

United States Capitol

“E Pluribus Unum”

Out of Many (13 original States) One (Nation), or
Out of Many (States) One (Congress)?

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The Capitol

A pause on the east steps of the Capitol Building gives insight into the purpose for which the government was created. The triangular pediment directly above this traditional site for the inauguration of United States Presidents, depicts a scene entitled: “The Genius of America.” **Armed America** stands in the center with a spear behind her, and a shield bearing “U.S.A.” upon it. She gazes at Hope, to the right, who beckons to her to proceed. However, America points towards Justice, to the left, who holds a pair of scales in her left hand and a scroll in her right, reading: “Constitution, 17 September 1787.” The message conveyed here is that without justice, there is no hope for America, her justice being based upon the Constitution, which is based upon the Declaration of Independence, which in turn is based upon the justice of God’s words.

The Rotunda of the Capitol, with its impressive dome, stands before us, with the House of Representatives to the left and the Senate to the right. Atop the dome, nineteen and a half feet tall, bronze, **Armed Freedom** stands upon a seven-feet-in-diameter globe, in symbolic vigilance over the world, with the national motto, “E Pluribus Unum,” meaning, “Out of Many (13 original States) One (Nation),” inscribed around it. The work of talented sculptor Thomas Crawford, she holds a sheathed sword in her right hand and a wreath and a shield, bearing 13 stars, in her left. Her flowing robes are held together with a buckle bearing the letters: “U.S.” Upon her head is a helmet encircled with thirteen stars, denoting the 13 original States, and eagles’ feathers, placed there to camouflage a liberated slave’s cap, which the ancient Romans put on their freed slaves – original concept of the sculptor.

We enter the majestic, domelike interior of the **Rotunda** through the **Christopher Columbus** doorway, work of Randolph Rogers. Scenes and main landmarks in the life of this discoverer and explorer of the new world, whose main goal was “to propagate the gospel to unknown coastlands,” are depicted upon nine panels. The Rotunda is where Presidents who die in office lie in state before the funeral procession proceeds along Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House, and then to the church of their affiliation. This circular chamber houses eight valuable oil paintings. The four paintings nearest the main entranceway indicate the Godly foundations upon which the nation was established. “Landing of Columbus at the island of Guanahani, West Indies, October 12, 1492” portrays a flag with a cross upon it, while a friar hold up the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. “Embarkation of the Pilgrims at Delft Haven, Holland, July 22, 1620,” by Robert W. Weir is a touching scene of prayer and worship to Almighty God, with bended knee and bowed head. The focal point of this scene aboard ship is an open Bible, the one true guide and source of comfort for the earliest settlers in the land. It is opened to the Book of Matthew. “God with Us,” reads an inscription on the uppermost left-hand sail. (Matthew 1:23) “Baptism of Pocahontas at Jamestown, Virginia, 1613,” by



Atop the Capitol dome, **Armed Freedom** stands on a globe of the world, with “E Pluribus Unum” inscribed upon it — the national motto. Sculptor: Thomas Crawford.
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John G. Chapman, shows this Indian princess, now immortalized in early Jamestown history, kneeling demurely before a chaplain, as she awaits baptism. She accepted Christ Jesus as her Lord and Savior at age 12. “The Discovery of the Mississippi by De Soto in 1541,” portrays a cross being erected in the presence of American Indians.

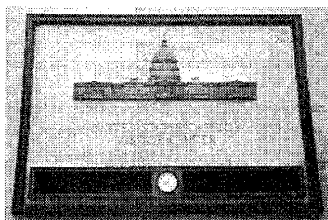
Constantino Brumidi, a political refugee from Rome, envisaged and designed the three-hundred-foot frieze encircling the inner dome of the Rotunda. It stands fifty-eight feet above the stone floor. This unusual masterpiece comprises four hundred years of American history. Beginning with America in History, and the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1492, each of the sixteen panels depicts an important milestone in the making of the nation’s history. Lying upon his back on an elevated scaffolding, Brumidi leaned backwards to gain a clearer perspective of his finished work. A fall from the scaffolding left him holding onto the rung of a ladder, until he could be rescued. It was thus a few months later, in the year 1880,

that Brumidi, the Capitol’s most talented artist, relinquished his life. Heart failure, resulting from the fall, caused his death. Brumidi had spent 25 years painting scenes of American history, flora and fauna. His purpose was “to make beautiful the Capitol of the one country on earth in which there is liberty.”

His successor, **Filippo Costaggini**, completed the remaining eight scenes, crowding them to insert his own three historic creations. The Joint Committee on the Library declined his proposition to paint them, however, leaving a blank space in the frieze until the year 1953. At that time, Allyn Cox, official artist to the Capitol, completed the work with later scenes of American history. They comprise the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and the first successful flight undertaken by the Wright brothers in 1903. The majestic grace of this creation, and its equally breathtaking painting of **George Washington**, flanked by Victory and Fame, in the dome of the Rotunda, are an inspiration to the millions who visit the Capitol each year.

Statuary Hall displays 44 statues, (of the 100 – two from each State) of great men and women who helped fashion the life of the nation. **Marcus Whitman** was a great medical missionary to Washington Territory. Dressed in a pioneer outfit, his Bible under one arm, and his medical equipment in the other hand, this man of God stood firmly upon the conviction of God’s Word. He and his wife Narcissa brought many American Indians to the Lord, being finally massacred by the Indians in 1847. Not far from him stands **Jason Lee**, first missionary to the State of Oregon. He holds a Bible in his left hand. A prominent minister and statesman, he knew the Word of God well and applied it to his life. Nearby is Indiana’s choice – **Lew Wallace**, author of “Ben Hur.” Across from him is **Samuel Houston**, Texas’ greatest hero – “Remember the Alamo!” Houston accepted Christ Jesus as his Redeemer at a revival meeting in Independence, Texas. And many others...!

Rewritten history



Congress' new Capitol Visitor Center

Congress' new **Capitol Visitor Center** is now the *only* entrance-way for persons visiting their historic Capitol Building – that is, through “Emancipation Hall.” Their brochure reads:

Emancipation Hall

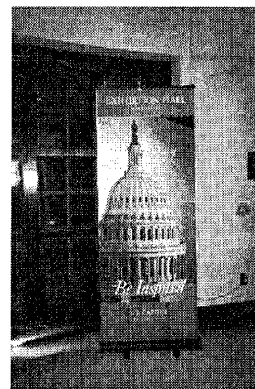
On December 18, 2007, Congress passed legislation to name the Capitol Visitor Center's central space “**Emancipation Hall**” to recognize the contributions of the enslaved laborers who helped build the U.S. Capitol. **Emancipation Hall** is a central gathering place for visitors coming to see the Capitol. When construction of the Capitol began in 1793, Washington, D.C. was little more than a rural landscape with dirt roads and few accommodations beyond a small number of boarding houses. Skilled labor was hard to find or attract to the fledging city. The Federal Government relied heavily on enslaved labor... In the early 1860's, an enslaved craftsman named Philip Reid assisted with casting the bronze Statue of **Freedom** on the Capitol dome...

The first two pages of the brochure are on the plight of the slaves. The third page is entitled: **Honoring Human Rights**. Only on the fourth page does the visitor glean information about **Freedom** atop the Capitol dome – its sculptor, and Clark Mills' foundry, where it was cast in bronze. However, two paragraphs are devoted to Philip Reid, an unknown laborer, whose name is honored 3 times. Nowhere does the brochure honor **George Washington**, first U.S. President, who laid the Capitol cornerstone in 1793, placing a Bible in its recess.



“Freedom” – in Emancipation Hall nineteen-and-a-half-feet-tall, with her foundation removed – a globe of the world with “E Pluribus Unum” inscribed upon it.

Upon entering **Emancipation Hall**, the plaster model of **Freedom** stands as a focal point, in front of Congress' new Exhibition Hall. However, **Freedom**'s original base, or **foundation**, upon which she stands, essential to understanding the symbolism of the statue, has been removed. Hence, Congress' rewriting of her original meaning and symbolism, to fit their new political agenda.



Congress' Exhibition Hall Banner, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center

Having removed **Freedom**'s foundation – the globe of the world, with her true identity encircling it: “E Pluribus Unum,” **Congress**' new Exhibit is entitled: “**Out of Many, One**,” reinterpreted to mean, **Out of Many (States), One (Congress)**. Their plaque reads:

Out of Many, One tells the story of **Congress** – the branch of government responsible for making the nation's laws. It is the story of famous legislators, as well as ordinary citizens, of high ideals, and the nation's efforts to achieve them. It is also the story of the Capitol itself – and of the workers, artists and architects who created a great national landmark...

The visitor reads, centrally featured upon the interior Exhibit Wall:

E Pluribus Unum – Out of Many, One

Welcome to the **United States Congress**, the Branch of Government that represents the American people and makes the nation's laws. The United States Capitol: the nation's Forum.

Congress is the Foundation of the 3 branches of the federal government – the only one elected directly by the people. It shares power with the Executive branch led by the President, and the judicial branch, whose highest body is the Supreme Court. As the place where Congress meets, the Capitol is the nation's forum. It is here that the country's many voices are heard through their elected representatives.

However, the question arises: “Are the voices of *We, the people* heard by **Congress** – “the nation's forum?”

The Exhibit continues, extolling **Congress**' responsibility to protect the **Health** and **Welfare** of its citizens, as follows:

“The **Congress** shall have power to...provide for the...General Welfare.” Article I, Section 8, Constitution of the United States.

General Welfare

Congress is charged by the Constitution with providing for the General Welfare of the country's citizens. Historically, this has meant improving transportation, promoting agriculture and industry, **protecting health** and the environment, and seeking ways to solve social and economic problems. These documents reflect **Congressional**

actions to ensure “the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity.”

However, the question arises: “Does the **2010 Health Care Bill** provide for the General Welfare of *We, the people*, the country’s citizens, protecting their health, and ensuring “the Blessings of Liberty” to them and their posterity?”

The voices of “*We the People of the United States...*,” loudly protesting the passage of this Bill were ruthlessly stifled by **Congress**, who disregarded their rightful “Blessings of Liberty.”

Congress’ Exhibit, reflects carefully-worded, luxurious displays with video presentations, promoting their reinterpretation of “E Pluribus Unum” – *We, the People...*, who ordained the 3 Charters of Freedom, with – *We, the Congress...*

In addition, **Congress’** Emancipation Hall, honoring the slaves in lieu of the framers of the 3 Charters of Freedom, (The Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and U.S. Bill of Rights) is an insult to the nation’s founders. The latter decried slavery, opposing it with official proclamations and prohibitions. However, their actions were thwarted by King George III of England.. **George Washington**, father of the nation, freed his slaves in his Last Will and Testament. Following are some of the founders’ anti-slavery proclamations:

Founding Fathers’ Anti-Slavery Addresses and Legislation

Thomas Jefferson: ...The abolition of domestic slavery is the great object of desire in those colonies, where it was unhappily introduced in their infant state. But previous to the enfranchisement of the slaves we have, it is necessary to exclude all further importations from Africa; yet our repeated attempts to effect this by prohibitions, and by imposing duties which might amount to a prohibition, have been hitherto defeated by his majesty’s negative: Thus preferring the immediate advantages of a few African corfairs (slaves) to the lasting interests of the American states, and to the rights of human nature deeply wounded by this infamous practice...(1774 – **A Summary View of the Rights of British America**) and,

...God who gave us life, gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever. Commerce between master and slave is despotism...(1779 – **Congressional Bill**), and,

...He (the King of England) has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the approbrium of INFIDEL powers, is the warfare of the CHRISTIAN King of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce. And that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them, by murdering the people on whom he also obtruded them; thus paying off former crimes committed against the LIBERTIES of one people with crimes which he urges them to commit against the LIVES of another. (1776 – **28th Clause of the Declaration of Independence** – struck out by the Continental Congress, as 2 States would have dropped out of the 13 original States needed to pass the Declaration).

George Mason:...This infernal traffic originated in the avarice of British merchants. The British government constantly checked the attempts of Virginia to put a stop to it. The present question concerns not the importing alone, but the whole Union...Slavery discourages arts and manufactures. The poor despise labor when performed by slaves. They prevent the emigration of whites, who really enrich and strengthen a country. They produce the most pernicious effect on manners. Every master of slaves is born a petty tyrant. They bring the judgment of Heaven on a country. As nations cannot be rewarded or punished, in the next world, they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities...(1787 – **Constitutional Convention**. The U.S. Constitution’s anti-slavery clause was struck out by the Convention, as 2 States would have dropped out of the 13 original States needed to pass the Constitution).

Statues in Emancipation Hall:

Congress’ selection of statues in “Emancipation Hall” is stated in their brochure:

The **National Statuary Hall** Collection in the United States Capitol is comprised of statues donated by individual States to honor persons notable in their history. Two statues are contributed by each State. The 18 statues in **Emancipation Hall** are among the most recently donated statues and also represent the diversity of the country and the contributions made by citizens.

Of the 14 statues within **Emancipation Hall**, four honor American Indians; two are advocates of Women’s Rights; two are Roman Catholics (a priest and a nun), one is a Hawaiian king and four honor 20th century personages, namely - an inventor; an astronaut; a U.S. Senator and lawyer, and a child. A sole statue honors Protestant Christianity, faith of the founding fathers. He is Joseph Ward, first missionary to the Dakota Territory, who founded Yankton College. (Fifty-five signers of the Declaration of Independence were Protestant Christians; one a Catholic).

The criterion **Congress** gives for their selection of statues is: “They are among the most recently donated statues;” and “They represent the diversity of the country and the contributions made by its citizens.” Of the remaining 86 statues in the **Statuary Hall Collection**, the famous heroes of the **13 original States** – representing the nation’s Founding Era – many of whom are founding fathers, were omitted. The latter have been relegated by Congress to the Capitol “Crypt” or basement.

Statues of Four American Indians

Upon entering **Emancipation Hall**, the visitor is confronted by “**PO’ PAY**,” a Pueblo Indian, New Mexico’s 2005 statue. Inscribed upon its base we read:

PO’ PAY (1630? – before 1692)
Holy man – farmer – Defender –
Leader of the Indian Pueblo Revolt
OHKAY OWINGEH
(San Juan Pueblo, 1680)

Congress’ brochure gives **PO’ PAY**’s credentials as follows:

New Mexico. Marble, 2005. Pueblo religious and spiritual leader. Born in San Juan Pueblo, now New Mexico. Organizer of the Pueblo Revolt

against the Spanish in 1680, which helped ensure the survival of the Pueblo culture and shaped the history of the American Southwest. Holds a bear fetish...The sculpture includes a pot, a symbol of Pueblo culture."

The book, "**PO' PAY**" published in 2005 at the inception of his statue, is the sole publication on this person in the Library of Congress Collection. "**PO' PAY's**" identity is described thus:

The Pueblo Indians communicated with their gods by means of masks in their religious ceremonies...in the land of the Pueblo gods.

Of the remaining 3 American Indians, one was a Shoshone Indian Chief, warrior and spokesman for his tribe; another was an interpreter/negotiator between her Paiute tribe and the U.S. Army; and the third was an interpreter/guide for the Meriwether Lewis and William Clark expedition. The brochure states that her Hidatsa tribe named her "Sakakawea" or "Bird Woman."

The Documents of American History (1492-1789) give credence to the Gospel being taken to the American Indians. Here are but a few:

Discovery Era – Christopher Columbus: "...His proper name being Christopher, it might be known he was a member of Christ, by whom salvation was to be conveyed to those people...so the Admiral Christopher Columbus, imploring the assistance of Christ in that dangerous passage, went over safe himself and his company, that those Indian nations might become citizens and inhabitants of the Church triumphant in heaven; for it is believed that many souls which the devil had expected to make a prey of...were by him made inhabitants and dwellers in the eternal glory of heaven..." (**Don Ferdinand Columbus, on his father, Christopher Columbus.** Library of Congress, Rare Book Collection).

Colonial Era –

First Permanent English Settlement, Jamestown, Virginia: "I, James, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc...We greatly commending, and graciously accepting of, their desires for the furtherance of so noble a work, which may, by the Providence of Almighty God, hereafter tend to the glory of his Divine Majesty, in propagating of Christian Religion to such people as yet live in darkness and miserable ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God..." (**First Virginia Charter, April 10, 1606**).

The 1620 Pilgrims: "In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith, etc., having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith...a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia..." (**The Mayflower Compact, November 11, 1620**).

Founder of Rhode Island – Roger Williams: "God was pleased to give me a painful, patient spirit, to lodge with them, in their filthy, smoky holes (even while I lived in Plymouth and Salem) to gain their tongue." (Roger Williams, on bringing the Gospel to the Indians. "**A Key to the Language of America**" 1643. Library of Congress, Rare Book Collection).

Founder of Pennsylvania – William Penn: "My Friends: There is one great God and Power that hath made the world and all things therein, to whom you and I and all people owe their being and well-

being, and to whom you and I must one day give and account, for all that we doe in the world; This great God hath written His law in our hearts by which we are taught and commanded to love and help and doe good to one another and not to doe harm and mischief one unto another...I shall shortly come to you myself at which time we may more freely and largely confer and discourse of these matters. Receive those presents and tokens which I have sent to you as a testimony to my goodwill to you and my resolution to live justly, peaceably and friendly with you. I am, your loving friend, William Penn." (**Penn's Letter to the Indians. 1681.** Library of Congress, Rare Book Collection).

Charter of the College of William and Mary: "William and Mary, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King and Queen, Defenders of the Faith...Forasmuch as our well-beloved and trusty subjects, constituting the General Assembly of the Colony of Virginia, have had it in their minds, and have proposed to themselves, to the end that the Church in Virginia may be furnished with a **Seminary of Ministers of the Gospel**, and that the youth may be piously educated in good letters and manners and that the Christian Faith may be **propagated amongst the Western Indians**, to the glory of Almighty God..." 1693. (Library of Congress, Rare Book Collection).

Independence Era – Thomas Jefferson: "He (King George III) has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions..." (**Declaration of Independence, 27th Clause. 1776.** The National Archives).

Revolutionary Era – George Washington: "Gentlemen: ...You will be pleased to accept my thanks for the treatise (An Account of the manner in which the Protestant Church of the Unitas Fratrum, or United Brethren, preach the Gospel and carry on their mission among the heathen) you presented; and be assured of my patronage in your laudable undertakings. Under these impressions, I pray Almighty God to have you always in his holy keeping. George Washington." (**Letter to the Directors of the Society of the United Brethren for Propagating the Gospel among the Heathen. 1789.** Library of Congress, Rare Book Collection).

From the above we learn that the founders and their forebears deemed it necessary to take the Gospel to the Indians, whom they believed, were "heathens," "living in darkness and miserable ignorance of the true knowledge and worship of God." This would include the Pueblo, Shoshone, Paiute and Hidatsa tribes, now honored by Congress in Emancipation Hall.

Statues of the 13 original States' Heroes Relegated by Congress to "Crypt" or basement:

Massachusetts – Samuel Adams: "Organizer of the American Revolution;" Signer of the Declaration of Independence. **New York – Robert R. Livingston:** Delegate to the Continental Congress; Administered the first Presidential Oath of Office to George Washington. **Pennsylvania – Peter von Muhlenberg:** Preacher of the Gospel; Major General in the Revolutionary War; "The Fighting Parson." **Delaware – Ceasar Rodney:** "Heroic Rider of the American Revolution;" Member of the Continental Congress; Major General in the Revolutionary War. **Connecticut – Roger Sherman:** Signer of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and U.S. Bill of Rights. **New Jersey – Richard Stockton:** Signer of the Declaration of Independence; Member of the Continental Congress. **New Hampshire – John Stark:** Led Washington's advance at Trenton, 1776. Headed New Hampshire troops at Bunker Hill. Won the

Battle of Bennington, 1777. Major General. **Maryland – Charles Carroll:** Signer of the Declaration of Independence; Delegate to the Continental Congress. **Rhode Island – Nathanael Greene:** Major General in the Revolutionary War. Acclaimed “savior of the South.” **South Carolina – John C. Calhoun:** Orator, lawyer, Senator; U.S. Vice President. **Georgia – Crawford W. Long:** Discoverer of the use of sulphuric ether as an anaesthetic in surgery. “My profession is to me a Ministry from God.” **North Carolina – Charles Brantley Aycock:** “Christian, Educator, Lawyer and Statesman” – “The Educational Governor of North Carolina.” **Virginia – Robert E. Lee:** West Point graduate. Famed Confederate General of the Civil War.

1997 Act of Congress



Preceding Congress' elimination of the 13 original States' heroes from **Emancipation Hall** - was their 1997 Act of Congress banning Roger Williams, Founder of Rhode Island, from his place of honor in the Capitol Rotunda – replacing him with 3 Suffragists from the “Crypt,” or basement.

Front-page headlines of a **Washington Times** article dated April 23, 1997 read:

Make way for the suffragists - Roger Williams is moved, but statue dispute rages on.

A statue of religious freedom crusader **Roger Williams** has been moved out of the Capitol to make room for a 13-ton marble memorial to three famous women suffragists, but the battle over the coveted space in the Rotunda continues...Contracts have already been signed to move the “Portrait Monument,” a marble depiction of the heads and torsos of Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, pioneers in the women's rights movement. Although no date has yet been set to move the new piece into place, workers on Friday moved the statue of Williams – religious dissident and founder of Rhode Island – from its prime Rotunda space into a hallway in front of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott's office. The move angered Senator John H. Chafee, Rhode Island Republican and champion of his state's pious founder, who has already introduced legislation to put the Williams statue back on his Rotunda perch... It's a sad, sad story,” said his spokesman, Nicholas Graham, likening the Rhode Island founder's move to Williams' banishment from the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635...Congress approved of the relocation for one year only, after a **congressional commission** will decide where it will be displayed next – and what will take its place.

Another article, this time from **Roll Call**, date April 21, 1997, entitled: **Statue Fight Lives**, reads:

Even as the statue of **Roger Williams** was preparing to be moved within the Capitol this weekend, **Sen. John Chafee (R-RI)** was not giving up the



The Suffragists statue in Rotunda, replacing Roger Williams' statue.

fight. Chafee introduced a resolution on Thursday which would require that the statue of Williams – the founder of the State of Rhode Island and a crusader for religious freedom – be returned to the Rotunda after the temporary display of the Women's Suffrage Statue, also known as “**The Ladies in the Bathtub.**” The resolution authorized the Bathtub's move out of the basement provided that it be temporary. Chafee, whose resolution was co-sponsored by **Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)** said he wants Williams moved back at “the appropriate time,” likely a year later. Meanwhile, the weekend moves of the statues, each of which weighs several tons, were not easy for the Architect of the Capitol. The Rotunda, Small Rotunda, and the hallway leading to Majority Leader **Trent Lott's (R-Miss)** second floor office were closed to the public. A temporary crane had to be erected to move the women's statue up to the second floor, according to Chafee, and temporary rails were constructed to move Williams outside of Lott's office, where it will now reside.

Spring, 2010: The Suffragists statue has not as yet been returned to the “Crypt” of the Capitol, its place of residence since inception, February 15, 1921; restoring **Roger Williams** to his rightful place of honor in the Rotunda. In 1872, Roger Williams' statue was the second, of 100 statues in the nation's Statuary Hall of Fame, to be installed by Congress in its place of honor; Rhode Island's Nathanael Greene being the first, in 1870.



1935 Tercentenary Celebrations - Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island

October 18, 1935 marked the Tercentenary celebrations for Roger Williams – 300 years after the Founder of the first Baptist Church in America's banishment from the Colony of Massachusetts. The National Baptist Memorial Church's publication of the events featured the following article about their hero:

Roger Williams, Statesman: In October, 1635, Roger Williams, who had arrived in Boston on February 5, 1631, was brought before the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony, to stand trial for his alleged errors in condemning the interference of the magistrates in matters of religion. From the time of his coming to the Colony he had insisted upon the right of the local churches to manage their own affairs and of the individual to choose his own religious forms. But Massachusetts had become staunchly theocratic and conformity was strictly enforced. At the trial, so Governor Winthrop informs us, Williams "maintained all his opinions; and, being offered further conference or disputations, and a month's respite, he chose to dispute presently. So Mr. Hooker was appointed to dispute with him, but could not reduce him from any of his errors. So, the next morning, the court sentenced him to depart out of its jurisdiction within six weeks, all the ministers, save one, approving the sentence." This was as dramatic and significant an hour for America and the world as any recorded in history. It stands parallel with that breathless moment at the Diet of Worms when Martin Luther, the little monk, in the presence of the dignity and power of Church and Empire exclaimed, "Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God." For a new political philosophy and social order was being born. In less than a decade the Civil War was being fought in England. In a few more years Oliver Cromwell at the head of his Ironsides would defeat the royal forces and behead the king. The common people would attain new powers and religious liberty would be enjoyed. But in primitive, undeveloped America, Roger Williams almost single-handed and alone wrought a similar great achievement. Without armed forces or the shedding of one drop of blood, a free state was organized in the wilds of New England's shores. Driven from Massachusetts, he wandered in the depths of winter through the forests, cared for only by the Indians, and reaching the present site of Providence, he established there his "haven of rest for all troubled in conscience." Throughout some fifty years, patiently working out his convictions, heroically defending his cause, he proved to the world that a commonwealth may be founded wherein dwell together civil authority and religious liberty. Out from little Rhode Island through Colonial history steadily went forth these potent and indisputable facts, breaking down all forms of autocracy whether of church or state. When, therefore, the Revolutionary War was won and the Constitution came to be written, it was Rhode Island, Roger Williams' imperishable monument, that provided the foundation principles. In recognition of these great contributions to America's civil and religious life, The American Baptist Historical Society is sponsoring a number of Tercentenary celebrations during the years 1935-1936. On Friday, October 18, 1935, the following ceremony will be observed: 4:00 p.m. – Laying of a wreath at the statue of Roger Williams in the Rotunda of the Capitol...

One of Roger Williams' biographers writes: "Roger Williams characterized himself when he said: "Having bought truth dear, we must not sell it cheap...least of all for...a little puff of credit and reputation from the changeable breath of the uncertain sons of men."

Congress' 2000 Act changes 1864 National Statuary Hall Law

With its autocratic authority, Congress passed legislation in 2000 to change the Law creating Statuary Hall, by Act of July 2, 1864, which invited each State to contribute "statues, in marble or bronze,

not exceeding two in number for each State, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services..." Congress' changed law provides that "any State may request the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement of a statue the State has provided for display in Statuary Hall in the Capitol of the United States..." Supervision and direction of the collection are assigned to the Architect of the Capitol by the act of August 15, 1876. With the approval of the congressional Joint Committee on the Library of Congress, the Architect of the Capitol is responsible for the reception and location of the statues in this collection, first established by Act of Congress, February 24, 1933.

Most unfortunately, due to Congress' change of the 1864 law creating National Statuary Hall, 3 States' famous 1800's heroes have been removed and replaced by 20th century personages. 2 of the 3 replaced were Christians; one, a great Christian educator, preacher, leader and orator; the second, an associate of Rutherford B. Hayes, was a lawyer, Senator and leader. The third statue replaced is described as "the man whose matchless oratory saved his State to the Union." Two, of the new 20th century personages, in turn, have replaced the famous sculptures of George Washington, and General le Marquis de Lafayette, Revolutionary War hero, by David d'Angers – flanking the inner main East entranceway of the Capitol Rotunda, a prominent place of honor.

The Architect of the Capitol

Alan M. Hantman, FAIA, was appointed Architect of the Capitol for a ten-year term in 1997 by President William Jefferson Clinton. He was confirmed by the Senate on January 30, 1997, the first Architect to undergo confirmation according to new selection procedures established by legislation in 1989. Hantman's tenure was marked by major construction activities, including a large underground Capitol Visitor Center and an underground addition to the Supreme Court building. Following Alan Hantman's retirement on February 4, 2007, Stephen T. Ayers, AIA, LEED AP, the Architect of Capitol's Deputy Architect/Chief Operating Officer, is serving as Acting Architect of the Capitol. Having been selected by President Obama, he awaits confirmation by the Senate.

If the Foundations be Destroyed, what can the Righteous do?
Psalm 11:3

¹ Excerpted from, *God's Signature Over the Nation's Capital*,
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