



“Cradle of Victory” Northern Virginia’s World War II Heritage Trail

On December 7, 1941 America changed forever. In Virginia, the call to service was absolute. Over the course of World War II, 300,000 Virginians enlisted, more than 10 percent of the entire commonwealth’s population. From the construction of the Pentagon, the largest building in the world, to the transformation of farms into intelligence gathering stations, to public parks becoming prisoner of war camps, Virginia was transformed. Virginians, men and women, went to work in support of the war from coal mining to making torpedoes. Of the Virginians who served in the armed services overseas, 7,000 never returned. Bedford, Virginia, gave the ultimate sacrifice, losing more sons per capita than any other town in the nation.

Given its proximity to Washington, D.C, Northern Virginia played a vital role in supporting our nation during World War II. The region is home to the nation’s military leadership with the Pentagon, Quantico, Fort Meyer, and Fort Belvoir located here. Arlington Cemetery honors the memory of the men and women who served in World War II including many honored Five Star Generals and Admirals. Distinguished leaders throughout American history chose this historically rich region to make their home including Gen. George C. Marshall, author of the Marshall Plan.

The “Cradle of Victory” World War II Heritage Trail honors these and all Americans by encouraging current and future generations to seek out and learn from the historic lessons of valor from the America’s greatest generation.

U.S Naval Torpedo Station – Supporting the War Effort

Located along the Potomac River in Alexandria, Virginia, the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station ramped up during World War II, employed 6,000 munitions workers, and built the Mark XIV torpedo. Now known as the Torpedo Factory Art Center, an exhibit in the main hall includes mementos of those who worked at the factory, a guidance gyroscope, and a 23-foot Mark XIV torpedo accompanied by its log book, which recorded its submarine trips in the Pacific. The current art center was created through the joint effort of a group of local artists and the City of Alexandria in 1974, and is considered the largest and most successful visual arts center in the United States.

- Admission: Free
- Time: Open daily 10 am - 5 pm
- Location: 105 N. Union St., Alexandria, VA 22314
- Contact: 703-838-4565 or www.torpedofactory.org

The Pentagon- A World War II Creation

With the onset of World War II, construction of the Pentagon began on September 11, 1941, and was completed in the remarkably short time of 16 months. The Pentagon is considered the largest office building in the world, twice the size of the Merchandise Mart in Chicago and three times the floor space of the Empire State Building in New York. It consolidated 17 buildings of the War Department and returned the government's original \$83 million investment in seven years. Approximately 23,000 military and civilian employees currently work in the building and contribute to the planning and execution of the country's defense. The Pentagon is currently closed to individual visitors. To organize a group tour call, 703-697-1776.

Learn more about the Pentagon at an exhibit featuring images and stories from Paul Williams's new book, "Washington in World War II."

- May 27 – September 6, 2004: The Building of the Pentagon and the War Department in Arlington – Arlington Visitors Center
- Admission: Free

- Time: Open daily, 9 am - 5 pm
- Location: 1301 S. Joyce St., Arlington, VA 22202
- Contact: 703-416-0784 or www.stayarlington.com

Arlington National Cemetery/Fort Meyer

For almost four million people who visit annually, Arlington National

Cemetery represents many different things. For some it is a chance to walk among the headstones that chronicle American history; for many, it is an opportunity to remember and honor the nation's war heroes. As of March 2002, 372 World War II Medal of Honor recipients are interred or memorialized in the cemetery. Many Five-Star Generals and Admirals from World War II are buried at Arlington Cemetery including: Adm. William D. Leahy, Gen. George C. Marshall, Gen. Henry H. Arnold, Adm. William F. Halsey, and Gen. Omar N. Bradley.

- Admission: Free
- Time: 8 am -7 pm (April 1- Sept. 30) and 8 am- 5 pm (Oct. 1- March 31)
- Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA 22003
- Contact: 703-607-8000 or www.arlingtoncemetery.org

Arlington National Cemetery – Women's Memorial

This memorial is designed to honor military women of the past, present, and future. The history of women in the armed forces began more than 220 years ago with the women who served during the American Revolution and continues through the present day. The memorial houses an exhibit gallery, Hall of Honor, theatre, Court of Valor and, the heart of the Memorial, a computerized register containing 250,000 women's stories.

- Admission: Free
- Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA 22003
- Hours: 8 am – 7 pm (April 1 – Sept. 30); 8 am – 5 pm, (Oct. 1- Mar. 31). Daily. Closed Christmas Day
- Contact: 703-607-8000 or www.womensmemorial.org. For tours call 703-892-2606. Docent tours with two weeks notice

U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, (Iwo Jima Memorial)

Inspired by the Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of five marines and one Navy hospital corpsman raising the U.S. flag over Iwo Jima during the Battle for the Pacific, the Marine Corps War Memorial is dedicated to all Marines who have given their lives in defense of the United States since 1775. The bronze statue features 32'-tall figures erecting a 60' bronze flagpole. The cloth flag flies 24 hours a day in accordance with a Presidential proclamation. The sculpture was designed by sculptor Felix W. de Weldon, then on duty with the U.S. Navy.

- Admission: Free
- Time: Open daily, 24 hours. In the summer the Marine Corps presents the Marine Sunset Review Parade featuring the Drum and Bugle Corp and the Silent Drill Team on Tuesdays from 7 pm - 8:30 pm (May-August).
- Location: Marshall Drive, between Route 50 and Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA 22003
- Contact: pages.arlingtoncounty.com/iwo_jima.htm or www.nps.gov/gwmp/usmc.htm
- Park Ranger tours available

Quantico National Cemetery – Honoring World War II Veterans

Quantico National Cemetery is a Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery located on 725 rolling wooded acres. Opened in 1983, the cemetery features large memorials dedicated to World War II veterans including a memorial to the 800 members of the First Marine Raider Battalion, which from August, 1942 to October, 1943, played a key role in helping the greatly outnumbered American forces push back Japanese troops in the Brigit Solomon Islands. Also at Quantico National Cemetery is the Purple Heart Memorial and the 6th Marine Division or

“Striking Sixth” Memorial to honor the division that won the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions in Okinawa.

- Admission: free
- Time: Open daily from sunrise to sunset
- Location: 18424 Joplin Rd., Triangle, VA 22172
- Contact: 703-221-9939 or www.cem.va.gov/nchp/quantico.htm

Netherlands Carillon – A Gift of Gratitude

The Netherlands Carillon, a gift to the United States, symbolizes the gratitude of the Dutch people for American aid received during and after World War II. It represents the friendship between the two countries. In 1954, the original 49-bell carillon was formally installed in a temporary tower in West Potomac Park. The present tower, located adjacent to the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and bordering Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, became operational on May 5, 1960, on the 15th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands from the Nazis. Joost W. C. Boks, a leading Dutch architect, designed the tower, which is approximately 127 feet high, 25’ deep, and 36’ wide. In 1995 the bell was modernized and received a 50th bell from the Dutch people. Planted on the surrounding grounds are thousands of tulip bulbs which bloom every spring.

- Admission: Free
- Time: Westminster Chimes hourly between 10 am and 6 pm.
- Location: Adjacent to the U.S Marine Corps Memorial, bordering the north end of Arlington National Cemetery
- Contact: 703-289-2500/2550/2552 or nps.gov/gwmp/carillon.htm

Frank Lloyd Wright’s Pope-Leighey House

Tour the Pope-Leighey House, the only Frank Lloyd Wright designed structure in the Washington area open to the public. Learn how this extraordinary house was built at an extraordinary time - 1940. Tours focus on the World War II years and their effect on the home and its inhabitants.

- Admission: \$7.50 adults; \$3 children K-12; Group rates for 15 or more people
- Time: Open daily, 10 am - 5pm. Closed January, February, Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Location: 9000 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309
- Contact: 703-780-4000 or www.popeleighey1940.org

Herndon- Artifacts from the U.S.S. Herndon (ongoing exhibit)

The exhibit features photographs of the U.S.S. Herndon, a U.S. Navy Destroyer that participated in the invasions of Sicily, Normandy and southern France and escorted President Roosevelt to Yalta. The ship's instruments, bell, and American flag are on display, as well as its muster roll, anchor log, and a Japanese surrender flag.

- Admission: Free
- Time: Open daily, 10 am - 4 pm
- Location: Herndon Dulles Visitors Center, Old Train Depot, 717 Lynn St. Herndon, VA 20172
- Contact: 703-437-6366 or www.visitherndon.com

The Restoration of General George C. Marshall's Personal Residence at Dodona Manor/ George C. Marshall International Center

Peek behind the scenes and observe the ongoing restoration of Dodona Manor, home to General and Mrs. George C. Marshall from 1941 to 1959. Purchased when Marshall was Army Chief of Staff, Dodona Manor often served as a backdrop to conversations of national and international importance. Volunteers are restoring items from the extensive collection of Marshall's furniture and memorabilia and the Garden Club of Virginia is transforming General Marshall's long-neglected gardens.

- Admission: \$12 adults; \$10 seniors with ID; \$6 children ages 9-17; Tour not recommended for children under 8

- Time: Wednesdays 10 am - 3 pm (groups of 15 or more at other times by appointment)
- Location: 217 Edwards Ferry Rd., Leesburg, VA 20176
- Contact: 703-777-1880 or www.georgecmarshall.org

National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center- World War II Aircraft

Visit the National Air and Space Museum's new Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, VA. Here you can view 10 significant World War II aircraft including the B-29 Enola Gay, a P-47 Thunderbolt, a P-40 Kitty Hawk, an F4U Corsair, a P-38 Lightning, a Hawker Hurricane, an Aichi M6A1 Seiran, a Kawanishi n1k2-Ja Shiden Ki GEORGE, a Focke Wulf Fw 190F, and an Arado Ar 234B-2 Blitz.

- Admission: Free; \$12 parking fee
- Time: Open daily 10 am-5:30 pm
- Location: 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway Chantilly, VA 20151
- Contact: 202-357-2700 or www.nasm.si.edu/museum/udvarhazy

National Firearms Museum- World War II Artifacts

The National Rifle Association's National Firearms Museum houses one of the most extensive firearms collections in the country. The "Every Vigilant" gallery explores World War II, with a collection of 60 Thompson submachine guns used during WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and Desert Storm, and includes a life-size diorama, depicting the men of the 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division (Blue and Gray),

securing the town of St. Lo in Normandy and France for the Allied invasion force.

- Admission: Free
- Time: 10 am- 4 pm daily; except major holidays
- Location: 11250 Waples Mill Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
- Contact: 703-267-1600 or <http://nra.nationalfirearms.museum>

National Museum of the Marine Corps- Opening Fall of 2006

The National Museum of the Marine Corps will be a state-of-the-art facility honoring, preserving, and telling America's story through the eyes of the Marines. That story is first told through magnificent architectural design evoking the Marine's importance to the American people. The building features a dramatic 210-foot tilted mast and glass atrium inspired by the flag raising at Iwo Jima. Inside, a massive Central Gallery and surrounding era galleries will take visitors through the 225-year history of the Marines, including pivotal battles and other vital contributions to the preservation of America's freedom.

- Location: Opening Fall 2006 to Quantico, VA 22172
- Contact: 800-397-7585 or www.usmcmuseum.org

Quantico Marine Corps Base

Since its inception in 1917, Marine Corp Base, Quantico, has been the "frontline of innovation." Marine concepts, doctrines, training, and equipment of the future are initiated aboard the Base. The techniques of amphibious warfare, for which the Corps is renowned, were conceived and perfected here in preparation for World War II's D-Day invasion.

- Admission: Open to the public with identification. No organized tours
- Location: 3250 Catlin Ave, Quantico, VA, 22172
- Contact: 703-784-2741 or www.quantico.usmc.mil

Fort Belvoir- Engineer Training Camp

As in World War I, during World War II, Fort Belvoir trained the US Army's engineering soldiers and became home to the Engineering Replacement Training Center. By the end of the war, more than 147,000 engineering troops had passed through the fort and were trained in reconnaissance, demolition, and road and obstacle construction. Fort Belvoir is located in southern Fairfax County on the Historic Richmond Highway.

- Admission: Public admitted with identification. No organized tours
- Contact: 703-806-4892

Fort Hunt Park- German Prisoner of War Camp

Situated along the Potomac River, Fort Hunt Park was once part of George Washington's estate. The park's history has mirrored the social and political history of the United States. The site has been a farm, a Spanish-American War-era coastal fortification, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, and a setting for top secret military intelligence operations during World War II. During the war, the park served as an interrogation camp for captured German submarine crews. Today, visitor activities include viewing historic ruins (Spanish-American War era), attending a ranger-led tour, or general recreation.

- Admission: free
- Time: Open daily
- Location: George Washington Memorial Pkwy
Alexandria, VA
- History exhibits to be installed summer of 2004
- Contact info: 703-289-2500 or www.nps.gov/gwmp/fohu

Prince William Forest Park – Training Ground of the OSS

Located in Prince William County, Prince William Forest Park then known as the Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration Area, was transformed during World War II. It was the home of the Office of Strategic Service, the predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency and various military Special Forces units. The park is part of the National Park System.

- Admission: free
- Time: Visitor Center daily 8:30 am -5pm, Park open daily dawn-dusk.
- Location: Park Entrance Rd., Triangle, VA 22172
- Contact: Visitors Center - National Park Service - 703-221-7181
www.nps.gov/prwi

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