

Victory

The crowning figure atop the Monument is the statue of Victory. Victory was designed by George Thomas Brewster at a cost of \$12,500. Victory is 38 feet tall and weighs 20,924 pounds. Her right hand holds a sword, the top of which rests upon a globe. Her left hand holds a torch, which represents the light of civilization. The young eagle on her brow is an emblem of freedom. Victory sits just 15 feet shorter than the Statue of Liberty.



Monument Interior

The observation deck, 231 feet above the ground, is enclosed in glass and can be reached by an elevator or by the 331 steps. The view at the top is a breathtaking panorama of the City. To enter the observation level of the Monument, simply take the stone steps on the South side.

If you are interested in learning more about Indiana's Civil War efforts, the Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Exhibition is now located in the Indiana War Memorial Museum. Located at 55 E. Michigan Street Indianapolis, just four blocks North of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

The Indiana War Memorial Museum

is open to the public

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday through Sunday.

Admission is free!

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INDIANA WAR MEMORIALS FOUNDATION

The Indiana War Memorials Foundation supports the museum, monuments and memorials that form the Indiana War Memorial Plaza Historic District - a designated National Historic Landmark. No other city in the United States maintains as many acres dedicated to honoring veterans.



Interested in donating to the Indiana War Memorials Foundation:



Indiana War Memorials
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THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT

Indianapolis, IN



1 Monument Circle,
Indianapolis, IN
46204



The Indiana War Memorials Commission

Universally recognized as one of the most outstanding achievements of Architectural and Sculptural Art, the iconic Soldiers and Sailors Monument has come to symbolize the city of Indianapolis and the state of Indiana. Geographically the Monument is at the center of the city of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana.

Background

The circle on which the Monument now sits was originally laid out for the Governor's Mansion in 1827. By 1857, the building was ordered to be demolished due to its poor condition and a new city park was created. In 1862, long before the Civil War ended, a letter to the editor in the *Indianapolis Daily Journal* suggested that the state build a monument to recognize those who were dying while protecting the Union.

Under Governor Oliver P. Morton, Hoosiers made a significant contribution to the war with more than 24,000 Hoosiers giving their lives to preserve the Union. Indiana is proud that 3 out of every 4 eligible-aged Hoosiers who could have served did serve. It was important that these Hoosiers were remembered for their valor and sacrifice in protecting the Union.

Finally, in 1887, the state legislature made a grant of \$200,000 and appointed a Monument Commission. A competition was set up to invite architects to submit designs for the proposed monument. In early 1888, Bruno Schmitz, an architect from Berlin Germany, was named the winner.

The Monument now commemorates the valor of Indiana's military men and women in all wars prior to World War I. Since the grand opening on May 15, 1902, the Monument has stood as a tribute to the past and an inspiration for the future as the only Civil War Monument in America dedicated to ordinary soldiers and sailors.



***The Soldiers and Sailors
Monuments stands at 284 feet 6
inches tall, from street level to the
top of Victory.***

Self-Guided Walking Tour of the Memorial The South Elevation

Begin on the South stone steps leading to the bronze doors.

- To the left is the bronze statue of James Whitcomb, Indiana's first Governor during the Mexican War.
- Directly above the doors is a large tablet that bears the Roll of Honor commemorating Indiana's contributions to the Union (1861-65) and the War with Spain (1898).
- The motto "To Indiana's Silent Victors" appears just above the Roll and below the head of Victory.
- Flanking the entrance are the free standing figures of the cavalry scout, on the right, and an infantryman, on the left.



The South face of the Monument

- The Soldiers and Sailors astragal sits seventy feet above the base of the Monument, representing the carnage of war with cannons, horses, flags, and fallen soldiers.
- An eagle sits above and a bison below a crest with the stars and stripes.
- Above is the Navy astragal which wraps all the way around the Monument, consisting of boat hulls modeled after the Hartford, a Union ship.
- The bronze Date Astragal rests 80 feet above the Navy one with the date 1861 on the South and East sides, 1865 on the North and West Sides commemorating the start and end of the Civil War.

The East Elevation

Continue by heading to the East side of the Monument (to your right)

- A bronze statue of Oliver P. Morton will be on the left, Morton was the Governor of Indiana during the Civil War.
- The East side features a large cascade fountain in which over 5,000 gallons of water flows per minute. This fountain is mirrored on the West Elevation.
- Directly above is "The Dying Soldier" statue, portraying two comrades tending to a wounded soldier.

- The statuary group "War" sits above "The Dying Soldier" and shows a battle scene with cavalry and charging infantry and artillery.
- The fierce goddess of war urges on the charge in the center of "The Dying Soldier," while in the background Columbia holds the stars and stripes.
- The Navy astragal on this face of the Monument features the ship Monitor.

The North Elevation

Make your way to the North side of the Monument

- To the left is a bronze statue of William Henry Harrison, a General in the War of 1812. He fought in the Battle of Tippecanoe and was the first Governor of the Indiana Territory.
- The entrance is flanked by figures of artillerymen, on the left and a sailor on the right.
- Above the door is a second Roll of Honor commemorating Indiana's contribution to the War with Mexico (1846 - 48), the Indian and British War (1811-1812), the War of the Revolution, the capture of Vincennes from the British on February 25, 1779 and the Mexican Border Service.
- As on the South elevation, above the tablet is the head of Victory with the motto "To Indiana's Silent Victors."
- On the North side the Army astragal contains the state seal rather than a crest, while the Navy astragal features a sailor.

The West Elevation

Make your way around to the West side

- George Rogers Clark greets you on the left. Clark, representing the Revolution, is standing as the courageous commander of his band of soldiers at the capture for Fort Sackville.
- Just above the large cascade fountain sits "The Return Home" sculpture, portraying the reunion of a returning soldier with his family and the plow is representative of the tools of peaceful labor.
- Above is the sculpture "Peace", representing the homecoming of the victorious troops, the happy reunion of families, and the peaceful emblems of labor.
- In the center, Liberty holds the flag, at her feet a freed slave lifts up his broken chains of slavery. The angel of Peace hovers over holding aloft a wreath of Victory and an olive branch.
- The Navy astragal on this side features the ship CSS Virginia - one of the first ironclad ships.