the memorial construction from inception to completion. You can experience a virtual walk-through of the memorial, and listen to ranger reflections of the memorial and its history on the Interactive Site.

