

The top of the **MEMORIAL BELL TOWER**. Photo by Daniel Tanak.



the legend in **stone**

A TOWERING ICON ILLUMINATING THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

The World War I Memorial Tower, also known as the Belltower, is likely the most recognized landmark on campus. Located on the northeast end of campus, this “legend in stone” contains a clock, shrine room and plaque. The carillon bells planned for the tower were never installed due to a lack of funding. In response to a student-initiated effort in 2008, the university has resumed fundraising to purchase the full 54-bell carillon.

The 115-foot monument is built from 1,400 tons of fine-cut granite from Mount Airy set on a 700-ton concrete base and exceeded \$150,000 in cost. Funding to finish the structure was made possible with a grant from the Works Progress Administration, one of the many programs in-

troduced under President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal during the Great Depression. The tower was intended to honor WWI veterans, specifically the 33 fallen heroes who were NC State alumni.

While the idea for the Memorial Tower first arose in 1919, it wasn’t dedicated until 1949 because of funding issues throughout the Great Depression and World War II. In 1998, Chancellor Marye Anne Fox initiated the refurbishing of the tower’s floodlights so they could bathe the tower in a red glow. Those lights are now a way to signal a sports victory, a student or faculty honor or certain holidays. The Belltower also adorns the University seal.