



National Mall Times September 2009

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Welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks!

September 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 Secret that Ended World War II

By Ranger Kathryn Williams

In August 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt read a letter warning him that the Germans could be on their way to creating a uranium-based atomic bomb. It was signed by Albert Einstein. The letter was a seed that grew into one of the more fascinating secrets in American history.

On December 7, 1941, the United States woke up to news that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. As the United States entered World War II, the seed began to grow unimpeded, and fully financed. Under the title of the Manhattan Project, the nation entered the Atomic Age.

As a result of positive tests conducted at the University of Chicago, two bases were constructed. The first was known as the Clinton Engineer Works, eventually known as Oak Ridge, located a few miles west of Knoxville, Tennessee. Here commenced research regarding a uranium-235 based atomic bomb, resulting in the construction of the bomb nicknamed Little Boy.



Little Boy

The sister base was located at Los Alamos in New Mexico, where scientists experimented with plutonium.



Fat Man

They discovered that plutonium-239 would react about the same as uranium-235, which resulted in the plutonium-239 based bomb nicknamed Fat Man.

It is not clear if each of the sister bases knew of the other's existence, but the majority of the scientists on both bases thought they were working on an atomic energy project to power military equipment, and not on weapons of mass destruction. On September 17, 1942, the Army took over the project, and Brigadier General Leslie Groves was appointed as its head. Astoundingly, the project remained secret despite employing thousands, and included corporations and universities across the country.

After President Roosevelt's death in April 1945, Harry Truman was sworn in as President of the United States. Only then did he learn of the Manhattan Project. Truman had barely taken the reins of the nation when Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945. Strategy then shifted for the bombs to be used

against Japan to end the war. In July, President Truman issued a warning for Japan to surrender unconditionally, or face "prompt and utter destruction." The Japanese emperor refused to comply.



Trinity nuclear test explosion

On August 6th, a B-29 bomber carrying Little Boy took off from Tinian Island, heading toward Japan, and the military target of Hiroshima. Less than a minute after the bomb was released, it detonated over the city, obliterating five square miles. The toll was 70,000 dead and 70,000 injured. Still Japan's emperor was hesitant.

On August 9th, another B-29 took off from Tinian Island carrying Fat Man, heading toward the city of Nagasaki. The bomb was released, and within seconds three square miles were annihilated, killing 40,000 and injuring 60,000.

The emperor and his generals argued until common sense won out, and Japan surrendered on August 14th, ending World War II; however, the official signing of the surrender terms didn't take place until September 2, 1945.

Background Picture - The Atomic Age dawns as seen 0.016 seconds after the Trinity nuclear test explosion. Alamogordo Bombing Range in central New Mexico, July 16, 1945.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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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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Ranger Led Bike Tours



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, September 5 - "The War is Over!" V-J Day

After the terrible shock from the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, the leaders, military, and citizens of the United States rallied to fight and win one of the more destructive and costly wars in the history of humankind. Through almost four years of war, the country united, worked, and sacrificed. In May, 1945, victory in Europe was achieved, and the Allies turned their full attention to ending the war in the Pacific. Island-hopping campaigns and massive naval battles eventually set the stage for America to unleash their new secret weapon: the atomic bomb. Finally, the power and determination of American forces convinced the Japanese Empire to accept unconditional surrender. Join us as we mark the anniversary of this historic day.

Sunday, September 6 – Photography on the Mall, Then and Now

Ever wonder where the best places are to photograph the United States Capitol, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, or any of the other iconic locations around the city? Grab your camera and join us for a two-wheeled jaunt across the National Mall to see what it looked like after the turn of the 20th century, then take your own shots from some of our best vantage points today! See the National Mall through the eyes of the camera lens, and take home the pictures of a lifetime!

Saturday, September 12 - D.C.'s Broadway: History and the Performing Arts

While Washington, D.C. is not as famous as New York for its theatre, it is home to a long theatre tradition which has seen many firsts and lasts over the course of its history. Washington, D.C.'s theatre history includes such notable events as the first national public performance space, the assassination of a president, a floating theatre in the Potomac River, one of the largest theatre complexes in America named in honor of another assassinated president, plus many more. This tour will explore many of the places and events of Washington's performing arts heritage.

Sunday, September 13 - "Entangling Alliances," American Secretaries of State

As the most senior member of the President's cabinet and the head of the State Department, Secretaries of State have often proven to be some of the more influential and controversial figures in our history. These men and women have helped shape America's foreign policy

through periods of isolationism and imperialism. They have negotiated treaties, managed wars, expanded the nation's territory and power, and advised and debated with Presidents. Many have gone on to be Presidents themselves and leave important legacies on the international scene, while others have been crushed by the awesome responsibility. Join us for a bike tour about the careers, triumphs, mistakes, and personalities of these fascinating officials.

Saturday, September 19 - Impending Storm: The Effect of Weather on History

The weather is everywhere and inescapable. It can affect your vacation, backyard party plans and even your commute to work. Imagine its impact on history. Would the Titanic have sunk if there had been a breeze? Would the Germans have successfully invaded Russia if winter had not arrived? Would John Steinbeck have written his award-winning *The Grapes of Wrath* if there hadn't been a drought? The failure or success of D-Day relied on the weather. Join park rangers for a meteorological journey through history and explore how something as seemingly insignificant as a little rainfall can alter the course of history.

Sunday, September 20 – The Assassination of President James A. Garfield

In 1881, just sixteen years after the death of Abraham Lincoln, another assassin's bullet cut short the life of an American President here in Washington, D.C. Explore the life and brief presidency of James A. Garfield during this special bike tour. This tour will visit the numerous sites of the Nation's Capital where the tragic story of Garfield lives on—barely noticed or recognized.



Sunday, June 21 - Family Tour The History of the National Mall – Myth Busters Edition

Fact or Fiction- Can you tell the difference? Have you heard the story about George Washington's wooden teeth, or the other face carved on the back of Abraham Lincoln's head in the Lincoln Memorial? The city of Washington, D.C. was created out of a swamp...right?

National Park Service rangers will lead families on a journey through the myths and legends surrounding the National Mall. This tour is an excellent introduction to the history of the National Mall. Participants will discover fascinating details about the lives of American presidents, and the way we memorialize them. Discover where these famous and infamous stories first started, and find out if truth is indeed stranger than fiction!

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, September 26 – Great Women through History

They have been soldiers, slaves, spies, writers, nurses, scientists, journalists, elected officials, and First Ladies. These women have fought in war, comforted and healed the sick, led in peace and strife, and made advances in science and industry. You will recognize some, but others have escaped general history. Learn how women from all walks of life contributed to the development and defense of the United States.

Sunday, September 27 - "When my last breath escapes me..." Famous Last Words

As people reflect on their lives, and look back at what they have accomplished or how they have failed, a moment of peace or regret may settle upon them. In these moments of farewell, truth finds a voice. When George Washington left office, he published a Farewell Address giving sound advice to future generations. As Abraham Lincoln left Springfield, Illinois to become President, he expressed his hopes and doubts to the friends he left behind. As John Adams and Thomas Jefferson lay dying on the 4th of July, 1826, they thought of the past and each other. In their parting words, famous Americans teach eternal lessons, touch our hearts, and give us hope. A few even make us laugh. Join us to hear their words and wish them well.

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, September 5 - The Pen is Mightier than the Sword: Abraham Lincoln and Walt Whitman 8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Shortly after the Battle of Fredericksburg, fought principally on December 13, 1862, Walt Whitman, author of *Leaves of Grass* (1855), would come to Washington, D.C., in search of his wounded brother Captain George Whitman. He would quickly find his brother, (who had fortunately suffered only minor wounds,) but his stay in the Nations' Capital would last the next ten years. Walt Whitman was profoundly changed by his experiences in Washington during the American Civil War. In *Specimen Days* (1892), Walt Whitman would write that "The real war will never get into the books." In many ways he would spend the rest of his life trying to prove himself wrong and attempt to explain both in poetry and prose what the experience had really been like.

**Every Saturday and Sunday in September
Weekend Walking Tours on the National Mall
10:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.**

Join a National Park Service ranger for a FREE walking tour every Saturday and Sunday during the month of September. The tour will begin at the base of the Washington Monument, and end at the Lincoln Memorial. Hear the experts explain the history of the National Mall and the meaning and symbolism of the memorials. Learn about the triumphs and tragedies of American history. This three hour tour is perfect for the first time visitor or anyone interested in exploring the famous buildings and influential personalities that have shaped "America's Front Yard." No ticket or reservation is required. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.



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

The statues along Virginia Avenue, NW 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. This will be a strenuous walk, and comfortable shoes are recommended. There are no public restrooms along the route. Contact Mike Balis at 202-438-9710 for more information.

**Every Saturday & Sunday in September
Ulysses S. Grant: The Humble Hero
6:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. &
8:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.**

Join National Park Service staff for an interpretive program that explores the amazing accomplishments and humiliating failures that defined the life of this remarkable man. Meet at the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial near the west side of the United States Capitol. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.

**Saturday, September 5
Art at the Park: The Lincoln Memorial's Jules
Guérin Murals
12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M., 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.,
4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

Learn about the remarkable artist who created the Lincoln Memorial paintings, and how he fits into the history of art, the American Renaissance, and the City Beautiful Movement. Discover the symbolism and meaning of the scenes and their place in the overall scheme of architect Henry Bacon's design, including Daniel Chester French's statue of Lincoln. Meet at Lincoln Memorial. Contact Jan Buerger at 202-497-1397 for more information.

**Saturday, September 5 & 26
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 political leader. Jefferson, our third president, is remembered for his wide range of talents ranging from agricultural pursuits to diplomacy. 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 Jefferson Memorial, the FDR Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.

**September 7, 12, 17: 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.
September 28: 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
Nuts about Squirrels**

Squirrels! We see them every day, but do you really understand them? Why do they run on the other side of the tree from you? Do they really hibernate and what are the benefits to having squirrels in Washington D.C.? Join us to learn more about the Eastern Gray Squirrel and their history in Washington D.C. Tour begins at the World War II Memorial ranger station. Contact Chris Cusumano at christopher_cusumano@nps.gov for more information.

**Monday, September 7
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 peacetime life. 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 more than American folk art or graffiti, but 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 202-426-6841 or Joel_Yarvis@nps.gov for more information.

**Monday, September 7
Eleanor Roosevelt: The First Lady Who Put
Others First
6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.**

Come learn about this amazing woman who overcame numerous personal hardships through devoting herself to the service of others. With her amazing energy and commitment it seemed that there was never a person in need or social injustice for which Eleanor Roosevelt would not fight. Though she was reluctant to become a first lady to our nation, her dedication to improving the lives of others transformed her into "First Lady of the World". Call 202-426-6841 for more information.



**Tuesday, September 8 & 29
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.

**Wednesday, September 9 &
Thursday, September, 17
Lincoln & FDR: Through the Camera's Lens
6:30 P.M. – 7:30 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 D. 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.

**Thursday, September, 10
Twilight Bird Walk around the National Mall
5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.**

Join a National Park Service ranger on a guided walk through Constitution Gardens and Ash Woods to see how many bird species we can identify. 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, September 11 & 25
The Lincoln Haunts Jaunt
7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.**

Celebrate our sixteenth President's Bicentennial by stopping at sites that would have been familiar to Abraham Lincoln. This walking tour will concentrate in areas around Lafayette Square, the White House, along Pennsylvania Avenue. Meet at the base of the Washington Monument for this two-hour walking tour. Please wear comfortable shoes. Contact Lowell Fry at 202-438-9603 for more information.

**Saturday, September 12
Art at the Park: The Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Memorial's Sculptors and Sculpture
12:00 P.M., 2:00 and 4:00 PM**

Learn more about the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial sculptors Robert Graham, Tom Hardy, George Segal, Neil Estern and Leonard Baskin, their work, and its place in the history of modern art. Learn how they coordinated with the designer, Lawrence Halprin, and discover the story behind the chaos of the World War II stone piles. Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact Jan Buerger at 202-497-1397 for more information.

Saturday, September 12 & 19

Friends and Rivals: The Turbulent Relationship Between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson

6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
8:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Over the fifty one years in which Founding Fathers John Adams and Thomas Jefferson knew each other, they were alternately close friends and bitter political adversaries. The relationship between the short, pugnacious, and self-described "obnoxious" Adams and the tall, stately, soft-spoken Jefferson is one of the great dramas of American History. They worked together to craft the Declaration of Independence, served together as President and Vice President of the new nation they helped to conceive, then didn't speak to each other for 12 years. Come and learn about the unlikely friendship, the vicious personal attacks and political disputes, and the eloquent correspondence that they shared in their later years. Program begins at the base of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial steps. Contact Susan Philpott at Susan_Philpott@nps.gov for more information.



Sunday, September 13 & 27

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, September 15

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 202-426-6841 or Joel_Yarvis@nps.gov for more information.

Thursday, September 17

A Bridge Too Far

5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M., 9:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

Operation Market Garden, a military operation by Allied forces on September 17, 1944 was considered "A Bridge Too Far" because it failed to reach its objectives. What happened to cause this operation to fail? Even though the attempt by the Allies failed to end the war in Western Europe before Christmas of 1944, it still receives much attention through books and film. Come to the World War II Memorial for a free one hour program to learn why this failed attempt receives so much attention. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.

Friday, September 18 & 25

Washington and the Heroes of the Revolution

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

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 the Washington Monument, and walking shoes are recommended. Contact Don Stanko at 240-375-4857 for more information.

Saturday, September 19 & 26

Chit Chat Run - America: Land of Liberty

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

Join a park ranger for a morning run around the National Mall! From the Revolutionary War to the present, learn about how the memorials tell the history of our nation! The run is approximately three miles. Meet at the Washington Monument and please bring your own water. Contact Rebecca Steketee at 202-359-7080 for more information.

Saturday, September 19

Art at the Park: The Lincoln Memorial's Daniel Chester French Statue of Abraham Lincoln

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M., 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M., 4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Learn about the sculptor of the colossal statue of Abraham Lincoln, centerpiece of the Lincoln Memorial, his rise to stardom and his association with the Memorial's architect Henry Bacon. Learn the details of the symbolism of the statue, as well as certain misconceptions about it, and how these may have arisen. Discover how the statue coordinates with Bacon's overall design and the Mall itself. Meet at Lincoln Memorial. Contact Jan Buerger at 202-497-1397 for more information.

Saturday, September 19

Jefferson and the West

5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M., 9:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

President Thomas Jefferson orchestrated the purchase of a vast area of wilderness from France, and had a great desire to have it explored. He sent two United States Army captains, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, on an expedition into the unexplored territory known as the Louisiana Purchase. Why was this expedition so important to Jefferson, and how did it shape the United States as we know it today? Meet at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial to learn more about this historical event. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.

Friday, September 25

Stalingrad and the Battles of 1942

5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

The Battle of Stalingrad was a critical campaign for the Germans and the Soviets in 1942. How would this battle help shape the ultimate outcome of World War II? However, the Battles of the Coral Sea, Midway, Guadalcanal, El Alamein and the landings in North Africa by the Allies were decisive battles in 1942 as well. Join two National Park Service rangers as they explain the details and minutiae about the Battle of Stalingrad, the battles of 1942, and how they helped determine the ultimate result of World War II. Meet at the World War II Memorial to learn more. Contact Brad Berger at 202-438-4173 for more information.

Saturday, September 26

"I have not yet begun to fight!"

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M., 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M., 4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M., 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

On September 23, 1779, John Paul Jones, commanding the *Bonhomme Richard* and a small squadron of other vessels, attacked a convoy of British merchant ships, protected by the warship, *Serapis*. For several hours, bold maneuvering and violent cannon barrages filled the air with the snap of sails and the smoke of blistering shot. Finally, with both ships heavily damaged and the crews decimated, the British captain surrendered, and the American forces would take the *Serapis* as a prize. The Battle at Flamborough Head gave America her first naval victory over the seemingly invincible British Navy, and made a hero of Captain Jones. Program takes place at the John Paul Jones Memorial, 17th Street and Independence Avenue S.W. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.



Saturday, September 26

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 us at the FDR Memorial and listen to how WWII shaped America both culturally and socially. Program begins at the entrance to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial. Contact Tyler Smith at 202-426-6841 x351 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 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.



These Proceedings are Closed: The Japanese Surrender

By Ranger Brad Berger

In Tokyo Bay, on September 2, 1945, shortly after 9:00 A.M., the closing drama of the Second World War unfolded. The symbolic elements of the event were fitting. The scene was held in the shadow of the 16-inch guns of an Iowa-class battleship of the United States Navy, a solid 45,000 ton example of American maritime might which did much of the heavy lifting in the Pacific war. The name of the ship in question, *USS Missouri*, was a direct tie to the home state of the sitting President of the United States, Harry S. Truman. The master of the ceremony was larger than life, a living legend of the United States Army, General Douglas MacArthur. Indeed the very flag which Commodore Matthew Perry flew aboard his ship as the United States Navy entered Tokyo Bay on July 14, 1853 bore silent witness as it hung from the bulkhead of the vessel.



Soldiers and sailors gather aboard the *USS Missouri* during the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945

The importance of this day was lost upon none who were present that Sunday morning. The deck of *Missouri* was a virtual amphitheater, for there was not one space which afforded view of the spectacle that remained unoccupied. Enlisted men clung to every railing, and peered around every corner in order to bear witness to the end of

a war which ultimately claimed the lives of over fifty million people. Toshikazu Kase, of the Japanese delegation which arrived via the destroyer *USS Lansdowne* remarked:

There were a million eyes beating us in the million shafts of a rattling storm of arrows barbed with fire. I felt their keenness sink into my body with a sharp physical pain. Never have I realized that the glance of glaring eyes could hurt so much. We waited for a few minutes standing in the public gaze like penitent boys awaiting the dreaded schoolmaster.

As the minute hand slowly passed the hour of 9:00 A.M., General MacArthur strode to the microphone and delivered a solemn introduction.

We are gathered here, representatives of the major warring powers, to conclude a solemn agreement whereby peace may be restored. The issues, involving divergent ideals and ideologies, have been determined on the battlefields of the world and hence are not for our discussion or debate. Nor is it for us here to meet, representing as we do a majority of the people of the earth, in a spirit of distrust, malice or hatred. But rather it is for us, both victors and vanquished, to rise to that higher dignity which alone befits the sacred purposes we are about to serve, committing all our people unreservedly to faithful compliance with the understanding they are here formally to assume. It is my earnest hope, and indeed the hope of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past -- a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance and justice.



General Douglas MacArthur speaking, September 2, 1945

He continued:

The terms and conditions upon which the surrender of the Japanese Imperial Forces is here to be given and accepted are contained in the Instrument of Surrender now before you. As Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, I announce it my firm purpose, in the tradition of the countries I represent, to proceed in the discharge of my responsibilities with justice and tolerance, while taking all necessary dispositions to insure that the terms of surrender are fully, promptly and faithfully complied with.

Upon the table before the Japanese delegation were copies of the Instrument of Surrender to be signed for the government of Japan and the Allied Powers. The paper used for this purpose was taken from the city of Manila in the Philippines, a symbolic gesture, particularly for the American hosts. After the signatures of the Japanese delegation led by Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and General Yoshijiro Umezu were applied to the documents, General MacArthur signed as Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

A handful of pens were used by the general during this moment heavy with historical atmosphere. Behind the Supreme Commander



General Douglas MacArthur signs Japanese surrender instrument

stood Lieutenant General Jonathan Wainwright, and Lieutenant General Sir Arthur Percival, living symbols of Allied sacrifice during the war. General Wainwright assumed command of the beleaguered defenders of the Philippines upon President Franklin Roosevelt's order, which sent General MacArthur to Australia to establish

a new front. General Percival held command of the British forces in Singapore which surrendered to Japan on February 15, 1942. From his seat, as he applied his signature, General MacArthur turned, and handed the first pen to General Wainwright. He continued signing, then handed the second pen to General Percival. After he finished, General MacArthur invited the representatives of the Allies to affix their signatures to the documents. Admiral Chester Nimitz signed on behalf of the United States, followed by officers representing China, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, and New Zealand.

Following the application of signatures to the Instrument of Surrender, General MacArthur spoke into the microphone once more, offering the last words of a momentous occasion.

"Let us pray that peace be now restored to the world and that God will preserve it always. These proceedings are closed."

The entire ceremony lasted just over twenty minutes. Hundreds of Allied fighters and bombers flew over the host of Allied naval might arrayed in the bay. Nature itself provided the last dramatic element to the ceremony, as the clouds which cast an overcast tint to the proceedings parted, allowing the sun's rays to flood the bay adding a further symbolic demonstration to the actions and words which promised a hope for everlasting peace.

General MacArthur followed up the ceremony with an address to the world, broadcast to millions listening via radio. Toshikazu Kase remarked upon the departure of the Japanese delegation: "Is it not a piece of rare good fortune, I asked myself, that a man of such caliber and character should have been designated as the Supreme Commander who will shape the destiny of Japan?"



Japanese delegation on *USS Missouri*, September 2, 1945

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.

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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:

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

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

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 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

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Washington Monument Lodge
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National Park Service Organic Act
 August 25, 1916

Daily Ranger Programs



- World War II Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
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- 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.