



The new National World War II Memorial on the mall is a striking tribute in bronze and granite.

To Honor a Gener

Eleven years in the making, the long-awaited National World War II Memorial, located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., was dedicated May 29. It commemorates the sacrifices of the generation of Americans that vanquished Nazis, fascists, and militarists in Europe and the Far East. Here, spectators rise at the end of the dedication ceremony, part of a four-day holiday celebration.



AP photo by Evan Vucci

This is a view of the National World War II Memorial (foreground) and Lincoln Memorial as seen from the vantage of the Washington Monument. The \$175 million World War II memorial is situated on a 7.4-acre site and was financed almost entirely by private donors. Its granite plaza, pillars, and walkways are adorned by bronze columns, eagles, laurels, and wreaths, along with 4,000 sculpted gold stars on its Freedom Wall. The dedication events drew more than 150,000 visitors. Some, such as the World War II veteran below, wore their original Army Air Corps uniforms.

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Photo by Mark Wilson/Getty Images



A “Wartime Stories” pavilion featured Donald S. Lopez (left)—deputy director of the National Air and Space Museum—and John R. Alison—former AFA Board Chairman and National President. Both were World War II fighter aces. Below are other members of “the Greatest Generation.”



Above, AFA member Wilbur Richardson, a ball turret gunner in the 94th Bomb Group, talks to a member of the media. At right, Army veterans Frank Bima of New Jersey (left in photo) and Casimier Sochocki of Indiana trade stories at the memorial.



In photo at bottom, Korean War veteran Paul Deal of Philadelphia (left) and Peggy Siers of Hayfork, Calif., support World War II veteran George Deal of Junction City, Calif., during the dedication ceremony.



Already, tourists are flocking to the memorial, which can be visited 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year round. It honors the 16 million Americans who served in the armed forces of the US during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort at home. It is emblematic of the 20th century's defining event and celebrates the American spirit. n