

FOCUSED INQUIRY
Compelling Question

HOW SHOULD THE UNITED STATES REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED?

Recommended Grade Levels

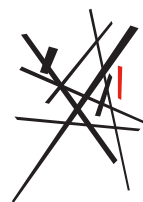
6-12

Time Needed

1 90-minute class or 2 45-minute classes



American soldiers and French citizens in a cemetery in front of a row of white crosses



THE NATIONAL
WWI MUSEUM
AND MEMORIAL



Online Collections Database, 1983.68.9
National WWI Museum and Memorial. Online.



Standards	National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) C3 Framework Standards: D2.Civ.1.6-8. Distinguish the powers and responsibilities of citizens, political parties, interest groups, and the media in a variety of governmental and nongovernmental contexts. D2.Civ.7.6-8. Apply civic virtues and democratic principles in school and community settings. D2.Civ.14.6-8. Compare historical and contemporary means of changing societies, and promoting the common good. D2.His.2.6-8. Classify series of historical events and developments as examples of change and/or continuity. Common Core English Language Arts State Standards & Literacy in History/Social Studies Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1.b Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns.
Staging the Question	Host a discussion with your students over the following questions: • Do you think it's important to memorialize or commemorate people who have passed away? • What about people who did something important? • What are some ways you see communities and/or individuals hold onto memories of people? Explain the following to students: • For the inquiry we are about to begin, you will be answering the question: How should the United States remember those who have served? • To prepare your argument, you will explore a variety of national spaces for memorialization and commemoration of those who have served throughout America's history.
Background Knowledge	• Teachers looking for more information about the Inquiry Design Model can learn more here. • Teachers looking for more background information about remembrance can read Remembrance and Redemption by Jay Winter. • Students can read The History of Memorial Day to gather a better understanding of memorialization as an active process. • Students can read about the history of Veterans Day as well.

Supporting Question

How has memorialization and commemoration of wartime and soldiers by the U.S. government changed over time?

Formative Performance Task

Create a timeline of national memorials. The timeline should include their creation date, location, how they were funded, what they are memorializing, and how memorialization is represented at that site.

Featured Sources

Below are 18 sources provided for use. It is recommended that you choose about eight of these sources to utilize with your students in total. This is general list – a page for each site with basic information, an image, and a link are provided starting on page 4.

General Sites:

- Marine Corps War Memorial: <https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/historyculture/usmcwarmemorial.htm>
- National Veterans Memorial and Museum: <https://nationalvmm.org/about/architecture/>
- National Native American Veterans Memorial: <https://americanindian.si.edu/visit/washington/nnavm>
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Monuments-and-Memorials/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier>

Revolution through Civil War Sites:

- Valley Forge National Historic Park – National Memorial Arch: <https://www.nps.gov/places/national-memorial-arch.htm>
- Mexico City National Cemetery: <https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-mexico-city-national-cemetery/>
- Soldiers' National Monument at Gettysburg National Cemetery: <https://www.nps.gov/places/soldiers-national-monument.htm>
- African American Civil War Memorial: <https://www.nps.gov/afam/learn/historyculture/index.htm>

World War I Sites:

- Château-Thierry Monument: <https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-chateau-thierry-monument/>
- Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery: <https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-meuse-argonne-american-cemetery/>
- National WWI Museum and Memorial (Kansas City, MO): <https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/our-story>
- National World War I Memorial at Pershing Park (Washington, DC): <https://www.nps.gov/wwim/intro.htm>

World War II Sites:

- World War II Memorial: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/ww2memorialguide.htm>
- Normandy American Cemetery: <https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-normandy-american-cemetery/>
- North Africa American Cemetery: <https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-north-africa-american-cemetery/>

- Pearl Harbor National Memorial: <https://npshistory.com/publications/perl/index.htm>

Post WWII Sites:

- Korean War Veterans Memorial: <https://www.nps.gov/kowa/learn/historyculture/index.htm>
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial: <https://www.nps.gov/vive/learn/historyculture/vvmoverview.htm>

Summative
Performance
Task

ARGUMENT: How should the United States remember those who have served? Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that responds to the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from sources while acknowledging competing views.

EXTENSION: Have students conduct research on other national memorials to discover what memorials have not yet been made. Ask students to decide what other conflict, war, and/or group of service members they believe should have a memorial designed to commemorate the event/people involved. Challenge them to design their own memorial for that conflict, war and/or group that carries appropriate symbolism for the given topic.

Featured Source

Marine Corps War Memorial, Washington, D.C.

<https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/historyculture/usmcwarmemorial.htm>

Memorializing: The service of all Marines since 1776

Important Dates:

- Approved by Congress – 1951
- Dedicated – 1954

Funding Source: Donations

Cared for by: National Park Service

Read about the meaning of the memorial here:

<https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/historyculture/usmcwarmemorial.htm>



Photo Credit: National Park Service

Featured Source

National Veterans Memorial and Museum, Columbus, OH
<https://nationalvmm.org/about/>

Memorializing: Veteran experiences throughout history

Important Dates:

- Designed and built – 2015-2018
- Federally recognized – 2018

Funding Source: Donations

Cared for by: National Veterans Memorial and Museum staff and volunteers (non-profit)

Read about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://nationalvmm.org/about/architecture/>

Read about the history of memorial and museum here: <https://nationalvmm.org/about/>



Photo Credit: National Veterans Memorial and Museum

Featured Source

National Native American Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C.
<https://americanindian.si.edu/visit/washington/nnavm>

Memorializing: The service of all Native Americans in the U.S. military

Important Dates:

- Approved by Congress – 2013
- Dedicated – 2022

Funding Source: Donations

Cared for by: National Museum of the American Indian

Read about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://americanindian.si.edu/visit/washington/nnavm>



Photo Credit: National Museum of the American Indian

Featured Source

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA
<https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Monuments-and-Memorials/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier>

Memorializing: The final resting place for one of America's unidentified World War I service members, and Unknowns from later wars added in 1958 and 1984. The Tomb has also served as a place of mourning and a site for reflection on military service.

Important Dates:

- Proposed in Congress – 1920
- First burial and ceremony – 1921

Funding Source: Federal government/tax appropriations

Cared for by: U.S. Department of the Army

Read about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Monuments-and-Memorials/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier>



Photo Credit: Arlington National Cemetery

Featured Source

National Memorial Arch, Valley Forge National Historic Park, Prussia, PA
<https://www.nps.gov/places/national-memorial-arch.htm>

Memorializing: General George Washington and the Continental Army

Important Dates:

- Approved by Congress – 1910
- Dedicated – 1917

Funding Source: Federal government/tax appropriations

Cared for by: National Park Service

Read about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://www.nps.gov/places/national-memorial-arch.htm>



Photo Credit: National Park Service

Featured Source

Mexico City National Cemetery, Mexico City, Mexico

<https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-mexico-city-national-cemetery/>

Memorializing: American servicemen who served during the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), Civil War and Spanish American War

Important Dates:

- Established by Congress – 1851
- Closed to burials – 1923

Funding Source: Federal government/tax appropriations

Cared for by: American Battle Monuments Commission

Watch and read to learn about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-mexico-city-national-cemetery/>



Photo Credit: American Battle Monuments Commission

Featured Source

Soldiers' National Monument at Gettysburg National Cemetery, Gettysburg, PA
<https://www.nps.gov/places/soldiers-national-monument.htm>

Memorializing: The service of all Marines since 1776

Important Dates:

- Approved by state of Pennsylvania – 1865
- Dedicated – 1869
- Adopted by federal government – 1872

Funding Source: State tax appropriation

Cared for by: National Park Service

Read about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://www.nps.gov/places/soldiers-national-monument.htm>



Photo Credit: National Park Service

Featured Source

African American Civil War Memorial, Washington, D.C.
<https://www.nps.gov/afam/learn/historyculture/index.htm>

Memorializing: African American units of the Union Army in the Civil War

Important Dates:

- Commissioned – 1993
- Dedicated – 1998
- Adopted by federal government – 2004

Funding Source: D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Cared for by: National Park Service

Read about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://www.nps.gov/afam/learn/historyculture/index.htm>



Photo Credit: National Park Service

Featured Source

Château-Thierry Monument, Château-Thierry, France

<https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-chateau-thierry-monument/>

Memorializing: The sacrifices and achievements of the Americans and French before and during the Aisne-Marne and Oise-Aisne offensives during WWI.

Important Dates:

- Memorial construction – 1926-1932
- Dedicated – 1937

Funding Source: Federal government/tax appropriations

Cared for by: American Battle Monuments Commission

Read both to learn about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-meuse-argonne-american-cemetery/> & <https://blobazeabmcprod.blob.core.windows.net/wordpress-uploads/Belleau-Wood-Marine-Monument-and-Chateau-Thierry-Monument-2019-brochure.pdf>

Watch original video of the dedication here: <https://www.abmc.gov/video/chateau-thierry-american-monument-dedication-1937/>

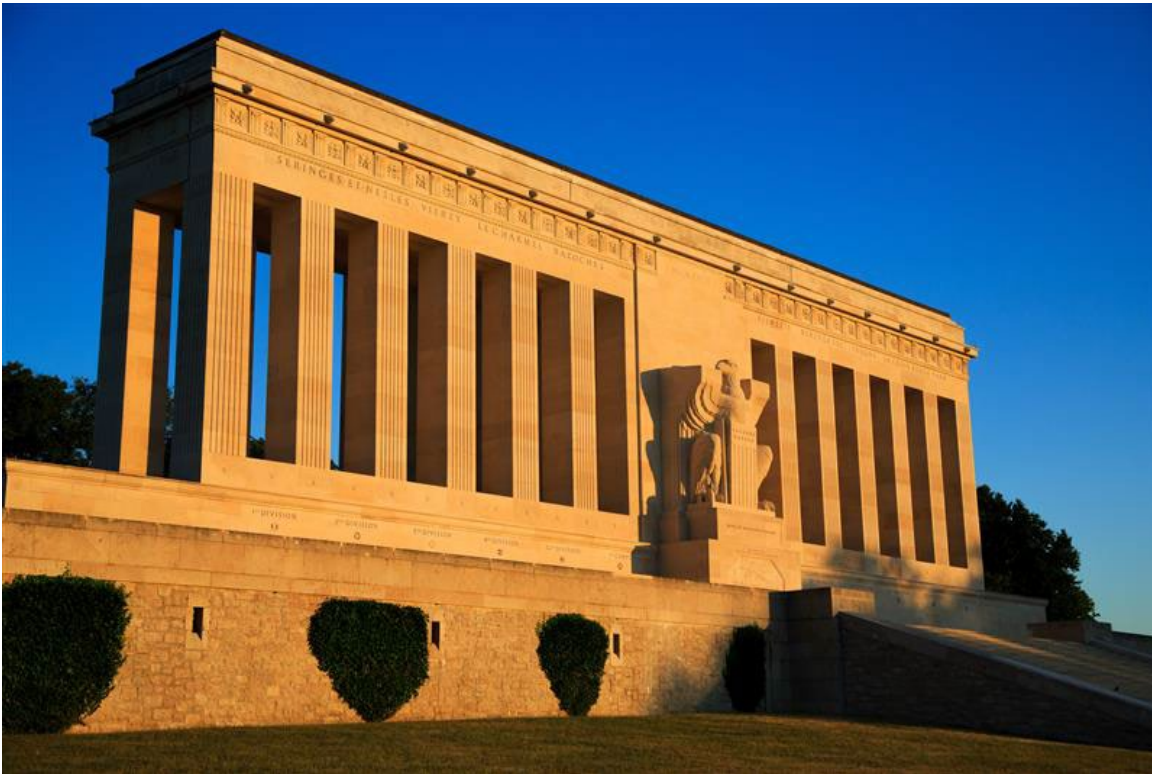


Photo Credit: American Battle Monuments Commission

Featured Source

Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, France
<https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-meuse-argonne-american-cemetery/>

Memorializing: Americans who lost their lives during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of World War I

Important Dates:

- Cemetery established – 1918
- Memorial construction – 1928-1932
- Dedicated – 1937

Funding Source: Federal government/tax appropriations

Cared for by: American Battle Monuments Commission

Watch and read to learn about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-meuse-argonne-american-cemetery/>



Photo Credit: American Battle Monuments Commission

Featured Source

National WWI Museum and Memorial, Kansas City, MO
<https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/our-story>

Memorializing: Remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community

Important Dates:

- Funded – 1919
- Dedicated – 1926
- Federally Recognized – 2014

Funding Source: Donations

Cared for by: National WWI Museum and Memorial staff and volunteers (non-profit)

Read about the meaning of the memorial here: [https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/elements-memorial](https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/elements-museum-and-memorial)



Photo Credit: National WWI Museum and Memorial

Featured Source

National World War I Memorial at Pershing Park, Washington, D.C.
<https://www.nps.gov/wwim/intro.htm>

Memorializing: Americans who served in World War I

Important Dates:

- Approved by Congress – 2015
- Dedicated – 2024

Funding Source: Donations

Cared for by: National Park Service

Read about the meaning of the memorial here:

<https://www.nps.gov/wwim/learn/historyculture/features.htm>



Photo Credit: National Park Service

Featured Source

World War II Memorial, Washington, D.C.

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/ww2memorialguide.htm>

Memorializing: Americans who served in World War II and contributed on the home front

Important Dates:

- Approved by Congress – 1993
- Site dedication – 1995
- Completed – 2004

Funding Source: Donations and federal government/tax appropriations

Cared for by: National Park Service

Read about the meaning of the memorial here: https://www.nps.gov/places/national-world-war-ii-memorial.htm?utm_source=place&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=experience_more&utm_content=large

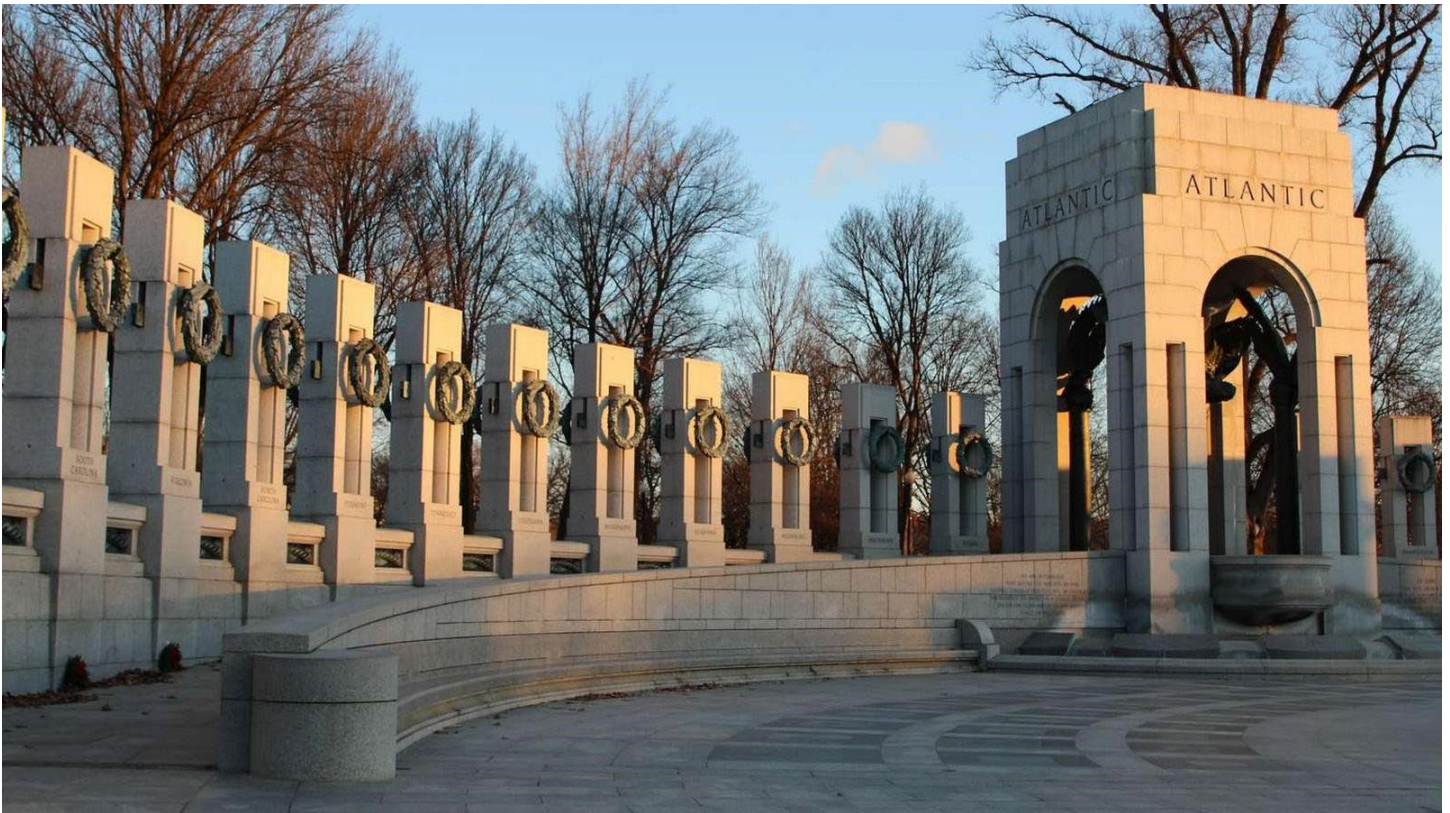


Photo Credit: National Park Service

Featured Source

Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France

<https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-normandy-american-cemetery/>

Memorializing: The courage and sacrifices of Americans involved in the Normandy operations of WWII

Important Dates:

- Cemetery established – 1944
- Dedicated – 1956

Funding Source: Federal government/tax appropriations

Cared for by: American Battle Monuments Commission

Watch and read to learn about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-normandy-american-cemetery/>



Photo Credit: American Battle Monuments Commission

Featured Source

North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia

<https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-north-africa-american-cemetery/>

Memorializing: Those who lost their lives in World War II in military activities ranging from North Africa to the Persian Gulf

Important Dates:

- Cemetery Established – 1948
- Dedicated – 1960

Funding Source: Federal government/tax appropriations

Cared for by: American Battle Monuments Commission

Watch and read to learn about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/about-north-africa-american-cemetery/>



Photo Credit: American Battle Monuments Commission

Featured Source

Pearl Harbor National Memorial, O'ahu, HI
<https://npshistory.com/publications/perl/index.htm>

Memorializing: All those whose lives were lost on O'ahu, December 7, 1941

Important Dates:

- Approved by Congress – 1958
- Dedicated – 1961

Funding Source: Donations and federal government/tax appropriations

Cared for by: National Park Service

Read about the meaning of the memorial here: <https://www.nps.gov/perl/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>

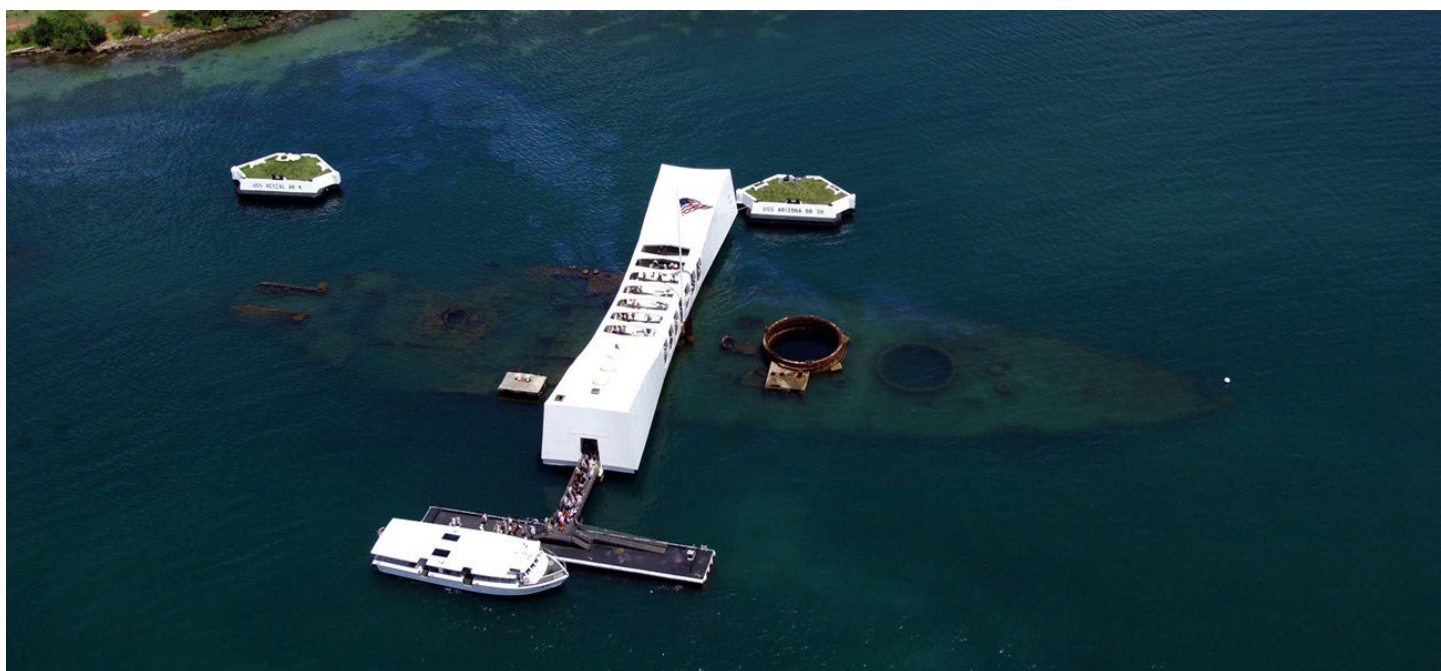


Photo Credit: National Park Service

Featured Source

Korean War Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C.

<https://www.nps.gov/kowa/learn/historyculture/index.htm>

Memorializing: Americans who worked and fought during the Korean War

Important Dates:

- Approved by Congress – 1986
- Dedicated – 1995

Funding Source: Donations and federal government/tax appropriations

Cared for by: National Park Service

Read about the meaning of the memorial here:

<https://www.nps.gov/kowa/learn/historyculture/features.htm>



Photo Credit: Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation

Featured Source

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C.

<https://www.nps.gov/vive/learn/historyculture/vvmoverview.htm>

Memorializing: Those who served and died during the Vietnam War

Important Dates:

- Approved by Congress – 1980
- Dedicated – 1982

Funding Source: Donations

Cared for by: National Park Service

Read about the meaning of the memorial here:

<https://www.nps.gov/vive/learn/historyculture/vvmoverview.htm>



Photo Credit: National Park Service