



National Mall Times Winter 2009/2010

Welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks.

Winter 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 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.

Superintendent John Piltzecker

"YOU NO FIGHT, WE NO FIGHT"

By Ranger Heidi Dietze

*O ye who read this truthful rime
From Flanders, kneel and say:
God speed the time when every day
Shall be as Christmas Day.*
-Frederick Niven



Illustration of Christmas Truce of 1914. "Peace on Earth in the new year."

World War One was a war fought mainly in the trenches, poorly constructed mazes hastily cut through the landscape, separated from the opposing side by an ammunition-riddled swath of land called "No Man's Land." On Christmas Eve, 1914, British soldiers, entrenched in Belgium, noticed a shimmering light coming from the nearby enemy German trench. They soon realized it was candlelight from Christmas trees the Germans had placed along the top of their trench. The British soldiers were told not to fire or leave the trench in case it was a trick. In the quiet of the night they began to hear the sound of singing and though they may not have understood the language they did recognize the tunes and realized the Germans were singing Christmas carols. The British soldiers joined in with carols of their own. A few soldiers from both sides ventured out into No Man's Land, hesitantly shook hands and negotiated a truce: there would be no fighting on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Christmas Day dawned clear and bright and the soldiers emerged from their trenches to wish each other a happy Christmas and bury their respective dead. Many bodies had been lying in No Man's Land for months without the benefit of a proper burial due to the heavy fighting. After the burials the festivities began. Soldiers came together and exchanged food items, newspapers, addresses; they showed off pictures of their families back home; soccer balls were produced and "kickabouts" were played. The "enemy" was not the barbarian they had been led to believe by the press and their commanders but soldiers just like them, experiencing the same isolation, stress and despair.



German soldiers decorating a Christmas tree.

This Christmas "truce" occurred up and down the front line, but only happened in 1914. Other attempts in following years largely ended in failure. Many see it as a miracle that it happened at all. A German soldier wrote in his diary, "How marvelously wonderful, yet how strange it was.... Christmas, the celebration of Love, managed to bring mortal enemies together as friends for a time."



German and British troops.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks
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Washington, DC 20024

202-233-3520
www.nps.gov/nama or www.nps.gov/mall
National Mall Plan Website:
www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan

Radio: 1670 AM

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New! Special Emphasis Themed Programs

National Mall and Memorial Parks will offer a series of free programs on special emphasis themes every month during the Winter and 2010 season. Look for more details on our website or pick up a flyer at ranger contact stations. Contact Jan Buerger at 202-497-1397 for more information.

December: Freedom of Speech and Religion - A Celebration of First Amendment Rights.

January: The Washington Monument at 125 - A Celebration of the Completion and Dedication of the Park's Centerpiece in 1885.

February: Black History Month - A Celebration of African-American Heritage and their Contributions to the Country.

Times and locations are subject to change. Please contact staff directly with any questions.

Friday, December 4
Sunday, January 31
Mutiny at Morristown
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Meet at the Washington Monument. Contact Joel Yarvis at Joel_Yarvis@nps.gov for more information.

Saturday, December 5
Saturday, December 12
A Day with a Ranger
10 a.m. – late afternoon
Meet at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact Brad Berger at 202-438-4173 for more information.



Saturday, December 5
Sunday, January 3
Friends and Rivals: The Turbulent Relationship between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact Harry Gedney at 202-438-9640 for more information.

Sunday, December 6
Bird Walk Around the Tidal Basin
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact Kristel Nelson at 202-497-1357 for more information.

Friday, December 11
The Battle of Stalingrad
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Brad Berger at 202-438-4173 for more information.

Saturday, December 12
Sunday, December 20
Sunday, January 17
Saturday, February 13
Sunday, February 28
Scoping the Tidal Basin
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Meet at the Japanese Pagoda near Room Four of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact Robert Steele at 202-426-6841 for more information.

Saturday, December 12
December 7: The Day that Changed America
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.

Sunday, December 13
The Man with the Voice that Inspired America
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact William Cheek at 202-359-1463 for more information.

Friday, December 18
The Battle of the Bulge
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.

Saturday, December 19
Friday, January 29
Signers Island and the Declaration of Independence
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial. Contact Don Stanko at 240-375-4857 for more information.

Sunday, December 20
National Treasure and Night at the Museum: Fact or Fiction
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Lee Vogtman at Lee_Vogtman@nps.gov for more information.

Saturday, January 2
The Battle of Monte Cassino
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.

Sunday, January 10
World War II Operations and Vehicles
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Victor Pillow at 202-286-1624 for more information.

Friday, January 15
The Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Robert Steele at 202-426-6841 for more information.



Sunday, January 17
Sunday, February 7
Lincoln Assassination
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Joel Yarvis at Joel_Yarvis@nps.gov for more information.

Saturday, January 23
George Mason: The Forgotten Founding Father
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the George Mason Memorial. Contact Natalie Grime' at 202-426-6841 for more information.

Sunday, January 24
A Grand Esplanade: L'Enfant and Washington Envision a Federal City (reservations required)
1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Meet at the Washington Monument. Contact Michael T. Kelly at 202-359-2662 for more information.

Saturday, January 30
Cabanatuan: The Great Raid
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.

Friday, February 5
Sunday, February 14
Friday, February 19
Who Won the Civil War?
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Lowell Fry 202-438-9603 for more information.

Saturday, February 6
Marian Anderson
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Tinene Frazier at 202-426-6841 for more information.

Friday, February 12
Happy Birthday Abraham Lincoln
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Don Stanko at 240-375-4857 for more information.

Saturday, February 13
African Americans during the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidency
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact Kawan Allen at 202-426-6841 for more information.

Saturday, February 20
Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Susan Philpott at 202-426-6841 for more information.

Sunday, February 21
Marian Anderson
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Kristel Nelson at 202-497-1357 for more information.



Artwork by Ranger Dennis Mosso

Friday, February 26
Phillip Reed
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial. Contact Tinene Frazier at 202-426-6841 for more information.

Saturday, February 27
The Election of 1800
11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.
Meet at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact Robert Steele at 202-426-6841 for more information.

Saturday, February 27
The Tuskegee Airmen
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.

Sunday, February 28
African Americans in the Military
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Victor Pillow at 202-286-1624 for more information.



Vietnam Memorial Artifacts – A Journey of Healing

By Ranger Lee Vogtman



The ‘winter of our discontent’ might well describe this nation’s collective consciousness during, and for a lengthy time following the Vietnam War. An uncertain political policy had delivered hundreds of thousands of soldiers into the depths of a Southeast Asian jungle to battle a relentless and unyielding enemy. Many never returned, and those fortunate enough to do so arrived home not to fanfare and accolades, but to the embittered reprisals of an angry nation.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. was established to develop the concept of a memorial for the nation to recognize and honor the spirit and sacrifice of all Vietnam veterans. On November 13, 1982, their dream was realized, when the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated, paving the way for this country to provide its heroes a tangible symbol of recognition, respect, and reconciliation.



Visitors at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The memorial currently has 58,261 names inscribed on its reflective black granite panels. For many visitors, the memorial offers a place to connect with loved ones, a sense of healing, and, most importantly, an opportunity for closure. Almost immediately following

its dedication, items began appearing at the base of the memorial, as friends, relatives, and even strangers began leaving flowers, personal items, tokens of esteem, and other symbols of their appreciation and recognition. By 1984 when the National Park Service became the steward of the memorial, the social phenomenon of leaving objects at the memorial was well established. Over 500 items were left during the first two years, and the number began to grow exponentially.

Quite often park staff experience their own moments of connection to the memorial, either through visitors, or the objects they leave behind. Ranger Kristel Nelson recalled one of her more emotional experiences while collecting artifacts at the memorial recently. “Inside a plastic bag I found a photograph and a sonogram. The photo was of a husband and wife with four children, and handwritten on the back of the sonogram was a simple message: ‘Dear Dad, you’re going to be a grandfather again! Love, your daughter.’ I remember feeling moved by the thought that the names on the wall aren’t just names; they’re real people, with loved ones who still reach out to make that connection.”

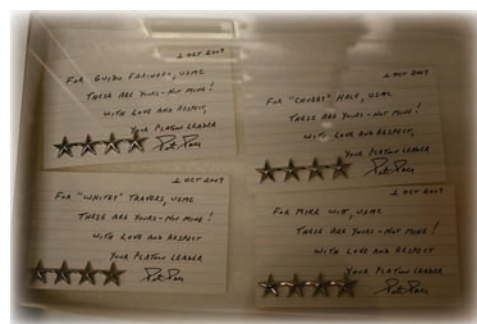
Another incident remembered by Ranger Lowell Fry involved finding a simple note left at the base of a panel that read, “William, I forgive you – your daughter.” Ranger Fry commented, “We don’t know what the circumstances might have been, but in this case the memorial seemed to bring a

measure of closure to this woman, as it does for countless others.”

National Park Service staff collects the artifacts, and deliver them to the National Park Service Museum Resource Center (MRCE), where specialists have created a museum collection for safekeeping, storage, and further study. Over one million artifacts are acquired and cared for by the center. Their collections include historical, archeological, archival, ethnographical, biological, geological, and paleontological materials. The program is responsible for the acquisition, care and preservation of museum objects that are held in trust for the public, and its mission is to provide guidance and assistance on caring for museum objects, related structures and exhibits in order to preserve the cultural and natural objects for eternity.

Recently, a group of National Park Service staff visited the MRCE facility, where they were introduced to Site Manager Tyra Walker, and Duery Felton, Curator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Collection. The tour covered the route taken by every item collected at the memorial, beginning with the receiving dock. All artifacts are separated there, and moved to temporary environmentally controlled rooms, depending on whether the objects are dry or wet. Damp items are carefully dried and treated with the intent of retaining as much of the original form as possible. Assemblages (several items left as a single artifact) are kept intact, and all items are then moved to the cataloging stage.

Hundreds of thousands of items have been collected; some as small as a favorite piece of candy, or as large as a Harley Davidson motorcycle. Perhaps one of the more poignant stories of objects left at the wall is that of Peter Pace, retired four-star general in the United States Marine Corps who served as the 16th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. After his retirement ceremony, Pace visited the Vietnam Veterans



Four-star General insignia - General Peter Pace

Memorial where he left several handwritten notes dated October 1, 2007. Each note had a set of his four-star General insignia attached, and read something like this one: “For Mike Witt, USMC These are yours – not mine! With love and respect, your platoon leader, Pete Pace.”

Every artifact collected and delivered to the MRCE facility is accounted for, catalogued and stored, no matter how many identical items have been previously collected. In the cataloguing room, the MRCE staff painstakingly sort through every box of artifacts, identify each one, label them individually, and package for storage. After all the identification, tagging, and cataloguing is finished, the one final task is to find the appropriate home for each artifact amidst the maze of storage. One glance at the enormity of this facility is enough to appreciate the effort put into cataloguing. Cabinets, safes, and modern shelving units are lined up as far as the eye can see. Although the MRCE facility is not open to the public, there is a rotating selection of items from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on display at the Smithsonian Museum of American History.



MRCE staff cataloguing items

In their new home the artifacts are cared for, and kept for future studies and exhibits. The journey they have made has created a connection between all who come into contact with them. All visitors who leave artifacts at the memorial have different stories and experiences, yet the memorial and artifacts create a common bond between them all – that of a healing process.

Visiting the Washington Monument

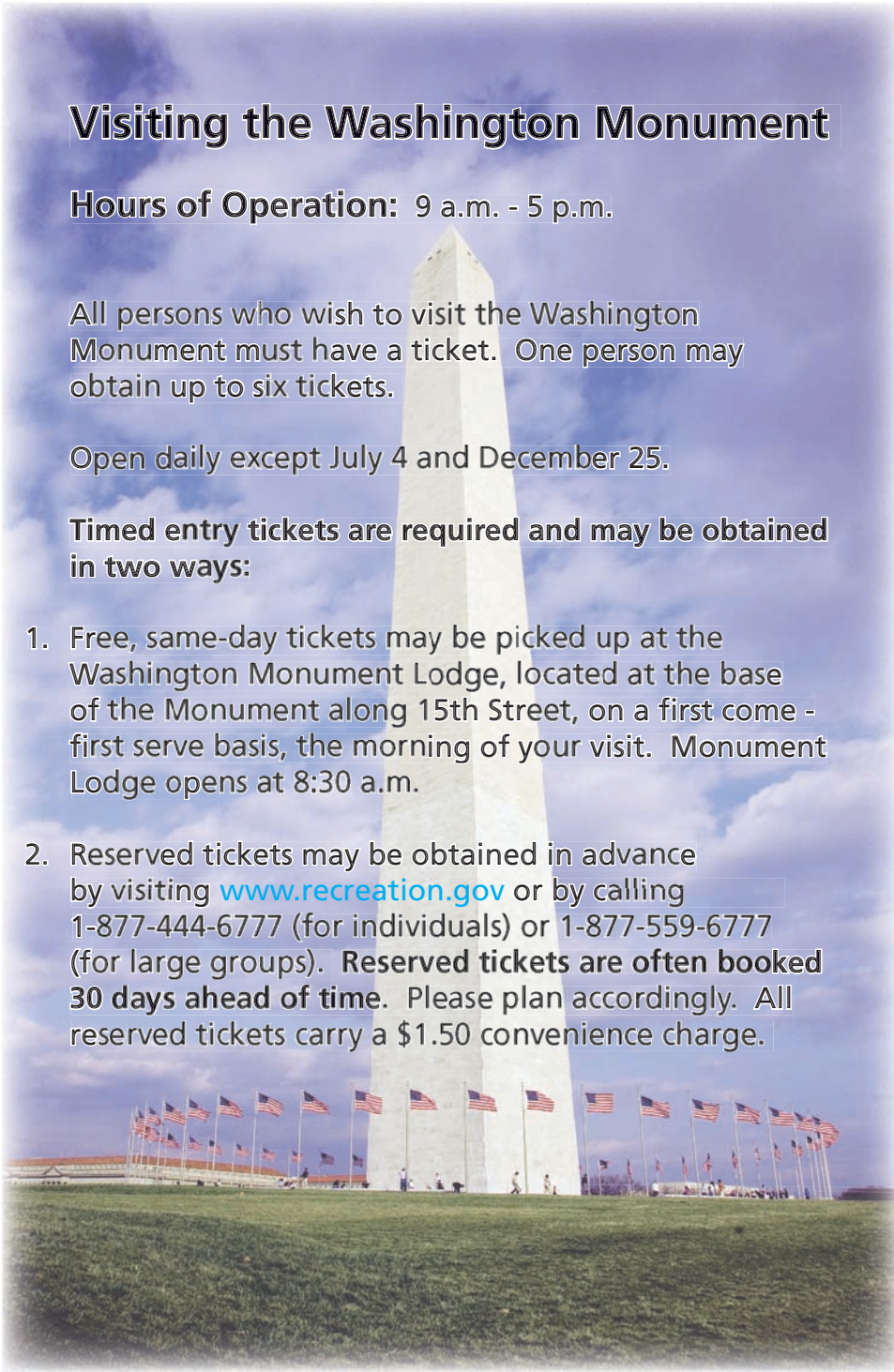
Hours of Operation: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

All persons who wish to visit the Washington Monument must have a ticket. One person may obtain 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 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 10 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

202-606-8691

www.nps.gov/opot



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 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

www.easternnational.org

Washington Monument Lodge
8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Old Post Office Tower NHS Tours and Presentations

Ranger led walking tours of Pennsylvania Avenue
Upon Request - Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m. & 1 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.

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



Join National Park Service rangers to learn more about the meaning, symbolism, and significance of the park's many memorials. Programs are free and vary in length. For more information contact a park ranger at each memorial.

Programs are offered at the following memorials...

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

Scheduled Programs are presented on the hour from 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

**Additional programs on request.