

GRANT

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GMA TO ELECTED OFFICIALS: GRANT'S TOMB NEEDS HELP

Amid the debate over whether to keep Confederate monuments in public places, the tomb of the commander who achieved victory over the Confederates—and who as president laid the foundations for the federal government as protector of civil rights—needs help.

On March 28, 2019, the Grant Monument Association (GMA) submitted a letter to President Donald Trump, members of Congress, and New York City Mayor Bill

de Blasio reporting on maintenance and operational deficiencies at Grant's Tomb and urging remedial action, as well as the need to complete the Tomb and improve the learning experience of visitors. Grant's Tomb, officially if confusingly named the General Grant National Memorial in 1959, is a national park, which explains why federal elected officials are responsible for the site. But New York City owns the plaza north of Grant's *Continued on page 2*

GRANT STATUE UNVEILED AT WEST POINT

Rising 150 feet above the Hudson River, the Plain at the United States Military Academy at West Point is a location rich in history, the site for military ceremonies and daily parades by cadets. The perimeter of the Plain is home to statues of a number of famous West Point graduates, including Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, George S. Patton, and now Ulysses S. Grant.

It was at West Point that an entering cadet named "Hiram Ulysses" Grant became known as "Ulysses S." Grant, the result of a clerical error when his congressman nominated him to attend the Academy. He didn't exactly stand out in his class, but the skills that he learned and people he met would prove to be critical during his remarkable military career. Grant would get to know many of his future fellow soldiers and adversaries during his years at West Point. Notably, James Longstreet, who graduated one year before Grant, would serve as a groomsman at his wedding, according to some accounts, and later rose to be-



*The new statue on the day
of its unveiling*

Still Rick Photos

come Robert E. Lee's second-in-command in the Army of Northern Virginia.

In conjunction with the 150th anniversary of his first presidential inauguration, a statue honoring Grant was unveiled during a ceremony on the Plain on April 25, 2019. The statue, designed by artist Paula Slater, depicts Grant, the first to hold the rank of full general in the U.S. Army, in uniform with the four stars he wore starting in 1866. The ceremony featured speeches

by a number of dignitaries who praised Grant's lifetime of leadership and service to our country. Several hundred people were in attendance, including numerous officers and board members of the GMA.

Lieutenant General Darryl Williams, Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, honored Grant with the following words: "History has a habit of calling out the right person at the right time.... Little did that young, unremarkable cadet from Ohio know... what history would one day demand of him, that one day he would com- *Continued on page 7*

Grant's Tomb, continued from page 1 Tomb, which includes the memorial marking Grant's temporary tomb site, the south plaza, and the overlook pavilion across the street that currently serves as a makeshift visitor center. These are integral parts of the site, even though they are on city rather than federal park land. They add a layer of administrative confusion to existing problems:

Security and maintenance deficiencies. In earlier decades, through the early 1990s, vandalism and other forms of desecration marred both the Tomb and the surrounding grounds, including the then-abandoned overlook pavilion. In response, the congressional delegation at the time secured increased appropriations to refurbish the Tomb and the adjoining front plaza and to provide security. The latter took the form of a contract between the National Park Service (NPS) and a private company to provide two security guards during the hours the monument is closed.

Amid the budget cuts of recent years, however, the number of guards has been reduced to one. That is simply insufficient. Not only did the monument suffer a graffiti attack during the government shutdown early this year, when security was absent, but another major attack occurred even after the government reopened: On or about the night of February 15, 2019, the back of the Tomb, near the northwestern corner of the monument, was hit by more graffiti—an extensive attack involving three different colors of paint. This time, a security guard was present, but he was in front of the monument, and by the time he detected what happened, it was too late. The apparent perpetrators of this vandalism, one male and one female, reportedly vaulted over the eastern retaining wall before the guard could catch them. The area involved is simply too large to expect a single security guard to provide effective protection and enforcement.

Additionally, the site faces mounting maintenance problems, some more recent and others lingering for years. Within the Tomb, there is visible discoloration and peeling from water damage at the cupola/roof level, as well as in the ceilings above the two reliquary rooms. It is

unclear whether the water damage this reflects is ongoing, but repair is clearly necessary, as is adequate monitoring to ensure that any such damage be appropriately repaired before the problem gets worse. Additional discoloration not believed to arise from water damage has long afflicted the marble floor surrounding the sarcophagi of Ulysses and Julia Grant.

As the NPS acknowledged more than two years ago in its Project Management Information System (PMIS) proposal describing the need for repairs, the broken, cracked outdoor plaza surrounding the Tomb “has become so deteriorated it has become a safety hazard.” The granite that constitutes the Tomb's steps and adjoining south plaza, including the two stairways that lead to the sidewalks, also shows some wear.

The black fence that encloses the temporary tomb site behind the monument, which contains a plaque in Chinese and English along with memorial trees planted at the direction of Chinese Viceroy Li Hung Chang in 1897, is weathered and bent in a distortion of its original shape. The nearby grassy area requires landscaping to spruce up large areas that have become dirt.

The monument's external nighttime lights were repaired in 2017, but the lighting is basically limited to the inside of the front portico, the lower part of the cupola, and whatever light from the city park lamps dimly illuminates the Tomb—a far cry from the lighting that illuminated the Tomb early in its history, and which today lights up both the Washington Mall's presidential memorials and any number of less prominent presidential and Civil War monuments.

Insufficient visitor access and facilities. The overlook pavilion across the street from the monument, which once provided public restrooms before being abandoned for over 40 years, reopened in 2011 to accommodate a ranger station, gift shop, public restrooms, and small exhibit space. While that marked an improvement for a site that had not been making use of this space or offering any public restrooms, the combination of budget cuts and the need to staff the property has seriously diminished visitor access to Grant's Tomb. During the 1990s, when the site underwent a major refurbishment following years of desecration and neglect, its open hours expanded from five to seven days a week. That remedied a deficiency that kept the site closed two days every week, to the consternation of many visitors who had traveled long distances.

In recent years, however, budget crunches led to the reversal of this improvement as the Tomb returned to a five-day schedule. While the rangers at the site are excellent, they are spread so thin that the Tomb proper has been closed for staggered hours even during its five open days because rangers are needed to staff the overlook pavilion as well. This marks a regression in visitor access to a point even worse than during the days of desecration. The GMA has heard from a number of visitors who were chagrined at their inability to enter the monument. The Tomb proper should be open to the public seven days a week throughout the year and adequately staffed for the entirety of its open hours. *Continued on page 4*

Carmen Delgado



Grffiti attack in the top photo occurred when the government was shut down, the one below after it reopened



THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRANT'S INAUGURATION

March 3, 2019, witnessed a beautiful ceremony at Grant's Tomb in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of President Grant's inauguration. It was 150 years earlier, on March 4, 1869, that General Ulysses S. Grant took his first oath of office to become our nation's 18th president. The day's observances began with a solemn ceremony in which Sierra Willoughby, the lead park ranger at the site, and GMA president Frank Scaturro placed a floral wreath donated by the GMA. This was followed by a recitation of President Grant's moving inaugural address, which Grant had written himself, by Scaturro.

The ceremony was followed by two presentations in the visitor center by the renowned Gilded Age historian Charles W. Calhoun, author of *The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant*. Published in 2017, it is the first comprehensive narrative devoted exclusively to Grant's presidency to be written in over 80 years. Calhoun's presentation was offered in two parts, the first entitled "Grant's Inauguration: Becoming the President," followed by "Grant's Inauguration: Launching the Presidency." His first talk focused on the time leading up to Grant's first inauguration and included a detailed analysis of his inaugural address. The second session also featured a brief analysis of the inaugural address before focusing on Grant's transition into the presidency. The audiences were very engaged throughout the presentations: Calhoun spent over an hour answering questions, and there was spirited discussion about Grant's legacy.

A sizable crowd attended the day's programs, and many more watched on the live stream that is still available on the General Grant National Memorial Facebook page. The three Facebook videos, one for the wreath laying and two for Calhoun's first and second presentations, have garnered a total of over 2,000 views to date.



The GMA's inauguration anniversary wreath placed by Frank Scaturro and Sierra Willoughby



In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Grant's first inauguration, the GMA commissioned a collectable coin designed by Grant's great-great-great-great granddaughter, Ashley Johnson. The coin features a relief of Grant's image taken from a photo early in his presidency on the front. The back includes two phrases taken from his inaugural address: "without prejudice, hate, or sectional pride" and "security of person, property, and free religious and political opinion." It is available for a limited time only and can be purchased from the GMA website: grantstomb.org/product/grant-coin.

2019 ANNUAL GMA DINNER HIGHLIGHTS ANNOTATED EDITION OF GRANT'S MEMOIRS



Gen. Petraeus and Prof. Samet conducting their colloquy

General David H. Petraeus and Professor Elizabeth Samet headlined this year's annual Grant Monument Association dinner on April 24. Held at the Racquet and Tennis Club on Park Avenue in New York City, the event raised money for the GMA while treating supporters to an intimate setting to celebrate Grant's 197th birthday along with an opportunity to learn something new about the legendary general and president.

A substantial number of cadets and junior members of the military were in attendance, in most cases due to generous sponsorship from GMA supporters, who were thanked by GMA president Frank Scaturro in his opening remarks. He also introduced among the attendees Grant's great-great-great-great granddaughter, Ashley Johnson, who drew loud applause from the audience for designing the coin commissioned by the

Continued on page 5

Our Help Needed for Tomb, continued from page 1

Additionally, the visitor facility falls short on meeting visitor needs. While the space dedicated to the gift shop suffices for that purpose, the remaining space offers only two single-user restrooms, which is inadequate. Large crowds that include sizable tour bus traffic regularly visit the monument.

The remaining visitor space is a multi-purpose room that squeezes in 40 chairs, a screen for audio-visual programs, two small display cases containing artifacts, and six small exhibit panels on the wall with text and pictures to illustrate Grant's life and the history of the Tomb. Visitors to the site deserve more than a cursory introduction to Grant. The NPS should have space adjoining the Tomb allocated for interactive exhibits in order to leave visitors with an appreciation of Grant's life and rich legacy, from preserving the Union to fighting for civil rights. Along with expanded restroom facilities, such a facility would serve as a more complete visitor center. M. Garland Reynolds, chairman of the GMA's Building Committee, has made preliminary studies about using available underground space on the western side of the monument or constructing a new facility behind the Tomb, and architectural studies conducted for the NPS in 1965 suggest an alternative entrance to the crypt level that could be provided to the handicapped and others from the southwest corner of the monument. There are likely numerous architectural possibilities to consider. What is important as a first step is acknowledging the need to meet the objective.

Visitors and others among the general public would also be better served by greater access to the NPS's collection of a vast archive of artifacts relating to Grant's life and the history of Grant's Tomb—some of which have been digitized and made accessible via the NPS's Manhattan Historic Sites Archive, but that process should be completed for the entire collection.

Completion of the Tomb. Those responsible for the construction and administration of Grant's Tomb before its transfer to the NPS recognized from its earliest days that the monument had yet to be completed. Two features in particular were still missing when the monument was dedicated: a crowning figure for the summit of the building, which consists of an empty pedestal, and an equestrian statue of Grant. In his dedication day address in 1897, GMA president Horace Porter noted the crowning figure as a goal to be reached in the near future. The finial was even added to the photo of Grant's Tomb on the cov-

er of the official dedication day program. In 1925, John Duncan, the architect of Grant's Tomb, recalled that the original design for the Tomb included a "group of statuary" on the cap of the building, "but the reduction in size of the monument, necessitated by cost, reduced the scale so that it would prohibit using a group; and the only finial possible would be a single figure—that of peace...." That would also reflect the spirit of the Tomb's epitaph, "Let us have peace."

An equestrian statue of Grant also made its way into the earliest designs for the Tomb, and architect John Russell Pope envisioned such a statue, situated in front of the monument, as the "one main sculptural motif" in his 1928 plan to redo the plaza surrounding Grant's Tomb. The plaza was ultimately redone, but the Great Depression prevented the equestrian from being funded.

The Ulysses S. Grant Bicentennial. April 27, 2022, less than three years from now, will mark the 200th anniversary of Grant's birth. So it could not be more timely to finally address the above issues. Two other measures that would be appropriate for this anniversary: (1) the authorization of a Grant commemorative coin, with proceeds from its sale used to defray the cost of maintenance and operations at the site; and (2) posthumous promotion of Grant as "General of the Armies of the United States," the highest army rank in U.S. history, effective April 9, 1865, the date General Robert E. Lee surrendered to him. Only one active-duty officer, General John J. Pershing, has held this rank, and in 1976, it was conferred posthumously upon George Washington, with the appointment effective July 4, 1776.

Appeal to Congress. While the congresses of the 1990s succeeded in increasing appropriations to the monument, they failed to pass specific bills that would have addressed so many of the above problems. H.R. 1774, introduced in the 104th Congress (1995), would have expanded the park boundaries to include the integral parts of the site owned by New York City; required perpetual U.S. army honor guards to protect the site; provided for an adequate visitor center and the site's completion; and changed its name to the more familiar and traditional Grant's Tomb National Monument. Without that legislation, subject to the changing whims of the annual appropriations process, the site regressed. So we are back, over 20 years later, to ask again for the federal government to take corrective measures on behalf of Grant's Tomb.

In response to the March 28 letter and to a direct appeal from General David Petraeus, Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the Senate Minority Leader, stated: "There is no doubt: President Grant's gravesite is in need of major upkeep to preserve his story and America's rich history. I am proud to stand with the Grant Monument Association in calling attention to the needs of his plot, and will press the federal government to deliver the dollars needed."

The GMA has had discussions with members of Leader Schumer's staff, as well as the staff of Rep. Adriano Espaillat, who represents Grant's Tomb's district in the House of Representatives.

GMA WEBSITE REVAMPED

We are pleased to announce that the Grant Monument Association website, grantstomb.org, has been revamped and updated by the GMA's newest partner, Reingold Inc. Reingold, a firm that specializes in digital media and website development, has generously donated its services to improve the website, which was launched on February 20. The GMA extends its sincere thanks to the team at Reingold for all their help!

We will keep you updated and hope that necessary legislative measures are soon on their way. But they will need the help of concerned citizens across the country if they are to make their way through both houses of Congress. Please contact your member of Congress and your senators in support of the following goals:

Appropriations measures:

- Increase security at the site with a minimum of two guards, preferably drawn from the U.S. Park Police, at all times, and the installation of security cameras.
- Repair the discoloration and peeling from water damage at the cupola/roof level and reliquary room ceilings, along with any associated waterproofing deficiencies, and establish ongoing monitoring to prevent further damage.
- Remedy the discoloration of the marble floor surrounding the sarcophagi of Ulysses and Julia Grant following sound preservation standards.
- Repair the broken, cracked outdoor plaza surrounding the Tomb, including repointing and, where necessary, replacement of bluestone pavers, granite pavers, the monument's steps, and the adjoining south plaza and two stairways.
- Ongoing maintenance of the stone plaza and stairway north of the Tomb, as well as repair or replacement of the black fence surrounding the temporary tomb site and restoration and maintenance of the landscape.
- Installation of enhanced outdoor lighting to properly illuminate the monument at night.
- Expansion of the park boundaries to include the overlook pavilion and roughly the southern half of the "island" of land on which Grant's Tomb sits enclosed by the northbound and southbound lanes of Riverside Drive, from the area behind the north plaza's temporary tomb memorial area to the stone plaza extending south from the entrance of the monument.
- Complete the monument with a crowning finial for the summit of the building and an equestrian statue of Grant in the front plaza.
- Expand the open hours of the site to seven days a week throughout the year and ensure that staffing is adequate to provide public access to the Tomb proper during all open hours.
- Digitize and make accessible to the public all items in the NPS's General Grant National Memorial archives. Update the archival catalog for accuracy, comprehensiveness, and optimal online access.

Authorizing measures:

- Redesignate the monument as Grant's Tomb National Monument.
- Authorize the creation of an expanded visitor center with space for improved, interactive exhibits, along with expanded restroom facilities and access to both the visitor center and the Tomb for persons with disabilities.
- Authorize a commemorative coin marking the 200th anniversary of Grant's birth, the proceeds of which shall help fund maintenance and operations at the site.

- As a further bicentennial measure, pass legislation authorizing and requesting the appointment of Grant posthumously as "General of the Armies of the United States," as was done for George Washington, with the appointment effective April 9, 1865.

Please review and pass along the enclosed flyer, which contains a summary of these goals and a call to action.

Petraeus/Samet colloquy, continued from page 3

GMA to mark the 150th anniversary of Grant's first inauguration. The same design was on the birthday cake ordered for the occasion.

For the evening's main event, attendees were treated to a colloquy led for the fourth consecutive year by General Petraeus, who discussed with Professor Samet her newly released annotated edition of Grant's memoirs. Grant's autobiography is considered by many to be the greatest memoir ever written by an American president, as well as one of history's great military autobiographies. Among the rave reviews of Samet's *The Annotated Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant* was praise from a *Washington Post* book review, which called it "everything a work of popular scholarship should be: Authoritative, thorough and compulsively readable."

The speakers opened the colloquy highlighting the common West Point bond that they shared with Grant. Both Petraeus and Grant are famous graduates of West Point, while Samet teaches English at the Military Academy. She talked about the impact Grant's memoirs had on her as a young adult, noting that "it was Grant who introduced me to West Point as opposed to West Point introducing me to Grant."

Both speakers entertained the audience with stories drawn from Grant's life, focusing on his unique personal and leadership qualities while dispelling many of the half-truths and myths about him. Samet described how Grant's reputation and an understanding of the Civil War had both fallen victim to a revisionist history: "This narrative of a war between brothers emerges" in which the "actions of that war are wholly separated from the causes for which the war was fought. And I think what makes Grant remarkable and unique . . . is that he was never confused by why the war was fought. . . . He believed in reconciliation, but reconciliation on northern terms."

In a lighter moment, General Petraeus asked Professor Samet, given her background as an English teacher, what distinguished Grant as a writer? She summed it up: "I regard [Grant's memoirs] as one of the great American autobiographies. Grant makes a huge contribution to this genre This is a man who can tell a story."

GRANTS' DETROIT HOME TO MOVE

The residence of Ulysses S. and Julia Grant as newlyweds is now being prepared for its move to the Eastern Market garden project of Detroit. Conceptual drawings envision the house surrounded by an orchard and kitchen garden, as it was when the Grants lived there. Another \$500,000 is needed to complete the work. Visit granthomedetroit.org for more information and to contribute.

GRANT'S 197TH BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION CELEBRATES PRESIDENTIAL LEGACY

On April 27, only two days after dedicating a new statue of Grant on its campus, the United States Military Academy at West Point joined the National Park Service for their annual celebration of Ulysses S. Grant's birthday at Grant's Tomb. It was a windy but otherwise beautiful spring day. The program featured speakers who voiced the NPS's designated theme of celebrating 150 years of Grant's presidential legacy. Present in the plaza throughout the ceremony was the West Point honor guard that has become an essential part of the annual birthday observance. Also in attendance for the first time as a group since the Tomb's 1997 Centennial were members of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, which operates Grant's Presidential Library in Mississippi.

Savona McClain served as emcee for the event and touted Grant's underappreciated civil rights record, noting that he "wanted to make sure that this country realized its full promise that there would be equal rights for everyone."

As she has for many years, Diana Linnen read a proclamation from Colorado Governor Jared Polis declaring April 27, 2019, President Ulysses S. Grant Day in the state that was admitted to the Union during Grant's presidency.

GMA president Frank Scaturro offered a defense of Grant's historically misrepresented presidency, pointing out that he would succeed in meeting "several goals that the country had not yet achieved" that were articulated in his First Inaugural Address: "a stable monetary policy, reform in its Indian policy, strong foreign policy, and the next (and most important) step toward establishing the equality of the recently emancipated slaves: ratification of

a constitutional amendment to ban racial discrimination in voting." He then echoed the preservation concerns expressed in the GMA's March 28 letter, adding his "hope that responsible federal officials, starting with senators and members of the House of Representatives, begin without any further delay to turn this situation around and give Grant's Tomb its due."

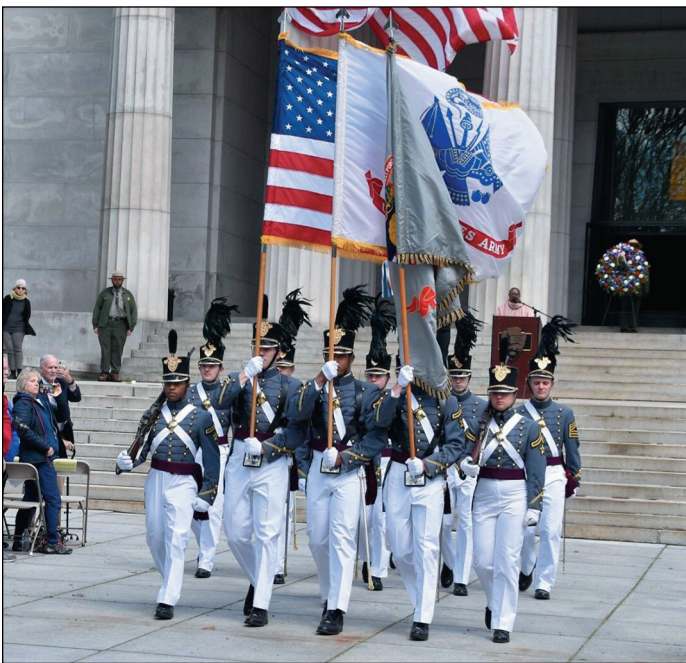
The crowd was treated to an appearance by Grant's great-great grandson, Ulysses Grant Dietz, a trustee of the GMA, who offered a blunt rejection of what his generation was taught about the Reconstruction era: "They taught us that Reconstruction was a bad thing that happened after the Civil War, when bad men from the North went down south and ruined everything. And I was taught that it was U.S. Grant's fault," Dietz said. He described his great-great grandfather's many civil rights accomplishments and proudly read a quote from Frederick Douglass: "To [Grant] more than any other man the negro owes his enfranchisement and the Indian a humane policy. In the matter of the protection of the freedman from violence his moral courage surpassed that of his party."

The keynote speaker was Ronald C. White, author of *American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant*, who highlighted President Grant's recent rise in reputation. "Grant's stock is rising," he declared, citing that Grant had risen 11 places in C-SPAN's surveys of presidential historians between 2000 and 2017. White chose to focus his comments on Grant's character, saying, "We can celebrate what Ulysses S. Grant did. . . . But I think finally on this day and this political climate, I want to celebrate who he was, who he is—his character. This humble man who when offered a glass to say 'this is the man who saved the nation,' dissented and [said] no, I've got to give the credit to others. I want to point beyond myself. . . . to the young men who came from their towns and their farms. They are the ones who saved the nation. And so why do we write biographies? We write them because we want to have a moral example for our nation."

After the ceremony, White signed books at the overlook pavilion and took questions from visitors. The GMA sponsored a tent with refreshments and birthday cake for all those in attendance. The event was well attended, but many more watched on Facebook, with over 4,000 views garnered to date.

134TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRANT'S DEATH OBSERVED

In the middle of a major heat wave with near record temperatures, the annual commemoration of Ulysses S. Grant's death anniversary was held at Grant's Tomb on Sunday, July 21. The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the 11th New York Regiment of the United States Volunteers participated in the solemn ceremony, which was held inside the Tomb, on the main floor. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Band Brass Quintet played a number of patriotic songs as the crowd gathered for the ceremony, with Hail to the Chief immediately preceding the program. Although the acoustics within the interior of the mausoleum have often presented a challenge for speak-



NPS photo

West Point cadets retire the colors at the conclusion of the Grant birthday ceremony

NPS Bruce Monroe



Lieutenant Colonel Louis DiLeo playing Taps

ers to be understood, they enhanced the sound quality of the talented brass players.

The ceremony featured words of remembrance from Michael Frazier, historian of the NPS's Manhattan Sites Unit; Frank Scaturro, the GMA's president; Brigadier General James Whalen, Northeast Regional Commander of the United States Volunteers; and Michael Barth, Vice Commander of the Coast Guard's Upper Manhattan Flotilla. Four memorial wreaths were then placed by representatives of the NPS, GMA, 11th New York Regiment, and Coast Guard Auxiliary. A firing party from the 11th Regiment concluded the ceremony with 21 rifle shots followed by Taps performed by Lieutenant Colonel Louis DiLeo. After the ceremony, the GMA provided refreshments for all in attendance.

Later in the afternoon, Scaturro gave a presentation in the overlook pavilion on the poignant final years of Grant's life and his legacy. He examined Grant's post-presidential life, his battle with throat cancer while completing his memoirs, and the outpouring of public grief upon his death. His presentation included a slideshow of rarely seen photos and quotes from Grant and his contemporaries that helped tell an emotional story.

The session concluded with a spirited discussion about Grant's legacy with those in attendance. Scaturro later observed, "By the scope of the program and number of participants who conducted it, this was the most impressive commemorative program organized to observe the anniversary of Grant's death in the more than quarter century I have been involved with the site." The GMA is grateful to the NPS and all participating military units who conducted the event, as well as to members of the general public who braved the hot weather to observe the anniversary of the death of Ulysses S. Grant.

West Point Statue, continued from page 1

mand the entire Union Army, the right leader at the right time in that dark chapter of our nation's history. Nor I'm sure did he realize that years later he would also lead an entire nation as commander-in-chief. Again the right leader at the right time." Williams concluded, Grant "is a leader who still inspires us today, more than a century and a half later. And he's a leader of character for all of us to emulate—an exemplar of our values of duty, honor, country."

In the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017, Congress made specific note of the absence of a statue honoring Grant at the Plain. It called for the Secretary of the Army to place a statue at West Point in time for the 150th anniversary of Grant's first inauguration, but stipulated that funding should come from non-federal sources. West Point graduate and former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald answered that call. He and his wife, Diane, made a generous donation to fund the design and construction of the new statue.

The statue was officially unveiled at the ceremony by the McDonalds, Slater, General Williams, West Point Association of Graduates president Todd Browne, and Grant descendant and GMA board member Ulysses Grant Dietz. Afterwards, the West Point equestrian team did a ceremonial ride-by followed by the West Point Glee Club's performance of the Alma Mater and Army Song.

In an inspiring speech, former Secretary McDonald noted, "As a member of the Long Gray Line, it is fitting to honor President Grant here at West Point as one of our own, as a soldier and a leader deserving acclaim. Today he stands proud among those who have spent also a lifetime serving the nation—President/General Washington, Eisenhower, MacArthur," he said, pointing to their adjacent statues. "This is where Grant belongs."



Still Rick Photos

The new Grant statue at West Point unveiled

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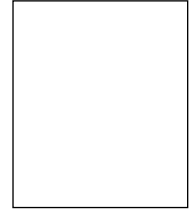
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SAVE THE DATE

GMA Grant Birthday Dinner

Monday, April 27, 2020

Union League Club, New York City

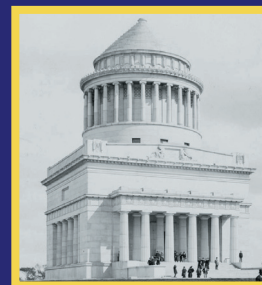
Featuring a colloquy between
General David Petraeus and Ron White,
author of *American Ulysses:*
A Life of Ulysses S. Grant.



The GMA thanks the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) for its generous support in bringing this newsletter to you. Since 1865, Union officers and their descendants have worked through MOLLUS to perpetuate the memory of the struggle for the Union.



Grant's Tomb Needs Our Help



On March 28, 2019, the Grant Monument Association submitted a detailed letter to the President and Congress on the problems afflicting President Ulysses S. Grant's final resting place in New York City and how to solve them:

- **Increase security** around Grant's Tomb and install security cameras to help deter vandalism.



- **Install enhanced outdoor lighting** to properly illuminate the monument at night and improve security.
- **Expand the open hours** of the site to seven days a week, and **ensure adequate staffing** during open hours.
- **Complete the monument** with a crowning finial, and an equestrian statue in the front plaza.



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- **Repair water damage** in the ceilings and marble discoloration in the crypt of the mausoleum.
- **Expand the boundaries** of the national park to include the surrounding plazas, overlook pavilion, and temporary tomb memorial.
- **Redesignate the monument** as Grant's Tomb National Monument, adopting its most familiar and original name.

Please write your senators and House members in Washington. Ask them to introduce or co-sponsor legislation in support of these goals.

- **Build expanded or new visitor center** with space for improved interactive exhibits, adequate restrooms, and access for persons with disabilities.
- **Digitize with online access** all items in the National Park Service's archives for Grant's Tomb.
- **Repair and, where necessary, replace the broken, cracked stones in the outdoor plaza and stairways.**



And to commemorate Grant's 200th birthday in 2022:

- **Authorize a commemorative coin** marking the 200th anniversary of Grant's birth, with proceeds to go toward the maintenance of Grant's Tomb.
- **Request the appointment of Grant posthumously as "General of the Armies of the United States,"** as was done in 1976 for George Washington.

You may read the letter in full at grantsomb.org.

