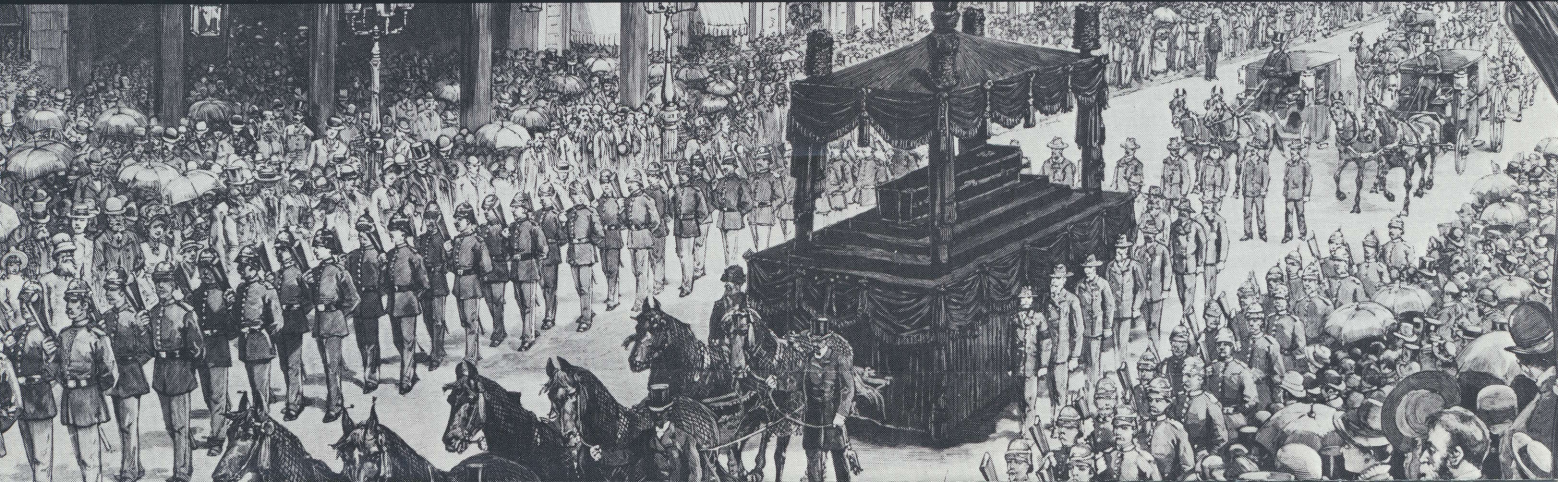


# General Grant

National Memorial  
New York

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



The grand memorial erected by the American people to Ulysses S. Grant in 1897 bears witness to the reverence they felt for the great Union commander during the Civil War and the nation's 18th President. This large, classically proportioned mausoleum, the final resting place of President Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, stands to honor the general who saved the nation from dissolution and the President who worked to usher in a new era of peace and equality for all Americans. Grant himself was a plain-spoken, unassuming man who studiously avoided pomp and ceremony, traits that remained with him throughout his public career.

When the Civil War erupted in 1861, he volunteered his services for the Union effort

and, in doing what he considered simply his duty, emerged as one of the Great Captains in history. Aggressiveness, speed, tenacity, and the ability to adjust his plans in the face of unexpected impediments all brought him victory; he also was an innovator who transcended many conventional categories of generalship. Beginning the war in the West, he won numerous victories, including those at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga. As supreme commander of the Union armies, he faced Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederate forces in the East during the last year of the war. He destroyed Lee's initiative at the battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania and ultimately defeated his army through the successful Petersburg and Appomattox campaigns.

As great as he was in war, Grant showed magnanimity and compassion in peace. He granted humane and generous terms when Lee surrendered to him on April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House. When Northern politicians later attempted to try Lee for treason, Grant threatened to resign his commission if the proceedings were not halted. As president, he pardoned many former Confederate leaders, but at the same time he insisted on protecting the full political equality of former slaves. His fundamental desire for peace was reflected in his successful and pioneering efforts to solve international disputes by arbitration rather than by the threat of war. At the time of his death in 1885, Grant was universally respected by both Northerners and Southerners.

Citizen/Soldier

- 1822 Born April 27 in Point Pleasant, Ohio. Named Hiram Ulysses Grant.
- 1823-39 Moves to Georgetown, Ohio. Attends school and works in father's tannery. Establishes life-long reputation as excellent horseman.
- 1839-43 Attends West Point, where name is recorded as Ulysses S. Grant. Excels in mathematics and horsemanship. Graduates at middle of class.
- 1843-46 Assigned to post near St. Louis. Regiment moves to Louisiana, then to Mexican border.
- 1846-48 Serves in Mexican War, taking part in almost every major battle. Displays gallantry on several occasions, including battles at Monterey, Molino del Rey, and Chapultepec.
- 1848-52 Marries Julia Dent, who becomes constant source of strength. Serves as quartermaster at Great Lakes posts. First child, Frederick, born in 1850.
- 1852-54 Transferred to Oregon Territory, where second child, Ulysses, Jr., is born in 1852. After two unhappy years in Oregon and California, resigns from army as captain.



- 1854-61 Tries farming land given Julia by her father near St. Louis. Peddles cleared wood. Third child, Ellen (Nellie), born in 1855. Fourth child, Jesse, born in 1858. Bad luck and ill health cause failure of farm. Fails in real estate business. Father gives him job clerking in family leather goods store in Galena, Ill.

General

- 1861 Civil War breaks out. Appointed colonel of undisciplined, demoralized 21st Illinois Volunteers. Proves adept at leading soldiers, and toughens troops in western campaigns. Appointed brigadier general. Occupies Paducah, Ky. Captures Belmont, Mo.
- 1862 Captures Forts Henry and Donelson, Tenn., the latter after demanding "unconditional surrender." Named major general of volunteers. Defeats Confederates at Shiloh.
- 1863 Takes Vicksburg, last major rebel stronghold on Mississippi. Commissioned major general in regular army. Raises siege of Chattanooga.
- 1864 Commissioned lieutenant general by President Lincoln and given command of all Union armies. Battles General Lee in Virginia at Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor. Besieges Petersburg.
- 1865 Breaks Lee's line at Petersburg and forces Confederates to abandon Richmond. On April 9, receives surrender of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House, virtually ending the Civil War.
- 1866 Commissioned first full general.
- 1867 Appointed Secretary of War *ad interim*.



Statesman

- 1868-69 Declaring "Let us have peace," accepts Republican nomination for President and is subsequently elected. Advocates amnesty for former Confederates and protection for blacks.
- 1870 Approves 15th Amendment to Constitution, which states that no citizen can be denied the right to vote based on color. Signs first Enforcement Act to protect political rights of blacks.
- 1871 Implements Indian Peace Policy. Signs second Enforcement Act. Enacts successful arbitration of Alabama Claims dispute.
- 1872 Reelected President.
- 1874-75 Vetoes Inflation of Currency Bill. Signs Specie Resumption Act.
- 1877-79 Travels around the world, greeted by crowds and dignitaries everywhere.
- 1881 Moves to New York City. Invests family's money in Wall Street firm of Grant and Ward.
- 1884 Grant and Ward fails. Loses his fortune. Begins to write memoirs to aid his family. Contracts throat cancer.
- 1885 Dies July 23 at Mt. McGregor, N.Y., within four days after completing his memoirs.



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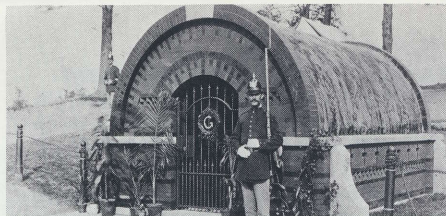
Popularly known as Grant's Tomb, the memorial to General Grant is one of the largest mausoleums in the world, rising to an imposing 150 feet from a bluff overlooking the Hudson River. Its construction was a mammoth undertaking for the time: hundreds of men worked on the structure between 1892 and 1897, using over 8,000 tons of granite. The great size of the tomb was meant to express the profound admiration Americans felt for the Civil War commander and President. In his time Grant's military accomplishments were compared to those of Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and Napoleon. As the man credited with saving the nation from dissolution, Grant was propelled to the forefront

of America's pantheon of heroes and declared the equal of Washington and Lincoln.

Because of his status as a national hero, most Americans assumed Grant would be buried in Washington, D.C., but his family announced that his remains would be interred in New York City. Grant himself had said he preferred a burial site in St. Louis, Mo., Galena, Ill., or New York City and had insisted that a place be reserved by his side for his wife Julia.

Immediately after General Grant died, Mayor William Grace offered the family a burial site in New York City, with the assurance that Mrs. Grant could be interred beside her husband.

The funeral was held in New York on August 8, 1885, and was one of the most spectacular processions ever staged in America. Buildings all over the city were draped in black, with the most elaborate displays along Broadway, the route of the funeral march. The estimated one million people who turned out for the event crowded sidewalks, filled windows, stood on rooftops, and climbed trees and telephone poles for a view of the procession, which stretched seven miles and took up to five hours to pass. Among the 60,000 marchers were President Grover Cleveland, his cabinet, the justices of the Supreme Court, and virtually the entire Congress.

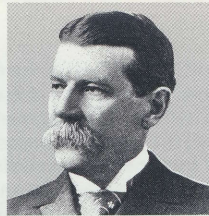


A temporary brick vault was built in Riverside Park at 122nd Street to house Grant's remains. The spot was miles beyond the built-up part of the city and difficult to reach by public transportation, but it offered breathtaking views of the Hudson River and promised to be an apt setting for a grandiose, permanent monument

that everyone assumed would quickly be erected in Grant's honor. Few suspected, as the door to the temporary vault was sealed, that it would be 12 years before Grant's Tomb would be completed. Altogether, 90,000 people donated more than \$600,000 to finish the monument.



Richard T. Greener, first black graduate of Harvard and a political supporter of Grant, became the first secretary of the Grant Monument Association and helped supervise the organization's fundraising campaign until 1892.

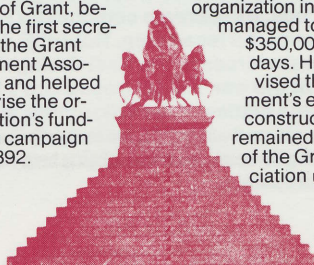


Horace Porter, longtime associate of Grant, became president of the organization in 1892 and managed to collect \$350,000 in 90 days. He supervised the monument's entire construction and remained president of the Grant Association until 1919.



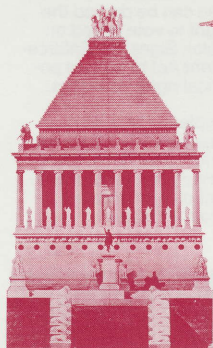
On Grant Day, April 27, 1897—the 75th anniversary of his birth—Grant's Tomb was dedicated. Ten days earlier Grant's body had been secretly transferred from the temporary vault to an 8½-ton red granite sarcophagus in the mausoleum. Crowds again filled the streets as an enormous parade passed beneath

a triumphal arch and warships on the Hudson fired salutes. Sitting by President William McKinley and General Porter on a huge grandstand in front of the tomb, Mrs. Grant reviewed the ceremony. She was laid at her husband's side in an identical sarcophagus after her death on December 14, 1902.



## About Grant's Tomb

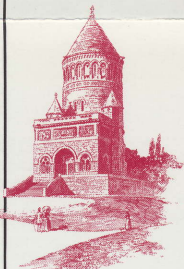
Modeled after some of the most famous monuments ever built, Grant's Tomb incorporates elements from the tomb of King Mausolus at Halicarnassus, the tomb of the Roman emperor Hadrian, Napoleon's Tomb in Dome de Invalides, and the Garfield Memorial



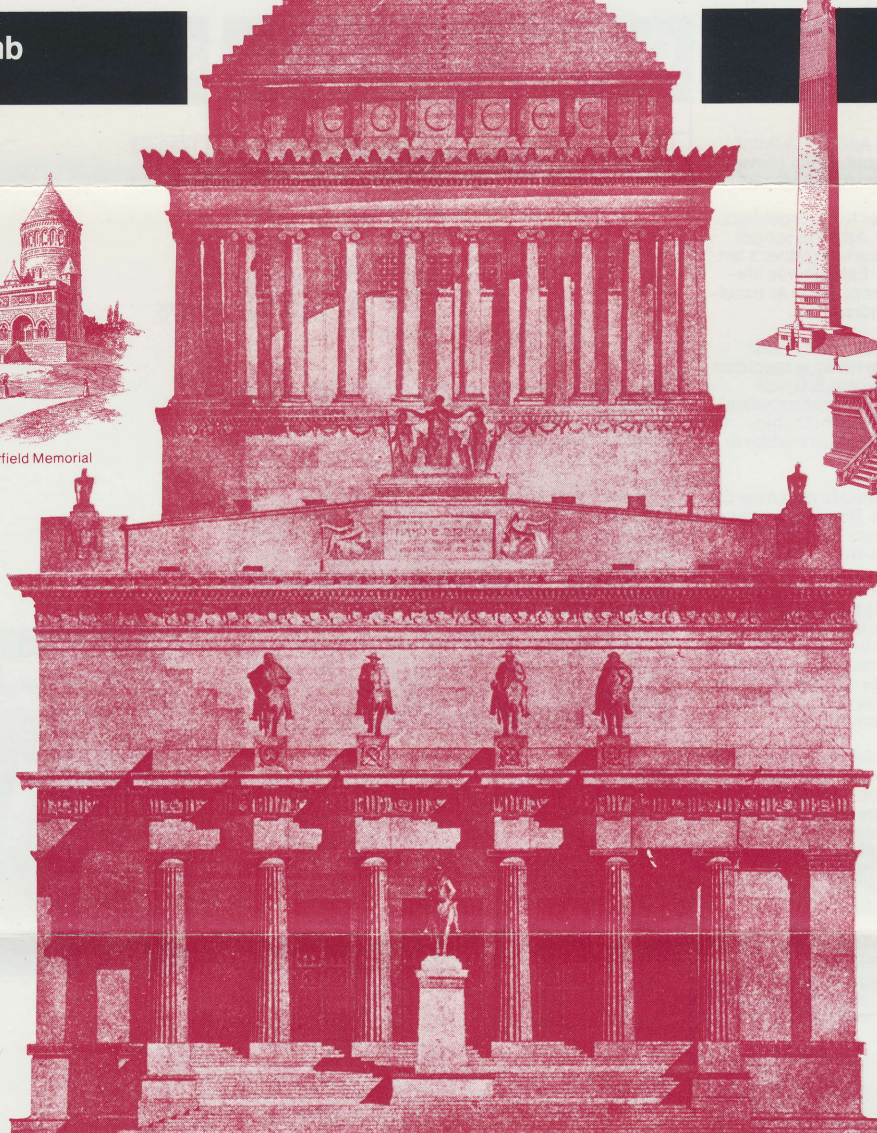
Tomb of King Mausolus

Memorial in Cleveland, Ohio. These references to previous mausoleums for the great were intended to emphasize Grant's exalted place in history.

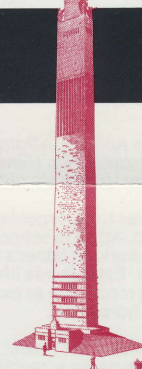
Other designs had been considered. Everyone in America seemed to have an opinion on how the tomb should look. Some thought a towering shaft of granite would best commemorate the dead hero, while others felt a large equestrian statue would be more appropriate. There were even suggestions that it be



Garfield Memorial



Duncan's preliminary design for Grant Monument



Rejected designs for Grant Monument

built of red, white, and blue glass columns. A competition in 1888 drew entries from all over the world, but none were accepted. In a second competition in 1890, the judges selected a design by New York architect John Duncan.



John Duncan

John Duncan set out to produce "a Monumental Tomb, no matter from what point of view it may be seen." Of the extensive sculptural ornamentation originally planned, only the two recumbent figures by J. Massey Rhind were commissioned. The figures, probably personifying Victory and Peace, support Grant's epitaph, which reads: "LET US HAVE PEACE." The interior of the tomb is of Carrara and Lee marbles. Allegorical reliefs on the vaulting, designed by Rhind, represent Grant's birth, military life, civilian career, and death. The bronze busts in the crypt, sculpted under the WPA program in 1938, portray some of Grant's best generals: William T. Sherman,

Philip H. Sheridan, George H. Thomas, James B. McPherson, and Edward O. C. Ord.

The Grant Monument Association donated the tomb to the American people in 1958. It is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, which is responsible for the preservation of historic and natural resources.

**Visitor Information:** General Grant National Memorial is located near the intersection of Riverside Drive and West 122nd St. You can reach it by Fifth Ave. bus, IRT subway to 116th or 125th and Broadway, or 125th St.

cross town bus. Riverside Drive is also accessible from the Henry Hudson Parkway at several points. Parking is permitted near the memorial. Visiting hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For information, or to arrange for group visits, call (212) 666-1640. The superintendent, whose address is 26 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005, can be reached at (212) 825-6990.

**For Your Safety:** Don't allow your visit to be spoiled by an accident. While every effort has been made to provide for your safety, there are potential hazards that require your alertness and common sense.