



National Mall Times

The official newspaper
of National Mall and Memorial Parks

Winter 2011-2012 · Volume 5, Issue 2

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From Civil War to Civil Rights. Marchers from Selma to Montgomery, AL, 1965. January celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and February is African American History Month. LOC# LC-DIG-ppmsca-08102

Aw, Nuts!

By Ranger Paul O'Brian

On a cold, snowy day on Dec. 16, 1944, many inexperienced American soldiers stationed along the German border and in the heavily wooded Ardennes forest in Belgium, Luxembourg were surprised by the attack of Adolf Hitler's soldiers.

The Allies landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944. They advanced to liberate Paris on Aug. 25, 1944, and continued on to drive the Germans back toward Germany. In response to this Allied push, Hitler planned to drive a wedge between the American and British forces in Western Europe, initiating the Battle of the Bulge. This battle took its name from a bulge 70 miles wide and 50 miles deep created in the Allied lines when the Germans moved into the Ardennes. Hitler's offensive would be his last gamble of the war.



Thomas R. O'Brian of the 775th Field Artillery Battalion

The Battle of the Bulge developed as the Germans encircled the town of Bastogne, Belgium. One of those Americans who remembered those cold, snowy days, and who also received a copy of the famous offer of surrender of Bastogne, was my father, Thomas R. O'Brian, who was a member of the 775th Field Artillery Battalion. As I was growing up he would tell me, my four sisters, and two brothers about his WWII experiences, and especially about the Battle of the Bulge.

His battalion and the 101st Airborne Division, along with attached units such as the 10th Armored Division, Combat Command B, the 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company C, 9th Armored Engineers, 969 Field Artillery Battalion, Combat Command R(37th Battalion), and the 4th Armored Division all had the duty of defending Bastogne. The battalion was split with one group in Bastogne itself, and my father's group near the village of Villeroux. The village was southwest within a short distance from Bastogne. They were stationed there primarily because they had 155mm howitzer guns which could fire three times longer than the airborne artillery could fire. The 155mm howitzer guns

Doctor Lincoln?

By Ranger Lowell Fry

It might be easy to define Abraham Lincoln by superlative adjectives and definitive adverbs—tallest, moodiest, greatest. Perhaps many would consider him one of the least physically attractive of White House chief executives. Yet the memorial to the 16th president in Washington, D.C. is one of the most visited. Perhaps the emotional connection people have with this person, who has been dead for nearly a century and a half, can be explained in part because he achieved so much with so little formal education. Yet it is not widely known that the honorary title of "doctor" was one bestowed upon him by those in academia.

Having been inaugurated for the first time on the cusp of one of the most seismic events in American culture, the Civil War, this frontier lawyer brought no executive experience to the presidency. His formal learning appeared almost equally lacking. In his 1860 campaign biography, Lincoln described his educational experience as "deficient." By his calculations, his school experience totaled no more than one year. Maybe this lack ironically helped him in his White House bid, as the book learning of his fellow citizens around the time of the Civil War averaged 434 days. So in this respect most of the electorate would be able to identify with him. Even so, his lack in educational attainments throws his accomplishments and legacy into greater relief.

Safety Corner

It is slick out there!
Ice can build up along walkways and in the memorials.
Take your time and watch your step.



Aw, Nuts! continued on 3

Doctor Lincoln continued on 3

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Eastern National Bookstores

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 five bookstores:

- Washington Monument Lodge
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Lincoln Memorial
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial
9 a.m. - 10 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:

Tidal Basin Paddle Boats

202-479-2426

www.tidalbasinpaddleboats.com



GUEST SERVICES

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.

Ranger Programs: Talk for the Tower on the Half-Hour

Daily at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

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

www.nps.gov/opot

Operating Hours

Winter: Labor Day through Memorial Day

Monday through Saturday
9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Sunday and Holidays
12 - 5:45 p.m.



Trust for the National Mall

By Trust for the National Mall

In November 2011, the National Park Service and the Trust for the National Mall, in partnership with OSRAM SYLVANIA and Pepco Holdings Inc., the electric utility provider that serves the greater Washington, D.C. area, completed the installation of energy efficient light emitting diode (LED) fixtures in the historic Olmstead streetlights that line the elm walks along the National Mall from 3rd to 14th Sts. The original Olmstead streetlights were first installed in 1936 as part of the federal reconstruction and beautification of the National Mall. The existing streetlight posts are made of fluted bronze and stand 21 ft. tall. The Olmstead lamp heads are made of cast iron and weigh approximately 300 lbs. each. The SYLVANIA LED Retrofit Kit for Outdoor Area Lighting replace older, less energy efficient, high intensity discharge mercury vapor (HID) and compact fluorescent (CFL) fixtures. Pepco crews removed the existing inefficient light bulbs, cleaned the glass, and installed the new LED light fixtures. The retrofit of the 173 Olmstead streetlamps with SYLVANIA LED fixtures will reduce outdoor lighting energy usage on the National Mall by approximately 67%. Additionally, the new fixtures were designed to maintain the historic appearance, light color spectrum, and brightness of the traditional Olmstead streetlights. The project will provide a well-lit and welcoming atmosphere for visitors strolling on the National Mall after dark, while maintaining the historic character and architectural integrity of the original fittings, as well as providing substantial energy savings.



NPS and the Trust's partnership with OSRAM SYLVANIA and Pepco are advancing the National Mall Plan's call for sustainable and historically compatible enhancements. This is an outstanding demonstration of the power of high efficiency lighting technology and our unique public/private partnership which began over ten years ago. In 2001, OSRAM SYLVANIA first tackled lighting the Thomas Jefferson Memorial with energy efficient technologies, including LED's, to illuminate President Jefferson's words. Ten years later, our partnership with OSRAM SYLVANIA not only includes a contribution of second generation LED lighting fixtures to replace the existing inefficient traditional bulbs, but also the custom design and manufacture of retrofit installation kits for the historic Olmstead fixtures. Pepco expedited the process by generously donating the installation services of three overhead line crews utilizing energy efficient, hybrid technology bucket trucks. Pepco's installation of the LED retrofit kits gave welcome assistance to the NPS electrical team that is tasked to maintain all the lighting on the National Mall and parks elsewhere in the District. The Pepco crews cut the estimated installation time by at least 75%. With the new LED fixtures requiring replacement every 10 years as opposed to the current two, NPS will also see an additional 80% savings in bulb replacement times over the old conventional lighting fixtures.

The Trust for the National Mall is the official non-profit partner of the National Park Service dedicated to restoring and improving the National Mall. For more information please visit:

www.nationalmall.org

Twitter: @thenationalmall

Facebook.com/TrustfortheNationalMall

Email: information@nationalmall.org

Why is the Washington Monument Closed?

On Aug. 23, 2011, a magnitude 5.8 earthquake, centered in Virginia, sent tremors throughout eastern North America. This seismic activity affected several Washington, D.C. landmarks, including the Washington Monument. National Park Service engineers and experts in historic preservation and earthquake engineering immediately assessed the physical impact in order to determine the best way to repair this national treasure and restore public access.

Completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1884, the Washington Monument honors George Washington for his service in the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) and for voluntarily giving up the office of President of the United States after two terms. The Monument remains the world's tallest freestanding stone structure, having weathered other earthquakes, including one in 1897 with a magnitude of 5.9.

For up-to-date information, photos, and videos, visit online at:
www.nps.gov/wamo



A structural engineer inspects the exterior of the monument.

Among his state papers are masterpieces of American literature.

A lack of knowledge does not necessarily parallel a person's desire to learn. "My best friend is the man who'll get me a book I ain't read," Lincoln said. Perhaps it was because of this one-time rail splitter's scant opportunities to attend school that he had a keen interest in education. When only 31 as an Illinois legislator, he put forward a resolution calling for would-be teachers to pass a qualifying test for admittance into their profession. During his first-term presidential bid, Lincoln received another elective honor. He became a trustee of Illinois State University, a projected institution of higher learning in his hometown of Springfield, Ill. Six days later, (on July 4, 1860) he was awarded an honorary doctorate from a college in Illinois, received another one the following year and before his death received his third from what is today Princeton.

From 1861 to 1865, Abraham Lincoln's chief priorities lay in ending a rebellion and forging a fractured Union into a nation. In the conflict, he learned that this could be accomplished only by abolishing something

he hated - the "peculiar institution" of slavery. Despite these primary war responsibilities he still supported education and the advancement of knowledge. It was because of the president's signature that the Morrill bill became the Morrill Act on July 2, 1862. With the bill's passage into law, the possibility to obtain a college diploma was made more available to individuals outside moneyed circles. Vast expanses of government land went up for sale in every state loyal to the Union and the proceeds from these transactions were set aside to found institutions of higher education. These land grant colleges were established to train their students in practical disciplines, such as agriculture, at tuition rates they could pay. It was also during the 16th president's tenure that the National Academy of Sciences was founded in 1863.

Joseph Henry was director of the Smithsonian Institution, which had been created for the dissemination of knowledge for the American public. His remark about Abraham Lincoln's vision applies to more than just one area: "...the most far-seeing head in this land is on the shoulders of that awkward rail splitter from Illinois."

Ranger Programs and Activities

We have Ranger Talks
EVERY DAY
at all the major sites!

Where: Lincoln, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Thomas Jefferson Memorials

When: 10 a.m., 12, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 p.m.



Special programs are offered too!
Pick up a schedule from a Ranger or
check out our website:

www.nps.gov/nama/planyourvisit/events.htm



were very effective in destroying German tanks when they were on target. Fighting was constant, and the troops began to be cut off as the Germans pushed forward. My mother received letters regularly from my father throughout the war until his battalion was sent to Villeroux.

Temperatures began to plummet as winter neared. My father tried to stay warm by stuffing newspapers inside his summer uniform, which consisted of a meager light jacket. He always said when it became cold and snow was on the ground, that it reminded him of Bastogne. On Dec. 19, 1944, the Germans attacked the defensive boundary of Bastogne including Villeroux. The Americans responded with force. If they could not destroy German tanks with their 155mm guns there was another method of destroying them: by firing bazookas on the treads of their tanks. Then some brave soldier would volunteer to go behind the tank, open the top hatch, and drop grenades inside to knock it out. My father told me they had to do this more than once.

Villeroux was cut off from Bastogne for four days starting the next day, Dec. 20. As the Germans entered into Villeroux my father and fellow soldiers hid in a basement of a house while German soldiers were just outside. In addition to battling the cold and German forces, they had to fight off the rats crawling on the floor as they sought refuge in that basement. My father had a carbine rifle as his only weapon to fight the Germans. That same day Bastogne was surrounded by the Germans.

Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, who was the acting commander of the 101st Airborne Division, organized the defense of Bastogne. The Americans were low on medical supplies, warm food, warm clothing, and ammunition. In addition to the Germans surrounding his defenses of Bastogne, they also bombed the town at night. This added to the soldiers already wounded from the fighting around Bastogne. Civilians of Bastogne, who also were trapped in the siege, became part of the wounded from the bombing. Despite all of these problems, McAuliffe received a surrender offer from the Germans on Dec. 22, 1944. He was not exactly sure how to react. Initially, he responded by saying, "Aw, Nuts!" It seemed funny to him at the time. He realized he had to reply back within the two hours or the Germans would continue their attack. "Well, I don't know what to tell them", he said to his staff. Col. Harry W.O. Kinnard, the 101st's operations officer, said to McAuliffe, "The first remark of yours would be hard to beat." McAuliffe was not quite

sure what he meant at first, then, Kinnard said to him, "You said 'Nuts!'" The staff applauded, and McAuliffe decided to send this message to the Germans, "To the German Commander, NUTS! The American Commander."

The response from McAuliffe's staff was laughter, and then Col. Joseph Harper, a regimental commander in the 101st, carried the message back to the Germans. Two German officers did not quite understand the message and Harper told him, "If you don't understand what 'Nuts' means, in plain English it is the same as 'Go to hell.' A German major and captain saluted very stiffly. The captain said, "We will kill many Americans. This is war." Harper said, "On your way, Bud, and good luck to you." Harper did regret in an interview after the siege of saying good luck to the Germans.

On Dec. 23, 1944, my father and his fellow soldiers were able to get out of the basement that they were in, and received a morale boost. They were joined with other American soldiers and received a mimeographed copy of the surrender story. They got a good laugh from it. The fighting continued through Christmas. They heard rumors about Gen. George S. Patton's men coming to lift the siege.

The encirclement of Bastogne was lifted on Dec. 26, 1944, when Patton's 4th Armored Division broke through the German lines. My father was guard duty at night when Patton was approaching the American lines, and he met the general. When the movie Patton was released in 1970, my father took me and one of my brothers, Dan, to see it. He said the movie was very close to the real Patton. He always complained about Hollywood's version

of WWII, but he was satisfied with the movie. After the siege was lifted my father and his battalion became part of the XII Corps of Patton's 3rd Army which advanced into the liberation of Germany.

The WWII Memorial represents an American generation that was involved in the Second World War, whether on a war front like the Battle of the Bulge or a home front. It also represents courage and sacrifice. Along the Northern entrance walkway, there is a bas relief panel exemplifying this famous battle, honoring 19,000 Americans who died. My father came home in Oct. 1945, after Germany surrendered in May. Unfortunately, he died in 1976, so he did not have a chance to see the World War II Memorial. So when I see that particular panel in the memorial set in bronze, I appreciate my father's courage especially with those cold, snowy days of 1945 in mind.



Troops in the U.S. 7th Armored Division advance along a road towards St. Vith, Belgium. Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

BEHIND THE BADGE

Profiles of the National Mall's Park Rangers

Ranger Leonard Lee grew up the only child in a single parent household in Pittsburgh, PA, and felt blessed with close intimate relationship with his mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. He moved to Schenectady, NY to go to Union College. He remembers his experience at Union College as initially very dramatic. At the time, Union College was an environment filled with upper-middle class to upper class white students. "The whole fraternity/sorority establishment and organization were completely alien to me. As a result, I had very difficult time adjusting."

Q. You were unprepared for the larger world outside Pittsburgh?

A. Yeah, initially. However I was lucky to have been aware of Malcolm X., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., John F. Kennedy and others who were involved in civil rights during those tumultuous years. I still remember the day Dr. King was shot and killed, John F. Kennedy was shot and killed, and his brother Robert was killed. These experiences shaped my attitudes, as I competed academically with people outside my sphere of experience. I realized a college education would position me competitively so I could be a productive member of our society.

Q. What kind of degree did you complete?

A. I graduated with a degree in Economics and Sociology. I laugh now - and my professor laughed then - at my thesis topic, "The Social Utility of Black Enterprise." While a sophomore I had an opportunity to work for YMCA and at a group home in the African-American community. That experience made me a little more grounded and sensitive. I wanted to contribute not only to my own uplift but also to the uplift of my community. My first job out of college was working for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, D.C.

Q. Had you ever visited any national parks prior to working for the National Park Service? And how did you come to work for National Mall and Memorial Parks?

A. Absolutely not. . . I am somewhat at a loss as to why I had not had a national park experience in my youth. My neighbor, who developed programs for the community for the National Park Service (NPS) at the National Capital Region (NCR), made me aware of an opportunity that existed at the National Capital Region and encouraged me to apply.

Q. When you joined NCR, what kind of work were you doing?

A. I developed youth programs and special programs for different regional sites. I had a mobile unit fitted with recreational activities, equipment and supplies, which I would take into one of the parks to engage the youth with activities and talks. Also on weekends, I would produce summer concerts series for Fort Du Pont and Carter Baron Amphitheater. As a result, I was able to engage across generations.

Q. How did you come to the Division of Permits Management?

A. I worked at NCR Office of Community Outreach for three years. At the time the Office of Community Outreach was joined with Office of Permits and Office of Public Affairs in one division. 1995 reorganization split Public Affairs from Permits and from Community Outreach. I did a four year detail and later got a permanent position as a permit officer.

Q. What is your area of expertise within the Division of Permits Management Office?

A. My area of specialty is permitting a variety of activities, special events, and demonstrations. In terms of size and scope I would say I have done more special events, the largest of which was President Obama's inauguration. Record numbers of visitors came to the Mall for his opening ceremony and presidential inaugural. I was fortunate to be the park ranger who issued that permit and worked with other leadership within NPS to facilitate the event. Additionally, I have done some fairly large 1st Amendment demonstrations. Also, I have a collateral duty working with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades of Local 1997 representing bargain union employees within the National Capital Region. Over the past 8-9 years I have been able to engage these types of responsibilities which have been very substantive.

Q. Did the union exist before you joined NCR?

A. Yes. As a matter of fact, I joined the union as a regular member, and was offered an opportunity to be a steward and subsequently approached by members to run for office. I was elected to the offices of vice president and then president of the union.

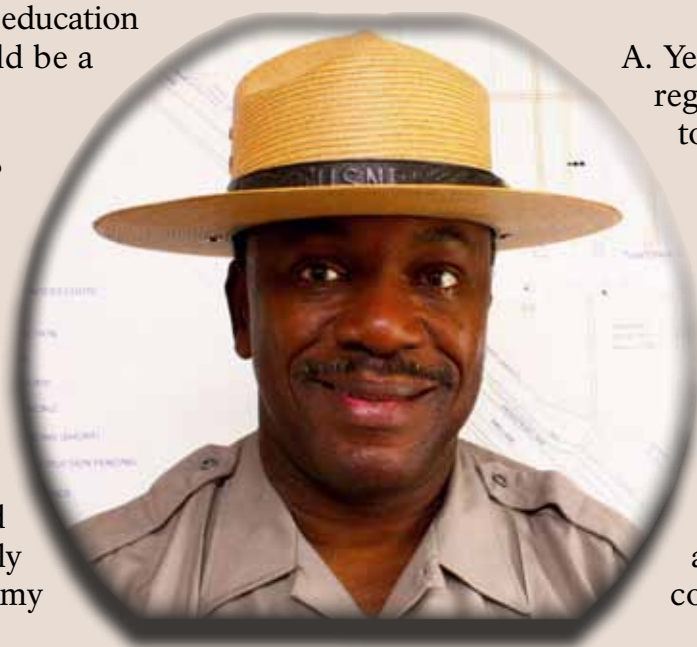
Q. Are there similar skill sets that you employ as park ranger writing permits and as president of the union?

A. Having a sense of patience is important to what I do. When you are able to listen and hear you are able to understand people's concerns, issues, and questions. When it comes to applicants who like to conduct a particular activity, I listen to understand their goals, mission, and aspirations. Many times they are very dedicated to

the cause and I try to understand what their missions are and how it relates or not relates to the National Park Service. It is important to find a way to guide or advise them, to be respectful of what they would like to do but at the same time to balance the mission of the National Park Service. . . . We have to provide for use but at the same time protect resources. It can be difficult to work under competing forces. When it comes to my union activities, I am able to hear and understand employees' needs and concerns and relate those concerns to management in an attempt to resolve or mitigate issues.

Q. What do you most like about being a ranger?

A. My position at National Mall and Memorial Parks as well as the work I do for NCR inspire and ground me at the same time. I am very grateful for a position in the parks, because I am among our nation's icons. I cannot help but be influenced by these places. My wish, hope, and prayer is that as I continue my journey, and others journey with me, we leave behind a better understating of the value and importance of these icons and that we allocate the proper attention, resources and material so all of the stories that significantly shaped our country are told: not only the African-American but also the Native American experience. The evolutionary and maybe even revolutionary environment at NCR and NAMA has been very rewarding. They make me strive every day that I come to work to do my best and to provide the most efficient service I can. Certainly the agency demands that out of me. More importantly my ancestors demand that as well.



Leonard Lee issues permits for events and demonstrations on the National Mall. He says one of the challenges is balancing public use of the park's resources with the National Park Service's mission to protect the same resources.

Explore the award-winning, interactive

Lincoln Memorial website:

<http://www.nps.gov/linc>

- Interactive Panoramas
- Ranger Videos
- In-Depth Exploration



KIDS' Column



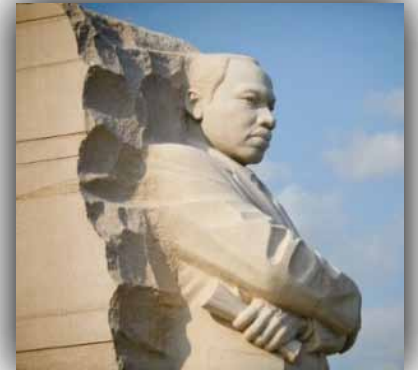
Take a winter walk around the Tidal Basin!
Gear up for the Cherry Blossom Centennial in 2012 by getting to know the Tidal Basin's memorials.



In honor of Presidents Day in February, visit the memorial to the 3rd president. Can you find where Jefferson is shown working with the Declaration committee?



President Roosevelt was born on January 30. Find out what year by looking for the timeline in Room 4 near the statue of Eleanor Roosevelt.



Visit the newest memorial on the National Mall in honor of Dr. King's January birthday or Black History Month in February. What do you think is in his hand?

Fill in the blanks and rearrange the circled letters to find out where the water in the Tidal Basin comes from. Some letters have been filled in to help you get started.

Dr. King's famous speech: **H**

FDR's message carved on the blocks: **W**

Jefferson's big move as president: **U**

 S

Answer: **O** **V**

National Mall App



Use this fun tool to enhance your National Mall experience! The app is free and downloads in minutes (13.7 MB). The app is currently available for Android and iPhone. Features include:

- **Augmented Reality** - Hold your camera up and the "Park Lens" feature will identify your surroundings.
- **Maps & Directions** - Plan your route using easy-to-read maps or use the "Locate Me" tool.
- **Sites** - Get in-depth information, podcasts, and more on the monuments and memorials on the National Mall
- **Tours** - Select a walking tour or create your own suited to your interests and time available.
- **Accessibility** - Built-in accessibility capability
- Plus events, news, postcards, and more!

Use your phone's QR Reader to download the free National Mall app now!



Android users



iOS users



Cell Phone Tours

Lincoln Memorial: (202) 747-3420
First Amendment: (202) 595-0085
Vietnam Veterans Memorial: (202) 595-0093
Hispanic Heroes Tour: (202) 595-1730

National Mall Map



Major Attractions

1 Lincoln Memorial

A temple to “The Great Emancipator” who saved the Union, the Lincoln Memorial attracts anyone who seeks inspiration and hope. Museum, restrooms, and elevator are located on the lower level. Bookstore on the upper level. For cell phone tours, dial 202-747-3420.



4 World War II Memorial

The Second World War brought Americans together to defend freedom at home and abroad. This memorial commemorates the spirit of unity and honors the sacrifice of over 400,000 American lives in defense of freedom. Restrooms are located near the information booth.



7 Thomas Jefferson Memorial

An enduring reminder of the author of the Declaration of Independence and a staunch advocate for freedom, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial is located in a beautiful natural setting. Bookstore, elevator, and restrooms on the lower level.



2 Vietnam Veterans Memorial

This place of healing and remembrance honors the men and women who served when their nation called upon them. The Three Servicemen Statue and Vietnam Women’s Memorial are located nearby. For cell phone tours, dial 202-595-0093.



5 Washington Monument

A tribute to our first president, the iconic Washington Monument towers above the capital city. *The monument is closed due to earthquake damage; see page 3 for more information.* Bookstore and restrooms located on 15th St. east of the monument.



8 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

Completed in 2011, the newest memorial on the National Mall honors the civil rights leader and proponent of peace, justice, and equality. Bookstore and restrooms located at the memorial on West Basin Drive.



3 Korean War Veterans Memorial

From June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, United Nations forces fought to defend freedom on the Korean Peninsula. Visitors are reminded of the hardships and sacrifice endured during the conflict, and that “Freedom is Not Free.”



6 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

A sprawling memorial in a park setting, the FDR Memorial honors the legacy of our nation’s longest-serving president. Restrooms located at the north and south ends of the memorial. Bookstore located on the north end of the memorial.



9 Old Post Office Tower

Enjoy the view of downtown D.C. from the bell chamber of this historic building on 12th and Pennsylvania. Food court and other amenities available.



National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Dr., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024
Phone: 202-426-6841
www.nps.gov/nama
Radio: 1670 AM

Activities: Ranger talks and site tours begin every day on the even hours - 10 a.m., 12, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 p.m. at Lincoln, Vietnam, Korea, World War II, FDR, and Jefferson Memorials.

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