

both as a citizen and soldier. Allegorical figures by J. Massey Rhind representing Grant's youth, military service, civilian life, and death are between the arches of the rotunda. Bronze busts sculpted by Mues and J. Juszko of several of Grant's comrades-in-arms are in niches in the walls of the crypt. In 1966 three mosaics, designed by Allyn Cox, representing the battles of Vicksburg and Chattanooga and the surrender at Appomattox, each a significant event in Grant's career, were placed in the lunettes of the rotunda.

**THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL:** From the time of its dedication, the Grant Monument, popularly known as Grant's Tomb, has been a point of pilgrimage for the American people. With the approach of the Civil War Centennial, a movement began to transfer the monument to the Federal Government as a National Memorial. This was recognized as appropriate since the Government already administered the Custis-Lee Mansion at Arlington, Va., as a memorial to Robert E. Lee, Grant's distinguished Confederate opponent.

The New York Legislature in 1956 passed a bill permitting the Grant Monument Association to transfer the monument and permitting the City of New York, which owned the land on which it stands, to transfer this property to the Federal Government. On August 14, 1958, Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to accept the monument as a gift for the establishment of General Grant National Memorial. On May 1, 1959, administration of the area was transferred to the National Park Service.

**ABOUT YOUR VISIT:** General Grant National Memorial is located in Riverside Park near the intersection of Riverside Drive and West 122d Street. You can reach it by Fifth Avenue bus, IRT subway to 116th or 125th Broadway, or 125th Street crosstown 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 4:30 p.m. daily.

**ADMINISTRATION:** General Grant National Memorial, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is 26 Wall Street, New York, NY 10003, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, park and recreation areas, and for the wise use of all those resources. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

#### FOR YOUR SAFETY

Do not allow your visit to be spoiled by an accident. While every effort has been made to provide for your safety, there are still hazards which require your alertness and vigilance.

Exercise common sense and caution.

National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

newyork  
nps

## General Grant

## National Memorial

**CAPTAIN SAM GRANT:** The future commanding general of the Union armies and President of the United States was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio, on April 27, 1822. Baptized Hiram Ulysses Grant, he found when he entered West Point in 1839 that his name appeared on the records as Ulysses Simpson Grant. The record was allowed to stand. To the other cadets his initials suggested the nickname "Uncle Sam," quickly shortened to "Sam." At West Point he distinguished himself in horsemanship and showed ability in mathematics. Graduating in 1843, he ranked 21st in a class of 39.

Grant served in the 4th Infantry throughout the Mexican War, winning commendation for his conduct at Monterey and in the final assault on Mexico City. After the war, accompanied by his bride, Julia Dent Grant, he served at various army posts along the northern frontier. In 1852 his regiment was transferred to the Oregon country. Unable to take his wife and children to a distant outpost, young Captain Grant became discontented with army life and resigned after 2 years.

**A FIGHTING GENERAL:** The next few years were difficult. Grant tried various jobs with indifferent success. He was a clerk in his father's leather store in Galena, Ill., when the Civil War broke out in 1861. His offers of service were ignored by the War Department, but the Governor of Illinois granted him a colonel's commission. In command of an Illinois regiment, he conducted successful minor operations in Missouri. Somewhat to his surprise, he found himself promoted to brigadier general in August.

Placed in command at the vital river junction at Cairo, Grant began operations with a vigor that was to distinguish his entire wartime service. In February 1862 he shattered the Confederate line of defense in the West with the capture of Forts Henry and Donelson. When the Confederates accepted his demand for unconditional surrender, the North had a new war hero—and Grant won both a nickname, "Unconditional Surrender," and a reputation as a fighter.

The mosaics depict a wide variety of designs and scenes, ranging from city streets to wildlife in its natural habitat to a large American flag. The plaza stands as a unique public tribute to Grant and his role in establishing America's first National Park.

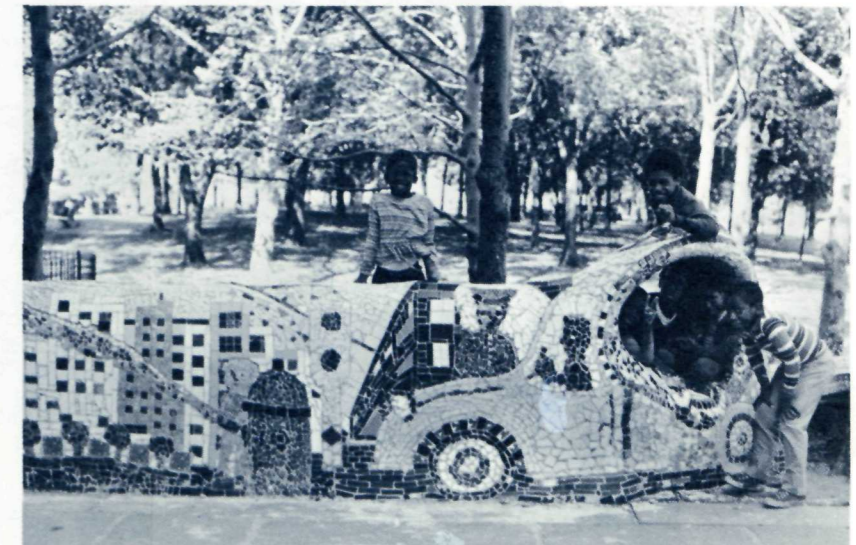
At Shiloh in April, when a Confederate surprise attack threatened to overwhelm the Federal army, Grant regrouped his shaken forces and drove the Southerners from the field. The narrowly won victory was a giant step forward in the North's conquest of the Mississippi Valley.

Maintaining the initiative in the West, Grant achieved a major goal of Union war strategy on July 4, 1863, when his capture of the Mississippi fortress of Vicksburg cut the Confederacy in two. That autumn, combined armies under his command raised the siege of Chattanooga and laid Georgia open to invasion.

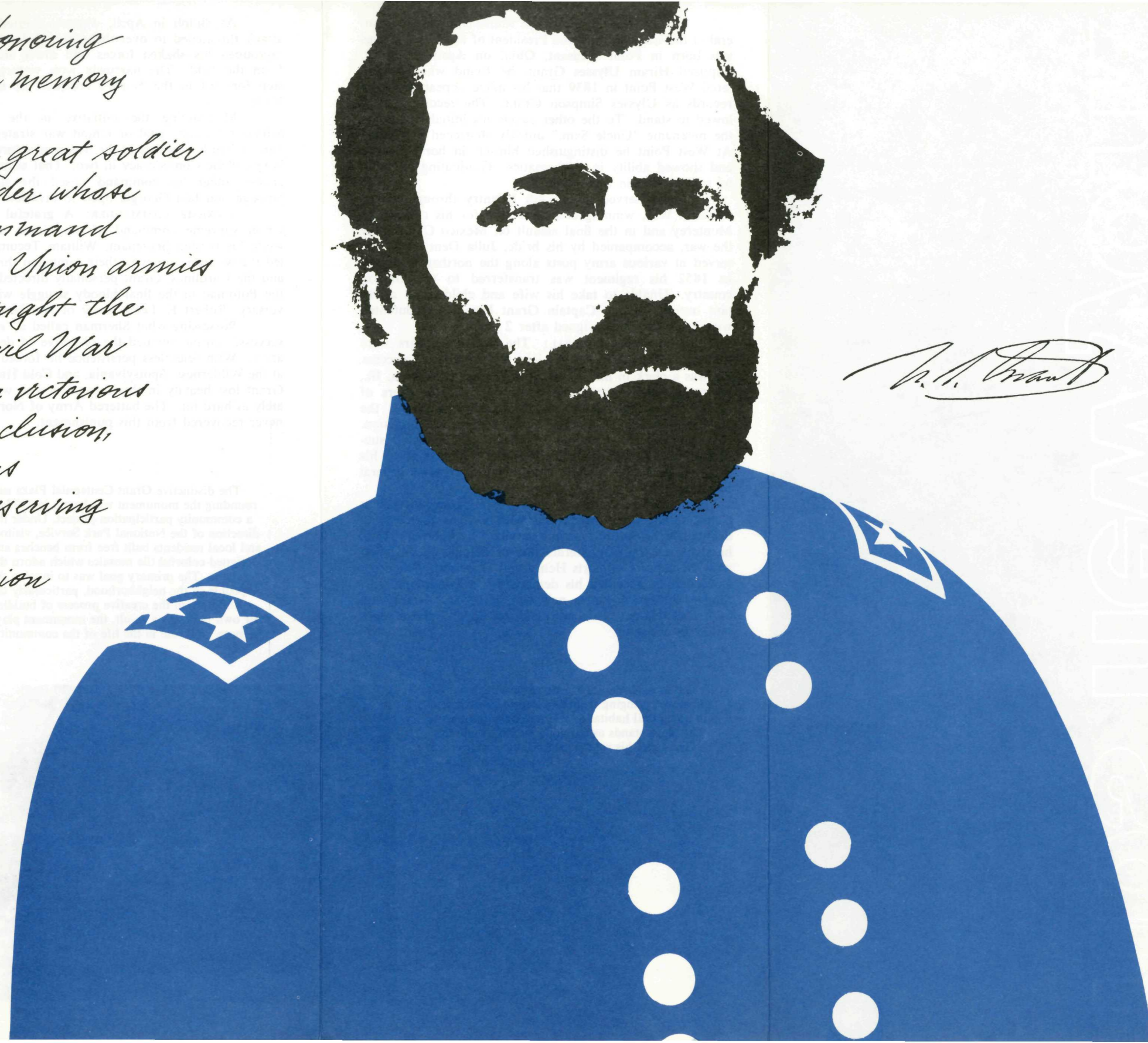
**SUPREME COMMANDER:** A grateful Lincoln gave Grant supreme command of the Union armies. Then, while his trusted lieutenant, William Tecumseh Sherman, led the western armies in their campaign through Georgia and the Carolinas, Grant personally directed the Army of the Potomac in the final bloody struggle with its old adversary, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Possessing what Sherman called a "simple faith in success," Grant pursued the objective of destroying Lee's army. With relentless persistence he forced Lee to battle at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor. Though Grant lost heavily in this campaign, Lee was proportionately as hard hit. The battered Army of Northern Virginia never recovered from this punishment.

The distinctive Grant Centennial Plaza surrounding the monument was begun in 1972 as a community participation project. Under the direction of the National Park Service, visitors and local residents built free form benches and designed colorful tile mosaics which adorn the area. The primary goal was to involve the people of the neighborhood, particularly the children, in the creative process of building their own park. As a result, the monument plays a more vital role in the life of the community.



*Honoring  
the memory  
of  
the great soldier  
under whose  
command  
the Union armies  
brought the  
Civil War  
to a victorious  
conclusion,  
thus  
preserving  
the  
Union*



Balked by Lee's entrenchments before Richmond, Grant swung south across the James River and fastened a stranglehold on Petersburg, Richmond's supply funnel. After a 9-month siege, Lee broke out of his thinly stretched defensive lines and led his army westward in an effort to unite with another Confederate force in North Carolina. But Grant pursued vigorously, finally blocking Lee's line of retreat at Appomattox Court House. There, on April 9, 1865, Lee accepted Grant's generous surrender terms, ending major Confederate resistance. The battle flags were furled, the soldiers went home. When it was later proposed to try Lee for treason, Grant stopped the proceedings as a violation of the surrender.

**PRESIDENT GRANT:** An appreciative Nation called Grant to the Presidency in 1868, and he was reelected in 1872. The years in the White House were shadowed by the political passions bred by the war and the Reconstruction period. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of Grant's administration was in the field of foreign relations, where serious disputes with Great Britain were peacefully arbitrated.

Significant for later generations was Grant's signing in 1872 of the act establishing the Nation's first National Park, Yellowstone, the forerunner of the present National Park System.

**THE LAST YEARS:** Following his second term, Grant spent 2 years touring the world. He was received everywhere with great acclaim. His final years were darkened by an unsuccessful venture into business. With the knowledge that he was dying of cancer, the old hero fought his last battle in a final effort to pay off his debts and provide for his family by writing his memoirs. This effort was successful and not only in a monetary sense, for the *Personal Memoirs* have become a military classic. But Grant was never to know it. On July 23, 1885, just 2 days after completing the manuscript, he died.

**BUILDING THE MONUMENT:** General Grant's family selected New York City as his burial place. Following an impressive ceremony, in which the Nation's highest officials and thousands of Civil War veterans took part, his remains were placed in a temporary vault in Riverside Park. Shortly afterward, the Grant Monument Association was organized to create a permanent memorial. The association conducted a fund-raising campaign that was supported by more than 90,000 donors. In a nationwide competition, the design of New York architect John H. Duncan was chosen. Ground was broken in 1891, a short distance in front of the temporary vault. The completed monument was dedicated on April 27, 1897, the 75th anniversary of Grant's birth. When Mrs. Grant died in 1902, her body was placed in a sarcophagus adjoining that of her husband.

The 150-foot gray granite monument sits on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River. Several styles of classic architecture are combined in the structure. A portico supported by 10 fluted Doric columns projects from the southern face. A rotunda supported by Ionic columns rises from the square lower section and is capped with a conical dome. The interior is lined with marble. An open crypt in the center contains the sarcophagi of the general and his wife. To the rear are two exhibit rooms devoted to telling, pictorially, the story of Ulysses S. Grant,