

A Walking Tour of the War Memorials in Downtown Indianapolis, Indiana



Indiana War Memorial Plaza which consists of University Park, the Indiana World War Memorial Square, Veterans Memorial Plaza, and the American Legion Mall. The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial can be seen in background to the right.

Welcome to Indianapolis. Please enjoy your walk through the city. You may begin your tour at any of the sites. The full loop is approximately three miles and follows a counter-clockwise path. If you would like to learn more about the Indiana war memorials, please visit warmemorialsfindiana.org. For your convenience, a map of the tour area is provided on the back of this brochure

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Circle



Located in the center of Indianapolis, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument occupies a space first designated by the city's architect Alexander Ralston for the Governor's Mansion. After several First Ladies refused to live in the home, citing privacy issues, the site was cleared and became a city park. After the Civil War, veterans sought to honor their fallen comrades. After rejecting other sites, construction of the monument

began here in 1888. The Bruno Schmidt design took 13 years to complete, and the monument, which came to represent veterans of all five wars between the American Revolution and the Civil War, was dedicated in 1902. The Indiana limestone structure which stands 285.5 ft (87 m) tall, was the first in the nation to honor the common veterans. George Brewster's 30 ft. (9.1m.) bronze, entitled *Victory* (also known as *Indiana*), tops the obelisk-style building. Sculpted scenes, entitled *War*, *Peace*, *The Dying Soldier*, and *the Return Home*, by Rudolph Schwartz surround the base of the monument. The iconic structure became a symbol of the city, and its design features in many Indianapolis logos. Each year, since 1962, the structure is draped with lights, and it becomes the *World's Largest Christmas Tree*.

(Please proceed north on Meridian Street for 1.5 blocks. You will pass the Federal Courthouse to your right.)

Benjamin Harrison Monument in University Park



Across New York Street, north of the Federal Courthouse, the southernmost monument honors the service of President Benjamin Harrison VIII (1889-1893). Located in the center of the block and surrounded by a limestone plaza, the life-sized bronze of Harrison, designed by Henry Bacon, was created by artist Charles Niehaus in 1908. During Harrison's campaign to become the 23rd president of the United States, University Park was favorite site for public speaking as large crowds could gather easily in the space. Indiana's only president to date, Harrison would cite his service during the American Civil War, in which he rose to the rank of Brigadier General, as his highest accomplishment.

Learn more about Harrison by visiting his home located at 1230 N. Delaware Street Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site (<https://bhpsite.org/>). Harrison' gravesite is located in Crown Hill cemetery (700 W. 38th St.—<https://crownhillhf.org/visit/>).

(Please proceed east to the corner of New York and Pennsylvania Streets.)

The Lincoln Statue in University Park



In the southeast corner of University Park, a seated figure of Abraham Lincoln greets visitors from the corner of New York and Pennsylvania Streets. The bronze statue, commissioned from the estate of Henry Clay Long, a Civil War veteran, was designed by Henry Herig and sits atop a granite base with the simple inscription of "Abraham Lincoln." Placed in 1935, this site honors Lincoln's service as our Civil War President. Lincoln's Hoosier connection is found in his boyhood as he lived with his family in southern Indiana (Spencer County) from ages 7-20 (1816-1830).

(Please proceed north on the diagonal walkway behind the statue.)

The Depew Memorial Fountain



The Depew Fountain, located in the center of University Park was gifted to the city by Emma Ely Depew in memory of her husband, Dr. Richard J. Depew. Sculpted by Karl Bitten and completed in 1919, the granite fountain is surround by eight children led in dance by a figure of a woman perched on top. To the east and west of the fountain, perched on limestone pedestals, the figures of Pan and Syrinx mark the sites where public drinking fountains were placed in the park in 1923. The original sculptures disappeared but were replaced by the ones seen today. Pan was sculpted by Roger White and Syrinx is credited to Adolph Wolter.

(Please proceed east from the fountain toward Pennsylvania Street.)

The Schuyler Colfax statue in University Park



Located directly north of the Lincoln statue, a bronze statue of Schuyler Colfax, Jr., by artist Lorado Taft, who served as Vice President (1869-1873) with President Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877), was placed in its current location in 1930. Colfax,

an Indiana District 9 Representative from 1855-1869, was elected Speaker of the House from 1863-1869. As an advisor to the president, Colfax was present at the White House on the evening of April 14, 1865, and was the last Hoosier to see Lincoln alive when he escorted the President and Mrs. Lincoln to their carriage for their evening out at the Ford's Theater. If his first name sounds familiar, you may be thinking of Elizabeth (Eliza) Schuyler Hamilton, wife of the first Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton. Colfax and Mrs. Hamilton are cousins, sharing a grandfather several generations removed.

(Please proceed back the Depew Fountain and turn north toward the Indiana World War Memorial Square.)

The Indiana World War Memorial



Filling the whole of World War Memorial Square, this imposing structure resembles the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus and was built to honor the veterans of The Great War. Construction began in 1926. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1927 in a ceremony featuring General John J. Pershing. Although the monument was dedicated in 1933, the last of previously existing buildings on the square were not removed until 1960. With the addition of landscaping and the remaining portions of the elevated porches, construction was finally considered complete in 1964. The neoclassical design of architects Frank B Walker and Harry E. Weeks was carried out in Indiana limestone.

(Please proceed across the street.)

World War Memorial Square continued.



The south staircase is bisected by a dynamic 1929 bronze of a young man, entitled *Pro Patria*. Cloaked in a flag, the artist, Henry Herring, said it represents the soldier's spirit of valor and fighting for the right. The youth's left hand is lifted in exuberance and in the forefront is an olive branch for peace. Surrounding the structure just above the statue, a porch area provides a close-up view of lion sculptures, eagle carvings, the brass-covered exterior doors, and the vistas which surround the building. The public entrance is located on the north side of the building. Interior features include the Pershing Auditorium, a museum for all wars in which the United States has been involved, and the Shrine Room.



This historical marker on the north edge of the War Memorial block celebrates the efforts of May Wright Sewall, a co-founder of the Indianapolis Propylaeum. This women's organization's site was used as a service center supporting the military during WW I.

(Please proceed across Michigan St. to the Veterans Memorial Plaza.)

The Veterans Plaza Obelisk and Flags



Centered in the Veterans Memorial Plaza, the Obelisk, a granite tower surrounded by a marble and terrazzo fountain, was constructed in 1920, under the supervision of designer, Henry Hering. The gold-leaf-topped spire stands 100 ft (30 m.) tall and the lower basin is 100 ft. (30 m.) wide. Bronze bas-reliefs on each side of the base represent Law, Science, Religion, and Education. East and west of the fountain, the two plazas hold the 50 state flags. Originally a single element at the north end of the block placed in celebration of the nation's Bicentennial in 1976, the flags were moved to their current location in 2005 and are arranged according to their statehood dates.



(Please proceed across North St. to the American Legion Mall.)

The American Legion Mall



The American Legion Mall includes the WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War Memorials, the National Headquarters of the American Legion, and the Cenotaph, which honors unknown soldiers. A wide grassy area in the center surrounded by trees, provides a public gathering space and a green space in the city's center. Looking from the middle of the American Legion Mall, the Obelisk and World War Memorial appear in the center. The Soldier's and Sailor's Monument, from its place on Monument Circle, can be above the right side porch.



(Please proceed to the west (toward the Scottish Rite Cathedral) side of the grass lawn to the Vietnam Memorial.)

The Vietnam and Korean War Memorials

Across the grass lawn of the American Legion Mall on the east and west sides, these two memorials were dedicated on Memorial Day of 1996. The 25 ft. (6.7 m.) towers, designed by Patrick Bruner, are shapes as partial cylinders and made of granite and Indiana limestone.

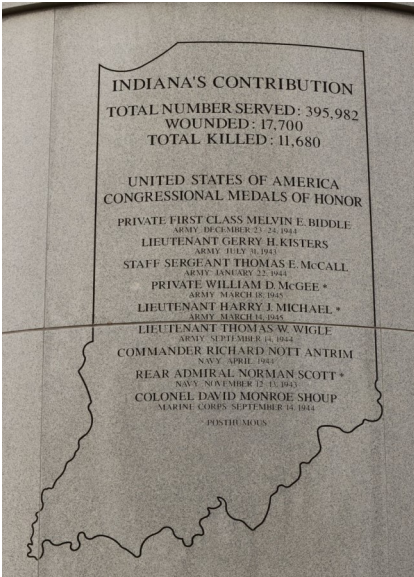
The Vietnam Memorial on the west side, like its counterpart in Washington, D.C., includes the names of all 1,525 Hoosiers who died during the war. The first casualty was Lyal H. Erwins in 1965. Lynn H Rothenbuhler was one of 12 American advisors who lost their lives during the war. The final Indiana fatality was Mary T. Klinker (1973).

On the east side of the mall, the Korean War Memorial features a map of the area of the conflict and excerpts of letters sent home. The war claimed the lives of 927 Hoosiers.



(Please proceed north from the Korean War Memorial to the World War II Memorial.)

The World War II Memorial



Created to match the Korean and Vietnam War memorials, the World War II Memorial features an inscribed map which shows just how much of the world was at war. Dedicated in 1998, it honors the service of the more than 456,000 Hoosier men and women, 12,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The American Legion National Headquarters



The American Legion, founded in 1919 to assist veterans, located its national offices in Indianapolis. Construction of these buildings on the mall began in 1949. The two limestone neoclassical structures, designed by Frank B Walker and Harry E. Weeks, sit opposite each other at the north end of the mall.

(Please proceed to the north center of the American Legion Mall.)

The Cenotaph

The focus of this striking plaza, with the historic Indianapolis Public Library in the background, is a cenotaph to honor the soldiers whose burial site is unknown. Created from red, green and black granite, the plaza is cornered with columns of black granite topped with bronze eagles, which are painted gold. Originally proposed in memory of James Gresham, the first Hoosier to die in World War I, his remains rest in his hometown of Evansville and the cenotaph instead represents all Hoosiers who have died in wars. The monument was dedicated in 1931.



(Please proceed to the the south side of the American Legion building on the west side of the Mall. Follow the sidewalk and carefully cross Meridian Street to The Glick Peace Walk, a section of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, along the north side of the Scottish Rite Cathedral. It is a four-block walk to the USS CA-35 Indianapolis Memorial, located at the north end of the Indianapolis Canal Walk.)

The USS CA-35 Indianapolis Memorial on the Canal

(The upper ledge of the memorial site is seen to the right as you approach the orange bridge. Stairs and a ramp provide access to the canal level.)



The USS CA-35 Indianapolis Memorial, designated as a National Memorial, was spearheaded through the efforts of surviving crew members to honor their fallen comrades. Installed near the north end of the Canal in 1995, this black and gray granite structure, which resembles a ship, was designed by Joseph Fischer. The north side is etched with a relief of the Portland-class heavy cruiser. When the ship was torpedoed on July 30, 1945 in the Pacific Ocean, it sank in just 12 minutes, taking nearly 300 soldiers with it. Of the nearly 900 men afloat, less than half were still alive by morning of the next day. The crew members' names are inscribed on the south side of the monument. Stars indicate the 316 men who were finally pulled from the water four days and five nights after the ship sank.

(Please proceed south (5.5 blocks) along the Canal Walk, crossing to the west side. If ramp access is needed for mobility equipment, go north around the end of the Canal to get to the west side.)

Medal of Honor Memorial on the Canal



After the Canal Walk turns west, the National Medal of Honor Memorial site can be seen directly across from the Indiana State Museum. Access to the level of the monument is available via stairs or ramp. Nestled between White River State Park and Military Park, this 1999 memorial honors all United States Medal of Honor recipients, the first of its kind in the nation. From the artistry of Ann Reed and Eric Fulford, the unique green-backed glass and steel walls are etched with the names of all honorees. Awarded by the President, on behalf of Congress, to those who portray distinguished service without regard for rank, the Medal of Honor is the highest award given for military service. 3525 medals have been awarded since their inception during the Civil War.

(Please proceed up from the Memorial site to Military Park.)

Military Park



Founded as Military Grounds in 1820, the 14-acre Military Park is the oldest park in Indianapolis. The site has been used for military encampments and as training grounds as well as hosting the first Indiana State Fair in 1851. Used as marshalling grounds during the Civil War, Governor Oliver P. Morton designated the park as Camp Sullivan in honor of Colonel Jeremiah C. Sullivan. The land is protected from development by the 1851 Indiana State Constitution and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Currently the urban greenspace is managed by White River State Park and hosts an active schedule of public events.

(From the east central side of the Park, please proceed across West Street which tees with Ohio Street. A fire station is located on the southeast corner. Continue east on the south side of Ohio Street to the 9/11 Memorial. The Indiana Historical Society building will be to your left across the street.)

The 9/11 Memorial on the Canal

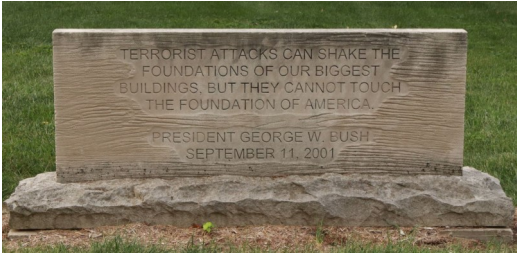


Organized and promoted by the 2010 efforts of Greg Hess, an Indianapolis firefighter who helped with the search and rescue in New York on an Indiana Task Force FEMA team, just days after the attack, the 9/11 Memorial is located by Indianapolis Fire Station 13 and overlooks the Canal. Two beams from the Twin Towers, which were escorted by more than 11,000 motorcyclists to Indianapolis, are the focus of the monument. A bronze eagle, facing east, perches on the tallest beam. Granite structures surrounding the beams are etched with timelines and

quotes to evoke remembrance. Slated for inclusion at the site by September 11, 2021, the 20th anniversary of the tragedy, are a piece of Indiana limestone from the damaged Pentagon wall and a Survivor Tree. Following the attack, a single tree endured on Ground Zero and is by the South Pool. A seedling from that tree will be planted at this site.

(Please proceed east on Ohio St. to Senate Ave. Go left toward Washington St. to find the south lawn of the Indiana Statehouse. Take the sidewalk toward the building. The 9/11 marker will be on your right.)

The 9/11 Marker at the Statehouse



The 9/11 Marker is located on the south lawn of the Indiana Statehouse just out from the corner of the building. The limestone

marker was placed in honor of those who lost their lives that day in the War on Terrorism. The etched quote from President George W. Bush serves as a reminder of the unshakable spirit of the American people when faced with crisis. The monument was a first anniversary gift from the Bybee Stone Company and the Independent Limestone Company whose quarries provided the Indiana limestone used to repair the outer wall of the Pentagon following the attack.

(Please proceed to the center of the south lawn)

The George Washington Statue at the Statehouse



Centered in the south lawn, this bronze statue of George Washington serves to honor his public service as president, but also pays homage to his role as the Commander-in-Chief during the American Revolutionary War. The figure, designed by Donald De Luc, which stands on a granite base, was dedicated in 1987 and faces the National Road, which is known as Washington Street as it passes through Indianapolis. An inscription on the monument reminds visitors that he was “First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

(Please proceed to the east (Capital Ave.) side of the Statehouse.)

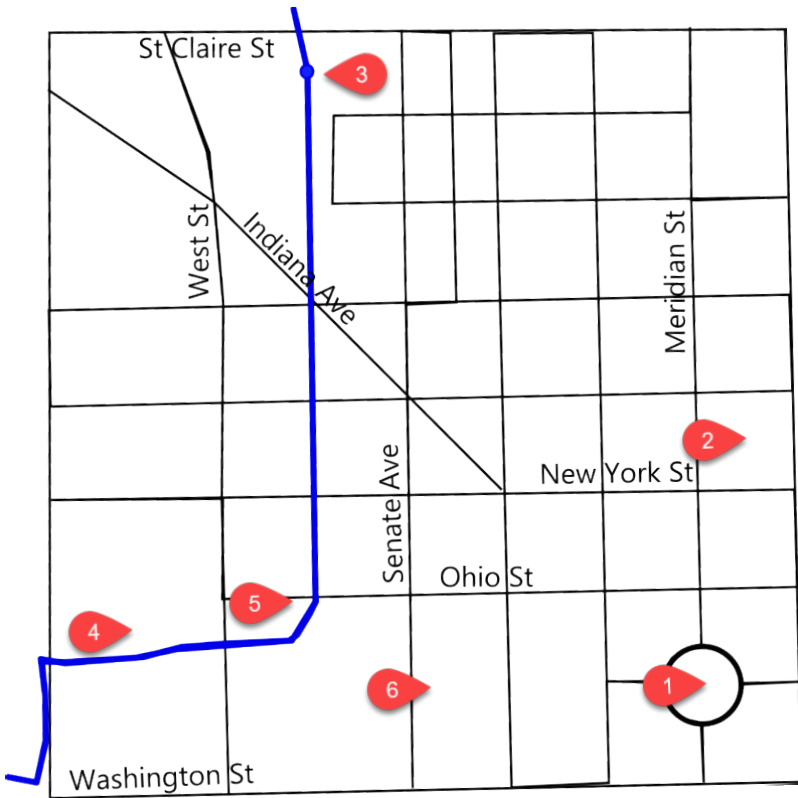
The Morton Plaza at the Indiana Statehouse



Morton Plaza is located outside the east entrance of the Indiana Statehouse. A larger-than-life figure of Oliver P. Morton, Indiana's Civil War governor, welcomes visitors to the Indiana Statehouse. Morton is flanked by Union soldiers, and the three statues created by Rudolph Schwartz, are mounted on a granite base. Morton was known as Lincoln's favorite governor due to his efforts to raise funds and

gather soldiers to serve. Tucked in the niches of the side walls of the plaza, bas-reliefs, also by Schwartz, show Morton welcoming veterans back home on the north side and honoring the service of women during the war on the south side. A historical marker just to the north of the plaza names this place as the site of the Civil War Arsenal.

(Turn east, following Morton's gaze, to proceed along Market Street to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument located on Monument Circle.)



Ramp access to the Canal Walk is available at the USS CA-35 Indianapolis Memorial site and at the Medal of Honor Memorial site.

1. Monument Circle
2. War Memorial Plaza
3. *USS CA-35 Indianapolis* Memorial
4. Medal of Honor Walls and Military Park
5. 911 Memorial
6. Indiana Statehouse Campus

Unless otherwise noted all photos copyrighted to
© Anna C. Goben, 2020, and are used with permission.