

**The Washington, D.C., area hosts many memorials to the armed services, wars, and those who served. Here are a few of our favorites.**



# Remembering Those Who Served

**Photography by Heather Lewis and Kristina Parrill. Text by Brian W. Everstine**



**T**he Nation's Capital is home to numerous military memorials, open to all who want to visit to remember the men and women who served in specific wars, or those who were a part of individual services. The memorials range from the old, dating back more than 100 years, to one that opened two years ago. They are large and easy to find, or tucked away

in wooded areas off the public paths. The number of visitors to memorials has increased in recent years, with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial setting a record of 5.6 million visitors in 2015, according to the National Park Service. The city's tributes to veterans are increasing, with the design for a new National World War I Memorial selected earlier this year.

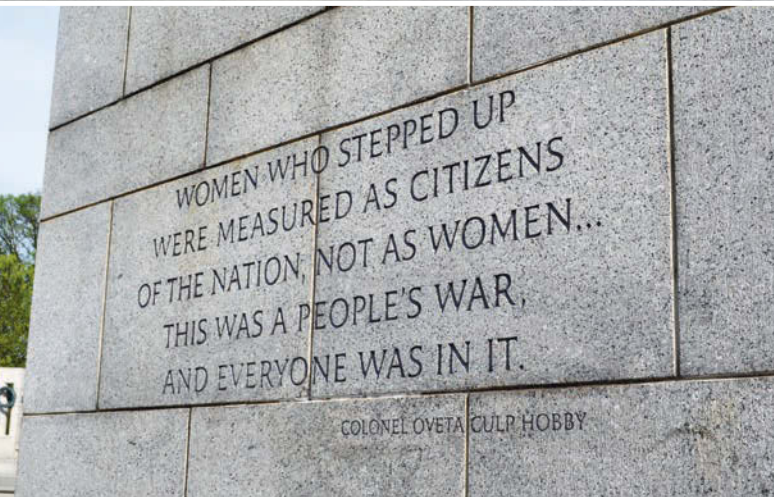
## National World War II Memorial

📍 1750 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC

The World War II Memorial sits in the shadow of the Washington Monument, with a large plaza and fountain built to honor more than 16 million who served in the war. Fifty-six triumphal columns circle the plaza, each representing a US state, territory, or district. The columns are arranged in two semicircles, to commemorate the Pacific and Atlantic theaters of war. A Freedom Wall sits on the west end and contains

4,048 golden stars, each representing 100 Americans who died in service. The memorial has two hidden inscriptions of "Kilroy Was Here," graffiti American troops used during the war to signify that they had passed through. The memorial opened to the public on April 29, 2004. The Honor Flight Network regularly flies in veterans to visit memorials in Washington, with a special priority on bringing World War

II's service members to the memorial. In 2015 alone, the network flew in 20,886 veterans, according to Honor Flight. Next to the Freedom Wall, a quote from President Harry S. Truman explains the need for the memorial: "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."



# Vietnam Veterans Memorial + Vietnam Women's Memorial

📍 5 Henry Bacon Dr, NW  
Washington, DC

One of Washington's most famous memorials sneaks up on visitors. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial largely consists of two 246-foot-nine-inch walls sunken into the ground on the National Mall. The two walls are tapered, from eight inches to 10 feet and list the names of 58,307 service members who were wounded in the Vietnam

War between 1956 and 1975 and died of those wounds. Work for the memorial began in 1979 with the creation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. It raised \$8.4 million in solely private donations to construct the memorial. Yale University student Maya Lin submitted the winning design during a national contest two years later, and the

memorial opened in November 1984. The memorial area encompasses the Three Servicemen statue, designed by Frederick Hart, and the Vietnam Women's Memorial, designed by Glenna Goodacre, depicting three uniformed women aiding a wounded soldier.



## Korean War Veterans Memorial

📍 10 Daniel French Dr, SW  
Washington, DC

A team of 19 service members, clad in ponchos and trudging through juniper bushes, make up the centerpiece of the Korean War memorial on the National Mall. The seven-foot-tall statues represent all services—with one Air Force air-ground controller—and the ethnicities of the 5.8 million Americans who served in the war. The 19 troops are on

patrol, each looking in a different direction so no matter where visitors are, they likely come under the gaze of one of the statues. The memorial was dedicated on July 27, 1995. A 164-foot mural wall highlights more than 2,400 etchings based on photographs of service members and their equipment. The Air Force panels show airmen along with

pictures of fighters, bombers, and transport aircraft. The wall's granite creates a reflection, so the 19 statues appear to be 38, representing the 38th Parallel and the 38 months of the war. During the war, 36,574 Americans died, including 8,200 missing in action or lost at sea. More than 100,000 were wounded.



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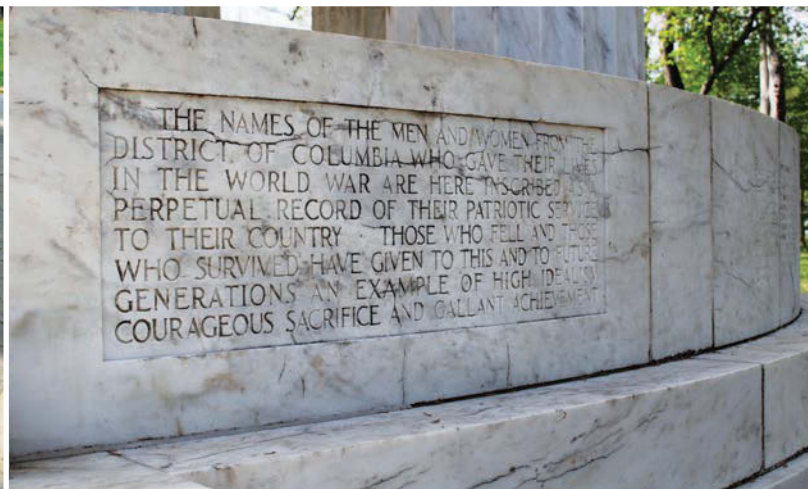
## District of Columbia War Memorial

📍 1900 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC

One of the least visited memorials on the National Mall sits nearly hidden by trees, tucked alongside Independence Avenue. The District of Columbia War Memorial was dedicated on Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1931, to honor the 499 men and women from Washington, D.C., who died in World

War I. Planning for the memorial began in 1919, with congressional approval in 1924. The architect, Frederick Brooke, designed the 47-foot-high memorial to be a bandstand, with each concert to be a tribute. The memorial is large enough to fit the US Marine Corps band, and famed conductor

John Philip Sousa attended its dedication. A federal stimulus package provided \$3.6 million in 2010 to renovate the memorial. This involved restoring the Vermont marble and installing new lighting systems.



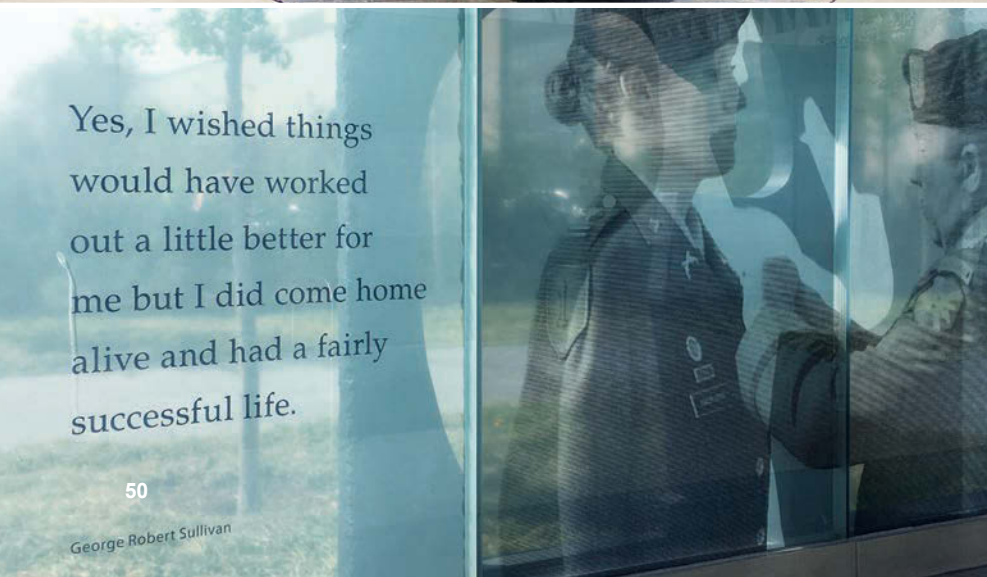
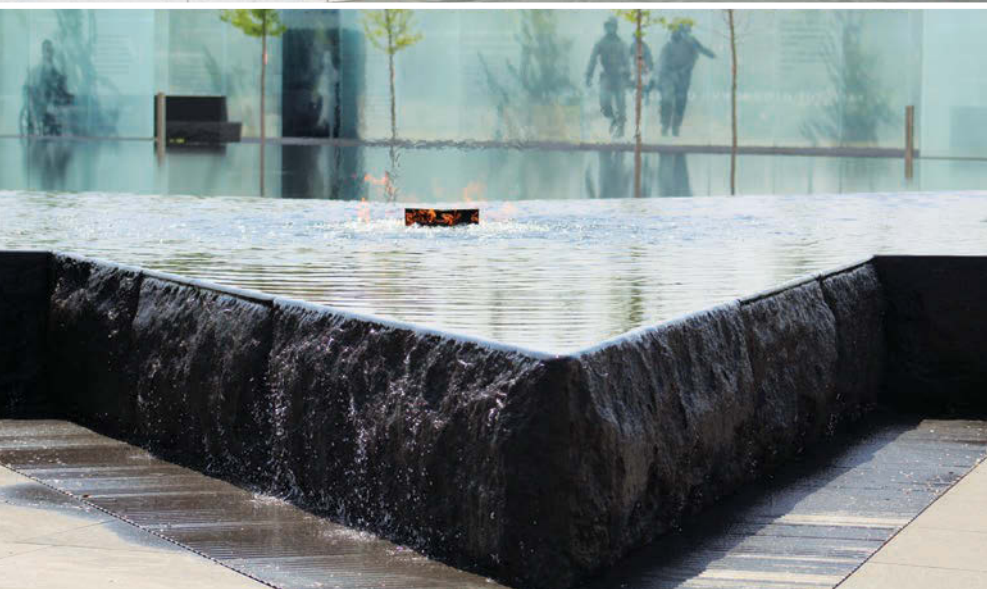
## American Veterans Disabled For Life Memorial

📍 150 Washington Ave, SW  
Washington, DC

Washington's newest military memorial sits just south of the National Mall, among government office buildings near the Capitol. The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial opened on Oct. 5, 2014, and is the only national memorial built to honor those disabled during military service. Granite and

glass are centered around a star-shaped fountain, with a ceremonial flame burning in the middle, next to a reflecting pool. The Wall of Gratitude of concrete and granite is inscribed with quotations honoring disabled veterans. Three large glass walls, built of 49 panels, feature the words of veterans

themselves. President Barack Obama said at the memorial's opening ceremony, "With this memorial we commemorate, for the first time, the two battles our disabled veterans have fought—the battle over there and the battle here at home—your battle to recover."



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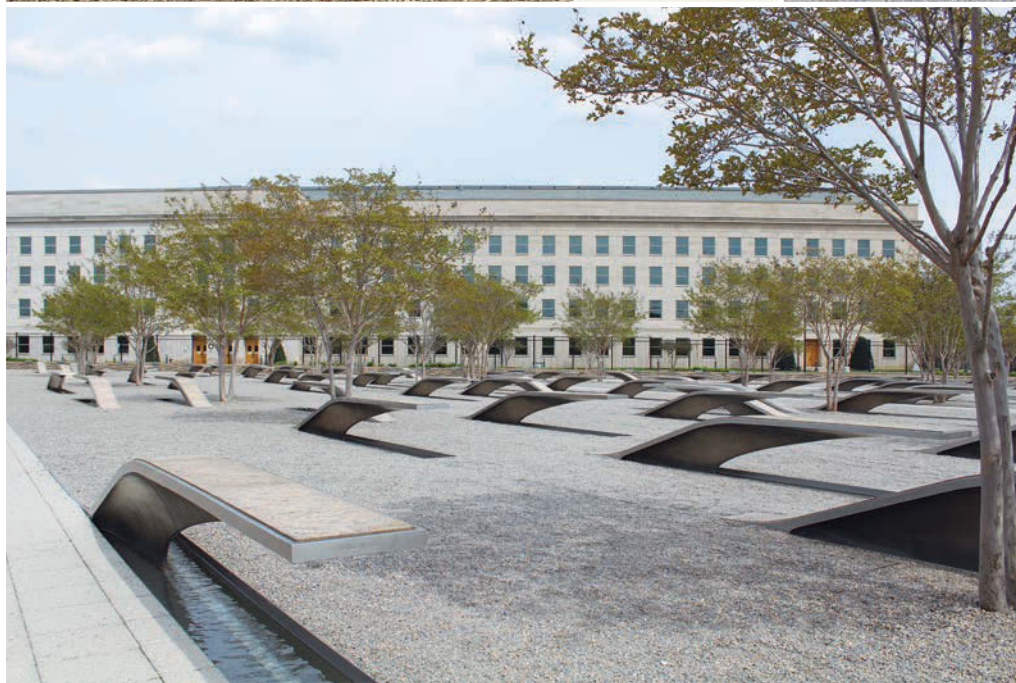
# Pentagon Memorial

1 N Rotary Rd  
Arlington, VA

The National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial opened as the first of three major memorials to commemorate those killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the west side of the Pentagon, killing 184 civilian employees, military personnel, passengers, and flight crew. On Sept. 11, 2008, the memorial was dedicated to them. Located at the site of the crash, the memo-

rial has 184 cantilevered benches, each with a lighted pool of water, and the name of a victim. The benches distinguish those killed inside the Pentagon, through positioning 125 of them in a way to see the person's name and the Pentagon in the same view. The 59 benches commemorating those on the airplane are positioned to see the victim's name and the direction of Flight 77's approach.

The Age Wall ranges from three inches—the youngest victim in the crash was three years old—to 71 inches—the oldest was 71. The rebuilt section of the Pentagon, adjacent to the memorial, incorporates a charred, partially blackened slab of limestone taken from the building's original wall that was hit by the hijacked airliner.





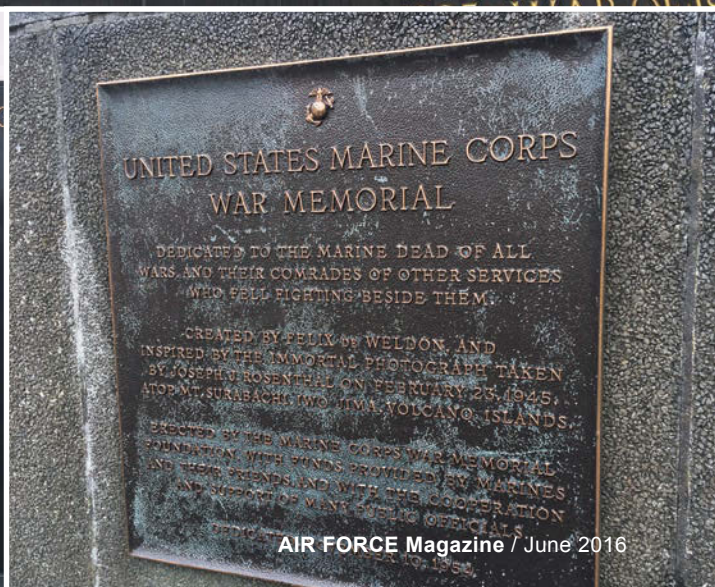
## US Marine Corps War Memorial

📍 US Marine Memorial Cir  
Arlington, VA

Across the river from Washington, on a hill near Arlington National Cemetery, a most famous statue commemorates the Marines. The US Marine Corps War Memorial, opened in 1954, is dedicated to those who gave their lives in defense of the US since the service was founded in 1775. The memorial is based on Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal's image of five Marines and

a Navy corpsman from Company E, 2nd Battalion, raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima, on Feb. 23, 1945. Following a fierce fight against the Japanese, US troops climbed to the top of the mountain to place a small flag. Later that day, when the mountain was cleared of enemy soldiers, five marines and a sailor returned to raise a larger flag. That's when

Rosenthal took the picture. Sculptor Felix de Weldon, at the time on duty with the Navy, created a scale model of the scene. The model was eventually cast in bronze over a three-year period in New York and trucked to Washington. The 32-foot-tall figures are raising a 60-foot flagpole. A flag flies at full mast 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, under presidential proclamation.



## United States Navy Memorial

701 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC

Legendary Navy Adm. Arleigh Burke in 1977 decided it was time to do something about creating a Navy memorial in Washington, D.C.—an idea that dated to 1791, when architect Pierre L'Enfant designed the city. L'Enfant imagined a memorial to “celebrate the first rise of a Navy,” and Burke built on that idea, with progress beginning in the

1970s and congressional approval coming in 1980. The memorial was dedicated on Oct. 13, 1987, on the 212th birthday of the Navy. The plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue features a 100-foot “Granite Sea” map of the world, along with pools, waterfalls, and masts carrying signal flags. The Lone Sailor statue, made of bronze and incorporating

artifacts from eight Navy ships, adds poignancy to the memorial. Unlike most of the others in Washington, the Navy memorial is in the middle of the city and sits right outside the entrance to a Metro station. ✪



## Where Is the Air Force Memorial?

1 Air Force Memorial Dr  
Arlington, VA

The United States Air Force Memorial is in Arlington, Va., just west of the Pentagon and south of Arlington National Cemetery, on a promontory overlooking Washington, DC. It was dedicated on Oct. 14, 2006, to honor all the men and women who have served in the Air Force and its predecessor organizations. *Air Force Magazine* will commemorate the memorial's 10th anniversary with extensive coverage in the October issue.

