

World War II Memorial

Location: United States Of America

The World War II Memorial is a national monument located in Washington D.C. that honors the 16 million Americans who served in the military during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the countless others who supported the war effort on the home front. The idea for the memorial was first proposed in 1987 by a group of World War II veterans, but it took more than a decade for the project to gain momentum. In 1993, Congress authorized the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a World War II Memorial on the National Mall. The commission launched a national design competition, and in 2000, the winning design by architect Friedrich St. Florian was selected. The memorial features a central plaza with a fountain and two 43-foot arches representing the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of the war. Fifty-six pillars, each bearing the name of a U.S. state or territory, surround the plaza, and a wall of 4,048 gold stars represents the 400,000 Americans who died in the war. Construction of the memorial began in September 2001, but was delayed due to funding issues and disputes over the location of an underground garage. The memorial was finally

completed and dedicated on April 29, 2004, in a ceremony attended by thousands of World War II veterans and their families. Since its dedication, the World War II Memorial has become a popular tourist destination and a place of remembrance for those who served and sacrificed during the war. The memorial also hosts numerous events and ceremonies throughout the year, including wreath-laying ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Despite its popularity, the World War II Memorial has not been without controversy. Some critics have argued that the memorial is too grandiose and fails to capture the true horror and sacrifice of the war. Others have criticized the fact that the memorial was built several decades after the end of the war, arguing that it should have been constructed while more veterans were still alive to see it. Despite these criticisms, the World War II Memorial remains an important symbol of American patriotism and a lasting tribute to the sacrifices of those who fought in the war.