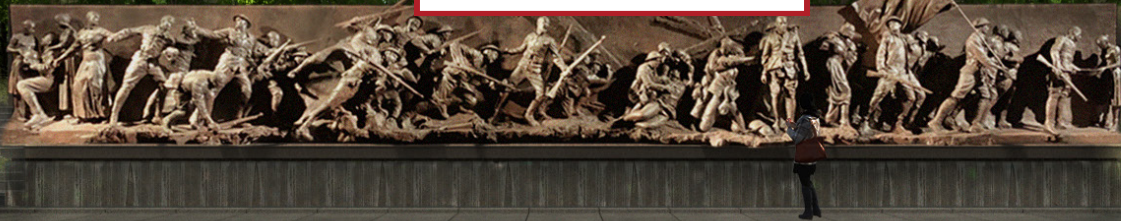




FIRST COLORS CEREMONY

NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL



About the National World War I Memorial

The National World War I Memorial in our Nation's Capital consists of several elements. In 1981 the Pershing Park site was dedicated as the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) Memorial, erected by the American Battle Monuments Commission in honor of the AEF and their commander, General John Pershing. The original AEF Memorial remains in the southeast corner of the memorial. The walls flanking the Pershing statue bear text reciting the accomplishments of the AEF and a tribute from General Pershing to his troops. The site also features battle maps of the Western Front and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the largest battle of American troops in history which culminated in the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

As part of the rededication of Pershing Park as the National World War I Memorial, a dynamic redesign includes many new commemorative elements. In addition to the central sculpture *A Soldier's Journey*, new elements include the Peace Fountain, which includes a contemplative water feature framing an excerpt from the poem *The Young Dead Soldiers Do Not Speak* by Archibald MacLeish. The poem is a stirring call to peace composed to give meaning to the sacrifice of those killed in the war. (MacLeish was a U.S. artillery officer during World War I, later the Librarian of Congress and three-time Pulitzer Prize winner).

The belvedere, located at the northeast corner of the memorial, bears a series of interpretive panels. In the center of the belvedere is a medallion depicting an allegorical figure of Victory, as portrayed on the medals awarded to members of the AEF and other Allied forces. Inscribed along the front of the belvedere are the names of the major campaigns for which American Army and Navy units were awarded battle streamers.

The final element is a pair of quotations inscribed in planter boxes on the north side of the park. One, from Willa Cather's World War I novel *One of Us*, is a testament to the achievements and sacrifices of American armed forces in the war. The other, from Alta May Andrews of the Army Nurse Corps, speaks of her own pride in having a chance to serve and, more broadly, for the contributions of all American citizens – women, African Americans, Native Americans, immigrants, and others – to the American war effort.

Construction of the World War I Memorial began on December 19, 2019. It opens to the public this spring.

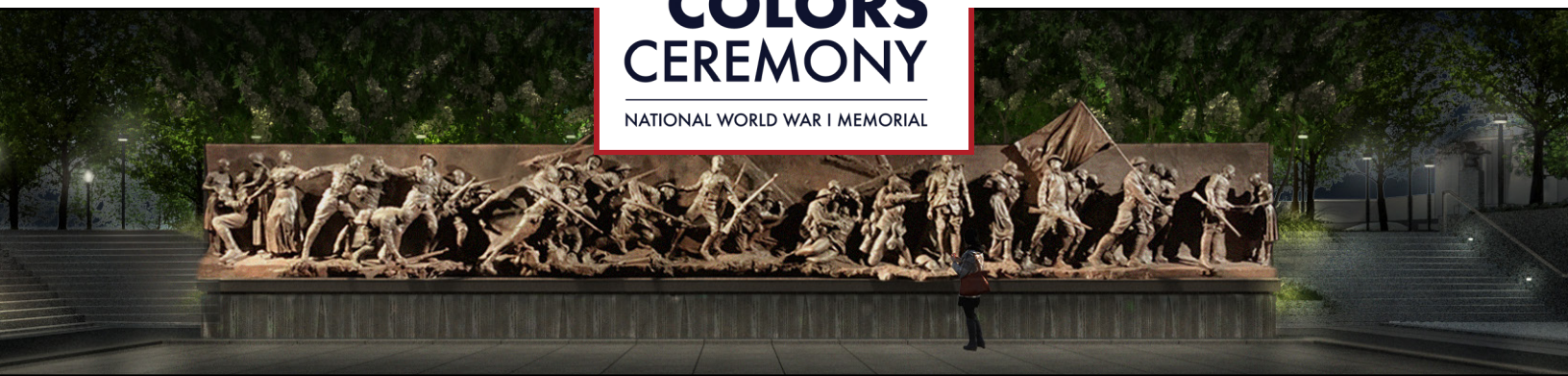


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NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL

About “A Soldier’s Journey”

The central component of the national World War I Memorial in Washington DC is a 58.5 foot bronze sculptural wall entitled *A Soldier’s Journey*. The sculpture depicts a series of scenes based on the storied legend of “the hero’s journey,” in which a recurring figure of an American soldier embarks on a quest, emerges victorious in an epic struggle, and returns home changed forever by his passage through peril. This journey also represents the American experience of World War I.

The sculpture is the work of Sabin Howard, who collaborated with architect Joseph Weishaar to reimagine Pershing Park as a national World War I memorial. Howard began his work by viewing thousands of photographs of the war. He then brought actors and models into his studio, where he posed them in dramatic scenes inspired by his research. Rather than putting them into static poses, he gave them stage directions to move through a scene and then captured this motion in more than 12,000 photos.

Howard then selected and assembled these images into a series of tableaux. As he took additional photos and revised the images, the story evolved. The process culminated in a six- foot-long scale model (or “maquette”) of the proposed sculpture.

Once the maquette was approved, Howard re-shot every figure in a rig containing 160 high- speed digital cameras. Working with Pangolin Editions foundry and Steve Russell Studios, he then generated 3-D computer images from terabytes of digital data. Pangolin then created full-scale polyurethane versions of the images, which formed the armatures for the sculpture. This process, which took about 15 months to complete, would have taken six years using traditional methods.

Howard subsequently applied clay to the armatures and began sculpting the figures. As each of four sections is completed, it is cast in bronze. When all four sections have been cast, they will be re-assembled and shipped to the Memorial for installation.

The temporary installation at the World War I Memorial features the artistic process from initial sketch, to clay sculpture, to finished bronze. Once completed and installed in 2024, *A Soldier’s Journey* will be the largest freestanding high relief bronze in the western hemisphere.



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