Honoring Service and Sacrifice

Ranger Paul O’Brian

On this Memorial Day, let us remember a particular generation of unique Americans who gave something to us that is more important than ourselves. The World War II generation had a sense of pride in their service, sacrifice, and determination to win the war. The World War II Memorial is unique because it recognizes a generation of Americans who shaped the world we live in today. Visitors who visit the memorial often recall stories of their relatives’ experiences during this particular time in history. For many it can be an emotional experience since the memorial represents a universal expression of their stories.

As I remember my parents on this Memorial Day, the first thought that runs through my mind is when they would take my siblings and me to a battlefield or a cemetery. Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day, a day of remembrance for those who have died in the Civil War. Like many Americans who visit the memorial, it reminds me of my upbringing.

Visitors to the memorial often tell a story similar to that of my parents. You may find it familiar. My father was a soldier and my mother was a “Rosie the Riveter” who worked as a bank teller during the war. You may find it familiar. My father was a soldier and my mother was a “Rosie the Riveter” who worked as a bank teller during the war.

Welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks

Superintendent Bob Vogel

On behalf of the National Park Service, welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks! Here you can visit some of America’s iconic landmarks and memorials that celebrate and commemorate our nation’s heritage.

For generations, millions of people have come to the National Mall to experience the grandeur of these special places and to reflect on what it means to be an American. Many people come to exercise their First Amendment rights because of the park’s proximity to our seat of government. For others, the National Mall is a neighborhood park used for recreation and exercise. No matter what their reason, all who visit are part of a legacy that stretches back centuries.

Memorial Day, one of our important traditions here at the National Mall, is a day to honor and remember our veterans, especially those who gave their lives in service at home and abroad. This month, we extend a special welcome to our veterans, their families, their friends and supporters who gather here at the National Mall to reflect, remember, and honor all who served.

This month’s newspaper includes information about the park’s many features, a schedule of interpretive programs by our park rangers, and other activities and resources. You will also find articles that pay tribute to Memorial Day and Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.

The staff and volunteers of the National Mall are available to tell you about the park, answer your questions and help you make the most of your time here in America’s front yard. Enjoy your visit!

Japanese Blood, American Patriot

Ranger Mike Townsend

In the National Mall and Memorial Parks, war veterans memorials serve as symbols of American patriotism and as reminders of those who fought for our freedom. At these memorials, the courage and sacrifice of our veterans will be recognized forever. The World War II, Korean War Veterans, and Vietnam Veterans Memorials on the National Mall, and the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism near Union Station Plaza, are some of the special places of remembrance for veterans, their families, and their friends. All four of these places have a special meaning for Jimmie Kanaya, a decorated Japanese American veteran of three wars.

In 1941, Kanaya enlisted in the U.S. Army, and was stationed at Pearl Harbor several months before and during Japan’s surprise attack on December 7, 1941. After the attack, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, forcing the relocation of 110,000 Japanese Americans to internment camps. Being of Japanese ancestry after Pearl Harbor made life very difficult, because like so many Japanese American young recruits, Kanaya was treated with disrespect after the attack, even though he saw himself as fully American before and after Pearl Harbor. He was still loyal to the United States, even under those challenging circumstances.

Kanaya served as a medic with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy during World War II. While his battalion was attacked by an intense artillery and mortar barrage near Calstallina, Italy, Sergeant Kanaya went back and forth rendering assistance to nine seriously wounded men, giving first aid and getting them back to safer areas. He was awarded the Silver Star for his gallantry. In a 2004 interview he said, “We had to prove ourselves worthy of recognition when we came back to the States and that our parents and the rest of the Japanese American
Ranger Programs & Activities

Daily Programs

What:  Free site tours and interpretive talks

Where: Lincoln, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Thomas Jefferson Memorials

When:  Daily at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Special Programs

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

How World War I Birthed Monty Python
Walking Tour, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Take a stroll through time down Pennsylvania Avenue. Learn about the early visions of Washington, D.C. and how it came to exist on the banks of the Potomac River. Location: Old Post Office Tower- Ben Franklin statue. Contact: Jason Barna (202) 606-8691.

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Early Days of Pennsylvania Avenue Walking Tour, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Visit with a ranger in Civil War period clothing to learn about the Battle of Williamsburg in 1862 and its effect on the United States Civil War. Location: Old Post Office Tower- Ben Franklin statue. Contact: Jason Barna (202) 606-8691.

Friday, May 4, 2012

Battle of Williamsburg Living History, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Visit with a ranger in Civil War period clothing to learn about the Battle of Williamsburg in 1862 and its effect on the United States Civil War. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Mike Rose (202) 438-9667.

Saturday, May 5, 2012

Spring Bird Walk
Walking Tour, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Join a National Park Ranger as we try to locate and identify birds located in West Potomac Park and the Tidal Basin. Location: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact: Robert Steele (202) 438-9574.

Your Right to Have an Opinion about Washington...the City, Not the President!
Walking Tour, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
A short walking tour of Freedom Plaza with a focus on the carved quotations of many previous visitors and their opinions of Washington. Location: Freedom Plaza. Contact: David Newson (202) 606-8691.

On This Day in History
Bike Tour, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Some dates are easily remembered, while some events defy dating and seem to span lifetimes. Journey to other ages to bring the past to life. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Richard Ayad (202) 438-3456.

Four Score and Four Years: From the Civil War to World War II
Walking Tour, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Visit the memorials marking three deadly conflicts, and in comparing them, learn how they are interrelated. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Lowell Fry (202) 438-9603.

Long Live the Revolution
Walking Tour, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Please join us for a walking tour of the revolutionary ideas that link the memorials to the liberators of Latin America. Location: Meet at the Foggy Bottom Metro. Contact: Mike Balis 438-9710.

America's Armed Forces of World War II
Ranger Talk, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
We will view the bronze time-line panels and photos of the people, the machines, and the battles of the U.S. in World War II which where pivotal in bringing freedom to the world. Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Victor Pillow (202) 841-1774.

Sunday, May 6, 2012

African American Life on Pennsylvania Avenue
Bike Tour, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Come and join a ranger for a one hour walk and learn about African American life on Pennsylvania Avenue. Location: Old Post Office Tower- Ben Franklin statue. Contact: Shunda Yates (202) 606-8691.

Bike Tour, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Explore a hidden dimension of the National Mall’s memorials and discover surprising connections to American Indians’ past. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Nathan King (202) 329-7713.

Art at the Park - Program Series
3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  See page 5 for details.

Culture Clash at the Lincoln Memorial: Nixon's Nighttime Visit
Ranger Talk, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Why did President Nixon wander into the Lincoln Memorial before dawn one sleepless night in 1970? Who did he meet during his visit? Come hear the incredible story. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Susan Philpot (202) 233-3520.

Japanese American Service During World War Two
Ranger Talk, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Help us celebrate Asian History Month by joining us at the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War Two. Location: Japanese American Memorial. Contact: Mike Balis 438-9710.

Bike Programs

Our free bike tours are a great way to explore the National Mall and Memorial Parks with a ranger! Look for bike tours, listed in red, throughout the month.

Participants must provide their own bicycles, helmets, snacks, and water. Most tours are three to five miles and last about three hours.

Bike Program Contact Information: Richard_Ayad@nps.gov 202.438.3456
What’s a Ranger Program?
Ranger programs are free activities you can join to learn about history and nature while you explore the park! Come along with a park ranger and join in the fun!

Monday, May 7, 2012

Defeating ‘MO’ to Save ‘Down Under’
Ranger Talk, 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
After Pearl Harbor, key decisions made nearby led to tactical and strategic victories ensuring the saving of Australia on this day 70 years ago.
Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Bob Healy (202) 438-6314.

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

VE Day at the World War II Memorial Ceremony, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Wreath Presentations, Keynote speaker, Military Band, and the Armed Forces Color Guard.
Location: World War II Memorial.

Untold Stories Of Stalin's Victims
Ranger Talk, 8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Joseph Stalin had a lot of people killed during his regime. Many deaths went undocumented. Hear the stories of these people.
Location: Victims of Communism Memorial. Contact: Andrew Clark (202) 426-6841.

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

V-E Day
Ranger Talk, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
The end of the Second World War in Europe came on May 7, 1945. How did Germany surrender? What was Hitler’s fate?

Thursday, May 10, 2012

225th Beginning of U.S. Constitutional Convention, 1787
Living History, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Meet rangers in colonial attire to learn more about the Constitutional Convention. Sign a copy of the U.S. Constitution with a quill pen.
Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Mike Rose (202) 438-9667.

What the Tower Saw: Women and the Vote
Walking Tour, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
The Old Post Office Tower has witnessed many things, including the fight for women’s right to vote. Walk and talk along the route of the suffragette movement with a ranger.
Location: Old Post Office Tower- Ben Franklin statue.
Contact: Julia Clebsch (202) 606-8691.

People of D.C.
Bike Tour, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Assassins, madmen, inventors, presidents, and poets. Some were butterflies and others were bullies, but together they are part of the fabric of a great city and American history.

Jet Age in Korea
Ranger Talk, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
The Korean War represented the first time that jets fought in the skies on both sides. Jets represented a new age of flight.

America’s Armed Forces of World War II
Ranger Talk, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
We will view the bronze time-line panels and photos of the people, the machines, and the battles of the U.S. in World War II which where pivotal in bringing freedom to the world.
Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Victor Pillow (202) 841-1774.

Long Live the Revolution
Walking Tour, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Please join us for a walking tour of the revolutionary ideas that link the memorials to the liberators of Latin America.
Location: Meet at the Foggy Bottom Metro. Contact: Mike Balis 438-9710.

History of the Mall
Bike Tour, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Could George Washington have imagined what his namesake has become? From the beginning, the Federal City and the National Mall have been indivisible.

Art at the Park - Program Series
3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. See page 5 for details.

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Benjamin Banneker, Mathematics, and Surveying D.C.
Living History, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Meet rangers in colonial attire to learn more about Benjamin Banneker, surveying D.C., and his life and times.
Location: Washington Monument.
Contact: Mike Rose (202) 438-9667.

Hello Federal Triangle, Farewell Murder Bay
Ranger Talk, 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
The Federal Triangle was built in the 1930s as the largest construction plan of its kind. Join a ranger to learn why this massive project took place on “America’s Main Street.”
Location: Old Post Office Tower Observation Deck.
Contact: Titus Early (202) 606-8691.

Untold Stories Of Stalin's Victims
Ranger Talk, 8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Joseph Stalin had a lot of people killed during his regime. Many deaths went undocumented. Hear the stories of these people.
Location: Victims of Communism Memorial. Contact: Andrew Clark (202) 426-6841.

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Thurgood Marshall Remembered
Ranger Talk, 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m., 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Thurgood Marshall raised people’s expectations for changes in segregation. This is the anniversary of the Brown versus Board of Education decision.
Location: Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.
Contact: Joseph Mohr (202) 359-1532.

Friday, May 18, 2012

FDR & the U.S. Navy
Ranger Talk, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
FDR had a great love of the sea. He even had aspirations of becoming a career U.S. Navy officer. He followed the U.S. Navy’s actions during World War II.

Programs and Activities continue on page 4!
Saturday, May 19, 2012

John Paul Jones and Joshua Barney Ranger Talk, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Joseph Mohr (202) 359-1512.

Spring Bird Walk
Walking Tour, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Join a National Park Ranger as we try to locate and identify birds located in West Potomac Park and the Tidal Basin. Location: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact: Robert Steele (202) 438-9574.

Off the Beaten Path
Family Bike Tour, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
In a city full of colossal and iconic memorials, many statues, urns, and symbols of friendship and remembrance are often overlooked or barely explored. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Richard Ayad (202) 438-3456.

Summer Concert Series at the World War II Memorial

Concert, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Military Concert conducted by the United States Navy Band Cruisers hosted by Friends of the World War II Memorial. Chairs provided. Concert will be cancelled in event of rain. Location: World War II Memorial.

Chilllin’ with a Ranger
Walking Tour, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Avoid the brutal Washington heat and learn about some of the city’s sites and memorials, not all well known, in the early evening. Location: Washington Monument Lodge. Contact: Lowell Fry (202) 438-9603.

America’s Armed Forces of World War II Ranger Talk, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
We will view the bronze time-line panels and photos of the people, the machines, and the battles of the U.S. in World War II which were pivotal in bringing freedom to the world. Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Victor Pillow (202) 841-1774.

Long Live the Revolution
Walking Tour, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Please join us for a walking tour of the revolutionary ideas that link the memorials to the liberators of Latin America. Location: Meet at the Foggby Bottom Metro. Contact: Mike Balis 438-9710.

Sunday, May 20, 2012

Unexplored Tales of the City
Bike Tour, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
In a city full of colossal and iconic memorials, many statues, urns, and symbols of friendship and remembrance are often overlooked or barely explored. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Richard Ayad (202) 438-3456.

What the Tower Saw: Women and the Vote
Walking Tour, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
The Old Post Office Tower has witnessed many things, including the fight for women’s right to vote. Walk and talk along the route of the suffragette movement with a ranger. Location: Old Post Office Tower- Ben Franklin statue. Contact: Julia Clebsch (202) 606-8691.

The U.S. Navy in World War Two
Ranger Talk, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Explore the crucial role the U.S. Navy played in World War Two. Location: U.S. Navy Memorial. Contact: Mike Balis (202) 438-9710.

Art at the Park - Program Series
3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. See page 5 for details.

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Merchant Marine in World War II
Ranger Talk, 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Celebrate National Maritime Day. Learn about the crucial role that the U.S. Merchant Marine played during World War II. Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Steve Hazelton (202) 329-4578.

Untold Stories Of Stalin’s Victims
Ranger Talk, 8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
A short walking tour of Freedom Plaza with a focus on the carved quotations of many previous visitors and their opinions of Washington. Location: Freedom Plaza. Contact: David Newson (202) 606-8691.

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

Your Right to Have an Opinion about Washington...the City, Not the President!
Walking Tour, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
A short walking tour of Freedom Plaza with a focus on the carved quotations of many previous visitors and their opinions of Washington. Location: Freedom Plaza. Contact: David Newson (202) 606-8691.

Women of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Ranger Talk, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Many women served with bravery and distinction in the Vietnam Vietnam. Courage was also shown by the memorial’s designer Maya Lin to see her vision become reality. Location: Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Contact: Kathy Kagle (202) 438-5377.

Friday, May 25, 2012

Subterranean War - Tunnel Warfare during the Vietnam War
Ranger Talk, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Take an in-depth look at the Viet Cong’s complex system of tunnels and the U.S. attempt to eradicate them in this military history program. Location: Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Contact: Matthew Furman (240) 882-8290.

Saturday, May 26, 2012

1942: America at War
Bike Tour, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

America’s Armed Forces of World War II
Ranger Talk, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
We will view the bronze time-line panels and photos of the people, the machines, and the battles of the U.S. in World War II which where pivotal in bringing freedom to the world. Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Victor Pillow (202) 841-1774.

Long Live the Revolution
Walking Tour, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Please join us for a walking tour of the revolutionary ideas that link the memorials to the liberators of Latin America. Location: Meet at the Foggby Bottom Metro. Contact: Mike Balis 438-9710.

Sunday, May 27, 2012

African American life on Pennsylvania Avenue
Walking Tour, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Come and join a ranger for a one hour walk and learn about African American life on Pennsylvania Avenue. Location: Old Post Office Tower- Ben Franklin statue. Contact: Shunda Yates (202) 606-8691.

Have We Learned Anything Yet? Remembering the Holocaust
Walking Tour, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Are the horrors of the camps retreating into distant mental mists? Learn why we must ever thank World War II vets! Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Lowell Fry (202) 438-9603.

Disaster D.C.
Bike Tour, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
We will explore some amazing natural and man-made disasters that have struck the capital city in the past. We will recount these tales and talk about the people that were affected. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Nikolette Williams (202) 345-6361.
Remarkable city planners, architects, landscape architects, sculptors and painters have created an entire city to remind us of civic virtue. Peter L’Enfant anticipated it would sport a series of pillars that represented America’s contribution to what Martin Luther King, Jr. called the “arc of the moral universe.” Join us to explore a “City Beautiful.” Contact: Jan Buerger (202) 497-1397.

May 6, 3:00 p.m. “The L’Enfant and McMillan Federal City Plans”
Peter L’Enfant and the McMillan Plan envisioned a “City Beautiful” with a public park as its core, to inspire us to civic virtue. Washington Monument Lodge.

May 13, 3:00 p.m. - “The Washington Monument”
The Continental Congress resolved to build a monument to Washington in the new city. L’Enfant made it the city’s centerpiece and Robert Mills designed the symbolic obelisk. Washington Monument Lodge.

May 20, 3:00 p.m. - “The Thomas Jefferson Memorial”
The New Deal gave us the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. John Russell Pope designed it to impart the founder’s message to us to advance the goal. The Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

June 3, 3:00 p.m. - “The Lincoln Memorial”
The McMillan Commission members that envisioned an expanded park in 1901 and the artists of the Lincoln Memorial that would be its western architectural anchor, all were luminaries in the “City Beautiful Movement.” The Lincoln Memorial.

June 10, 3:00 p.m. - “The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial”
Lawrence Halprin’s memorial broke the grip of the neoclassical style on park architecture and reminded us that no American should be left behind. The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

June 17, 1:00 p.m. - “The Women Artists” Bike Tour
Women artists who contributed to the park include Gertrude Whitney, Evelyn Longman, Maya Lin, Glenna Goodacre, Wendy Ross and Deryl McKissack. Bike tour 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.. Location: The Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

June 24, 1:00 p.m. - “A City Beautiful” Bike Tour
The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial is the most recent of the park’s pillars representing America’s contribution to the journey of the “arc of the moral universe.” Bike tour, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.. Location: The Thomas Jefferson Memorial.
short summers in the northern latitudes, the food supply available to these birds is relatively high. Migrants take many risks to ensure an abundant supply of food for their young. Some birds stay behind in the tropics, but many species fly north.

To relate this to our species, imagine you had the option of having one piece of pizza right now where you are, or to walk down the street to get two slices of pizza. Some would take the one slice, while others would walk to get two slices. Migrant birds are, in a sense, opting for the two slices of pizza when they migrate north.

The most common migrants that you might see in May are various species of sandpipers, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers and tanagers. Keep an eye open this month for these long distance travelers as they cross the globe in their search for a better life for their family.

My father’s story from that point on has its twists and turns. After the division arrived in Hawaii his regiment was assigned to defend the island of Maui. There the regiment attacked a submarine and was rewarded with a unit citation for the sinking. His regiment was sent into the Battle of Midway where they fired on Japanese fighter planes, and he saw the American aircraft carrier USS Yorktown receive several hits. The victory at the Battle of Midway is commemorated in an engraving of author Walter Lord’s words on the southern wall of the WWII Memorial: “They had no right to win. Yet they did, and in doing so they changed the course of a war... Even against the greatest of odds, there is something in the human spirit - a magic blend of skill, faith and valor - that can lift men from certain defeat to incredible victory.” Those words pay a fitting tribute to those sailors and pilots who won the Battle of Midway. After the battle my father was stationed back on Maui.

In December 1942 my father was involved in the Guadalcanal Campaign which he described as “shooting all the time” by the Japanese as soon as they landed. Posted back on Maui, he continued writing to my mother.

Even as the war raged, my parents were married in Salinas, California on July 3, 1943. From then until his next deployment my father attended stateside training. In August 1944 he was in the 775th Field Artillery Battalion that was sent into the European Theater of Operations. He was involved in the Hurtgen Forest Campaign in the fall of 1944, and the Ardennes Campaign commonly known as the Battle of the Bulge. Then he served in Germany until Victory in Europe in May 1945. He described in a letter to one of his sisters in July his experiences in the war, “Combat was easy. You were either lucky or were not.” In October, he came home.

The names of Midway, Guadalcanal, Hurtgen Forest, the Battle of the Bulge, and Germany are engraved along the southern and northern fountain walls of the World War II Memorial. They are engraved with other famous battles and campaigns of the Second World War. They remind us not only of the famous battles of the war, but they serve to remind us of the human cost of the war. The 4,048 gold stars on the Freedom Wall represent that cost, the 405,399 Americans who died during the war. The human cost of battle is also represented at battlefields and cemeteries like Gettysburg and Argonne Forest where Americans sacrificed at a high cost.

As we observe Memorial Day in 2012, let us not only remember those who died in all American wars, but reflect upon the service, sacrifice, determination, and unity of this distinctive generation of Americans. President Harry S Truman expressed it best, “They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.” These engraved words in the Memorial not only sum up this generation’s experience but they also give us meaning.
Acid Rain’s Slow Dissolve

Megan Nortrup, Science Communicator, NPS Inventory & Monitoring Program, National Capital Region

Remember acid rain? Ever wondered if it’s still around? Acid rain has not gone away, but it has gotten somewhat better.

Acid rain is a threat to both natural areas and to our national monuments and memorials. Many monuments are made from limestone, marble, and bronze—materials that can be altered or slowly dissolved by acid precipitation. “Slowly” is the key word of course. No one expects the Washington Monument to melt into a toothpick, but acid rain damage may slowly add up for our beloved icons.

What Exactly is Acid Rain?

Acid rain is rain that contains nitrogen and sulfur oxides washed out of the air. When these oxides mix with water, they create weak acids that lower the pH of rainwater (and snow, fog, or dew too). Liquids with a pH less than 7 are acidic, and those with a pH greater than 7 are alkaline (or basic). “Clean” or unpolluted rain has a slightly acidic pH of 5.6, while acid rain can have a pH as low as 4.

Washington, D.C.’s Rain is Better, But Still Has a Ways to Go

In 1997, the average rain pH around Washington, D.C. was between 4.2 and 4.4. Now, thanks in part to federal regulations that limit the amount of nitrogen and sulfur oxides that industries produce, the pH of rain in Washington, D.C. has improved. In 2010, the average pH of rain around Washington, D.C. was 4.8 to 4.9. You can see evidence of acid rain’s effects in several spots on the National Mall.

The Evidence

When acids in polluted air react with calcite, a calcium-containing mineral in marble and limestone, the calcite dissolves. In exposed areas of buildings and statues, acid rain effects show up as roughened surfaces instead of smooth ones, as pits and pocks where material was removed, and as a loss of carved details. Stone surface material may be lost all over or only in spots that are more reactive.

Sheltered areas on limestone and marble buildings and monuments that rain does not directly touch are at risk too. Sulfur dioxide gas in the air still reacts with calcite in stone, creating black crusts that sometimes peel off, revealing crumbling stone beneath. The black crust is primarily made of the mineral gypsum, which is normally washed away from exposed surfaces by rain. Gypsum is white, but the crystals trap particles of dirt and pollutants as they form, so the crust looks black.

The Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism during World War II, which honors the service and sacrifice of Japanese Americans during the war, is located at the intersection of New Jersey Ave., Louisiana Ave., and D St. NW, just north of the Capitol.

New Wayside Exhibit for Franklin Park’s Cdre. John Barry Statue

William S. Dudley, Historian Naval Order of the United States

The Naval Order of the United States and the National Park Service have created a wayside marker to be placed alongside the statue of Commodore John Barry, U.S. Navy, in Franklin Park at 14th Street, NW, in Washington, D.C. The wayside marker is to be dedicated in Franklin Park on May 4, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Sculptor John J. Boyle created the statue on a commission from the Ancient Order of Hibernians and other patriotic American groups of Irish descent. Although the statue has been standing since its dedication by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914, there has been no interpretive marker to explain to the public who Commodore John Barry was and why he is important today.

John Barry (1745-1803) was born in County Wexford, Ireland, went to sea when still a lad, and arrived in Philadelphia by 1760. When the Revolutionary War began, he was given command of the Continental Navy brig Lexington. He commanded several other Continental Navy ships, including the frigate Alliance, and won decisive victories over British warships and privateers. In 1794, he received an appointment as the senior captain of the new United States Navy. Barry supervised construction of the frigate United States, During the Quasi-War with France (1798-1800), Commodore Barry commanded a squadron protecting America’s West Indies trade. Celebrated today as a founder of the U.S. Navy, he was a gallant warrior, a guiding force in shipbuilding and supply, and a mentor to the next generation of U.S. naval officers who would go on to fight in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812.
Memorial Day, May 30, 2012 will mark the 90th anniversary of the dedication of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial. The construction and dedication of this memorial not only stood as a symbol of one of our great presidents, but also as a temple to our reunification as a people. The memorial was meant to resemble the Pantheon in Athens and was adorned with ancient symbols of unity and strength. The dedication in 1922 included a number of notable figures: the President of Tuskegee Institute, Dr. Robert Moton; Chief Justice and former President William Howard Taft; President Warren G. Harding; and Abraham Lincoln’s son, Robert Todd Lincoln, who was also a former secretary of war and ambassador to Great Britain. The audience also included Civil War veterans from both North and South. Not only were there over 50,000 people in attendance, this ceremony was broadcast across the nation through the new medium of radio.

The dedication ceremony began with an invocation by Reverend Wallace Radcliffe from the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church that Abraham Lincoln attended. This speech was followed by the main address, delivered by Henry Cabot Lodge, who suggested that the nation would have a long way to go toward the completion of those ideals for which Abraham Lincoln stood. It would take other great Americans, such as Marian Anderson and Martin Luther King, Jr., to break those barriers of segregation faced by Dr. Robert Morton and those seated in the audience that day. Those historic figures would further add to the memorial’s meaning by taking Abraham Lincoln’s vision of equality to its full measure.

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Get a Bird’s-Eye View of the City!

Climbing to 315 feet, the Old Post Office Tower is third in height among Washington, D.C.’s buildings. The National Park Service invites you to take a free elevator ride to the observation deck 270 feet above Pennsylvania Avenue for an awe-inspiring view of Washington, D.C.

Ranger Programs: Talks of the Tower on the Half-Hour

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

For more information about park programs at the Old Post Office Tower, check the program schedule on page 2 or call 202-606-8691.

Operating Hours:

Through 5/28/12
Mon - Sat: 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Sunday: 12 - 5:45 p.m.
Holidays: 12 - 5:45 p.m.

Summer Hours Begin 5/29/12
Mon - Wed: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Thu: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri - Sat: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday: 12 - 5:45 p.m.
Holidays: 12 - 5:45 p.m.

www.nps.gov/opot

Acid rain effects on the National Mall: http://www.nps.gov/feelimited/Imprints/NCRN_Wet_Deposition_RB.pdf

Fossils in the Washington, D.C., area: http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncrn/products/briefs/NCRN_Wet_Deposition_RB.pdf

What You Can Do to Help
It is important to do your part and help limit the creation of the chemicals that cause acid rain. Nitrogen oxides ("nox") and sulfur oxides ("sox") are produced in small amounts naturally but in large amounts by power plants and industries. Nox is also produced by vehicle exhaust, oil and gas production, fertilized crops, livestock production, and municipal and residential activities. To reduce your impact, you can cut down on activities that produce these chemicals. Thanks for joining us in caring for these special monuments and memorials that make our National Mall great.

Further Reading:
Acid rain effects on the National Mall: http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/acidrain/index.html

Acid rain in the Washington, D.C., area: http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncrn/products/briefs/NCRN_Wet_Deposition_RB.pdf

Fossils in the Washington, D.C., area: http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncrn/products/briefs/NCRN_Wet_Deposition_RB.pdf

Acid rain from page 7 and from regular washing of the monument. Black crusts can be removed by intermittent water misting, which softens the crust allowing it to be carefully removed.

The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial
The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial, across the street from the Capitol Building, shows the effects that acid rain has on bronze, a metal alloy consisting of copper and a small amount of tin. The green stains on the statue’s marble pedestal come from dissolved and oxidized copper as it runs down from the statue to the ground. The statues show typical deterioration of bronzes in an urban outdoor environment. Similar to stone, areas that do not receive a regular wash from rain trap particles of dirt and pollutants resulting in disfiguring streaks. The NPS’s specially trained statue preservation crew periodically washes the statue carefully removed.

Beyond the National Mall
Acid rain affects natural areas too, especially lakes, streams, and watersheds. It changes water chemistry in ways that can affect algae, fish, aquatic plants, frogs, salamanders, and other aquatic creatures. For example, acidic pH levels in lake and stream waters cause naturally-occurring aluminum compounds to become more toxic to fish and amphibians. Trees and other plants can exhibit visible death of plant tissue, break down of the waxy covering on leaves, faster leaching of leaf nutrients, and conifers (like pines) can show reduced seed sprouting and seedling growth. Some lichens are also especially sensitive to acid rain.

Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage
Several Asian and Pacific Island countries have connections to memorials found in the National Mall. Here are a few fun facts:

- It is estimated that 6 million people in the U.S. speak Russian.
- Hawaii wasn’t a state until after World War II. It was a U.S. territory until August 20, 1959.
- Toilet paper was invented in China in the 1300s. However, it was for the Emperor’s use only.
- Thailand is the world’s largest exporter of rice.
- About 170 languages are spoken in the Philippines, but Tagalog (Tag-ah-ga-loh) is the most commonly spoken.
- 77% of workers in Cambodia are farmers.
- There are more bicycles and mopeds than there are cars in Vietnam.
- Japan is comprised of 4 main islands, and almost 4,000 smaller islands.
- South Korea is the largest shipbuilder in the world.
- The martial art Tae-Kwon-do is the most popular sport in North Korea.

Which of the labeled countries are represented at these memorials in the park?

Explore the Lincoln Memorial Online! http://www.nps.gov/linc
Click on “Lincoln Memorial Interactive Site”
- Interactive Panoramas
- Ranger Videos
- Award-winning website
Plan Your Visit

**Things to See**

1. Lincoln Memorial
2. Vietnam Veterans Memorial
3. Korean War Veterans Memorial
4. World War II Memorial
5. Washington Monument
6. Old Post Office Tower
7. Ford’s Theater National Historic Site
8. Thomas Jefferson Memorial
9. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
10. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

In all memorials:
- No smoking
- No alcohol
- No skateboards
- No pets

**Things to Do**

**Ranger Programs and Tours**

*What:* Free site tours and interpretive talks

*Where:* Lincoln, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Thomas Jefferson Memorials

*When:* Daily at 10:00 a.m., 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, and 10:00 p.m.

Want more? Take your experience to the next level with our special programs! Locations, topics, types, and times vary. See pages 2-4 for more information about these ranger programs.

**Concessions**

**Mall Express**
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m.) daily. (Extended hours March - September). Non-interpretive tours. Limited stops between Arlington National Cemetery and Union Station. $5 per person per boarding. Visit graylinedc.com/tours for more information.

**Open Top Sightseeing**
Interpretive bus tours. $32 per adult, $20 per child 6+ for 24-hour pass. Stops throughout downtown Washington, D.C. Connects to other tour routes. Visit opentopsightseeing.com for more information.

**Capital Bikeshare** is now on the National Mall. Visit capitalbikeshare.com for up-to-date information on locations.

**Guest Services, Inc.** manages all retail operations for National Mall and Memorial Parks including refreshment kiosks and gift stores throughout the park, plus seasonal paddle boat rentals.

**Tidal Basin Paddle Boats**
202-479-2426
tidalbasinpaddleboats.com
guestservices.com

**Be Your Own Guide**

**National Mall App**

Use the official National Mall App for Android and iPhone/iPad to plan your visit, navigate, learn about the memorials, search for programs, and more!

**Cell Phone Tours**

Dial from anywhere to listen to recorded programs on the following topics:

- Lincoln Memorial: (202) 747-3420
- First Amendment: (202) 595-0085
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial: (202) 595-0093
- Hispanic Heroes: (202) 595-1730
- Cherry Blossoms: (202) 747-3465

**Bookstores**

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. - 8 p.m.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial: 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Eastern National also visits the bookstore at Ford’s Theater National Historic Site. Open 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily. Hours may vary to accommodate performances.

**easternnational.org**

Also visit easternnational.org for up-to-date information on locations.

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