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THE ORIGINS AND HISTORY OF THE
WASHINGTON MONUMENT FLAG DISPLAY

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ORIGINS AND HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT FLAG DISPLAY

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

The display of an American flag for each State of the Union around the base of the Washington Monument is a practice of long standing. The flags were first flown on 23 February 1920 as part of the George Washington Birthday celebrations. The flags were flown from wooden flag poles which were erected on a temporary basis. The flags were flown for each subsequent Washington's Birthday celebration, and also for other holidays--such as Memorial Day and the 4th of July. After each celebration, the poles were removed and put back into storage.

Beginning with the Washington's Birthday celebration of 1958, the flags were flown on a daily basis from the then newly installed aluminum flag poles. The flags were raised and lowered on a daily basis without ceremony. Foundations for 50 poles were installed, but, at first, only 48 poles were put up--there then being only 48 States in the Union. Beginning with 4 July 1959, a 49th pole and flag was added for the new state of Alaska. The current display of 50 flags first flew on 4 July 1960 when the admission of Hawaii to the Union was recognized on the United States flag by the addition of a 50th star.

The flags continued to be raised and lowered on a daily basis without ceremony by Park Rangers or Maintenance personnel until the spring of 1970. This was despite the fact that the House of Representatives twice passed resolutions to require a formal ceremony. Since the resolutions died in the Senate, no formal ceremony was ever required by law. However, informal Congressional objections in early 1970 led to the establishment of a retreat ceremony conducted by the United States Park Police. A small group of officers came to the Monument each evening where, after a brief ceremony, they would lower the flags, usually three to five flags at a time. This ceremony lasted until the flags were ordered flown 24 hours a day in July 1971.

Presidential Proclamation Number 4065, signed by Richard Nixon, ordered that the flags around the base of the Washington Monument be flown 24 hours a day, beginning 4 July 1971. Since that date, the 50 United States flags have flown continuously around the base of the Washington Monument. They have done so, according to the Proclamation, in order to "represent our fifty States and, at the same time, symbolize our enduring Federal Union."

While the National Park Service has long supported the display of the American flags at the Monument, others have offered different ideas. The Fine Arts Commission never approved the permanent flag display, and formally objected to it in 1959. Various Congressmen, groups, and individuals have proposed replacing the United States flag display with the various State flags, or even with historic American flags. The Park Service has consistently opposed any change in the display, arguing that the simplicity and uniformity of the 50 U.S. flags matches the plain lines of the Monument, that the flags represent both the States and the Federal Union, and that the State flags are already displayed at several other Washington D.C. sites.

IN SUMMARY: The display of United States flags around the base of the Washington Monument dates from Washington's Birthday, 1920. At first the flags were flown just on holidays. They were flown daily beginning on Washington's Birthday 1958. The current 50 flag display dates from the 4th of July 1960. Raised and lowered on a daily basis at first, the flags were, by Presidential Proclamation, ordered flown 24 hours a day beginning on the 4th of July 1971.

ORIGINS AND HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT FLAG DISPLAY

Introduction:

The practice of flying a United States flag for each State of the Union around the base of the Washington Monument has a fairly long and varied history. The flag display began in 1920 as part of the George Washington birthday celebrations at the Monument's base. Until 1958, the flags were displayed only for Washington's Birthday, the 4th of July, and other special occasions. Starting with the first president's birthday that year, the flags have flown on a daily basis. At first, they were raised and lowered each day. However, since the 4th of July 1971, the flags have flown around the clock by Presidential order.

Origins as a Temporary Holiday Display:

The flag display at the base of the Washington Monument was first flown on 23 February 1920 as part of the first George Washington Birthday celebration to be held at the Monument. The Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks, then headed by Colonel Clarence S. Ridley, administered the Monument at this time. Under that Office's direction, 48 wooden flag poles were erected on a temporary basis around the circular driveway at the Monument's base. A wreath with George Washington's birth date and birth place inscribed on it was hung above the Monument's entrance, a practice that continues to this day.(1)

The practice of displaying 48 flags for Washington's Birthday--one for each State of the Union at that time--continued yearly between 1920 and 1958. This is well documented in newspaper accounts, and in the Annual Reports of the Office of Public Buildings and the National Park Service.(2) However, the display was cancelled on several occasions. In 1924, there were no formal ceremonies at the Monument apparently due to the death of the previous year's keynote speaker. In 1929, a snow storm prevented the flags' display.(3)

In addition to being flown for Washington's Birthday, the flags were also hoisted for Independence Day. The first time the flags were flown on July 4th could not be determined for certain from the available records. Newspaper articles from July 1932 and 1935 mention a "flag raising ceremony" as part of the festivities on the Washington Monument grounds, but it is not clear from those stories if this involved the flag poles at the Monument's base. The first solid evidence of the flags flying on Independence Day is a July 1940 photograph showing the poles in place. However, it seems clear that the display of the flags on the 4th of July was a regular occurrence before 1940. A Park Service letter from June 1942 states that flying the flags for Washington's Birthday and Independence Day was a "custom ... followed over a long period of years."(4)

It is clear that the flags were flown regularly on July 4th throughout the 1940s. In 1941, according to a Park Service record, the flags were flown on July 4th, and again on July 5th since the fireworks display had been postponed from the 4th due to rain. A Newspaper photo shows that the flags were flown during the July 4th "Cavalcade of Freedom" celebrations on the Monument grounds in 1944. The Monument's Annual Report for 1947 states that Independence Day was celebrated with the "customary" display of the flags. President Truman was photographed near the base of the Monument with the flags flying the background during the Monument's 100th Anniversary celebration on the 4th of July 1948.(5)

The flag poles were installed around the Monument's base and the flags raised for other holidays and special events as well. For example, a July 30, 1944 photograph shows that the flags were in place for a ceremony honoring the second anniversary of the WAVES. A 1956 Park Service letter explained that the flags were "flown on Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and other special occasions." In addition, a Park Service photograph shows the flags flying around the Monument's base during a large Catholic Church rally which took place on the Monument grounds in October 1954.(6)

As noted above, the flags flew from 48 wooden poles erected on a temporary basis for each holiday and special event. The poles fit into sleeves which were permanently installed around the Monument's circular driveway. After each holiday or special event, the poles were removed, and returned to storage. This is clear from the documentary and photographic evidence. For example, a number of photos taken during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s at times other than holidays show no flag poles around the Monument's base. In addition, a 1958 Park Service memo states that the "temporary flag poles" were removed after each display, while other documents refer to the poles as wooden.(7)

New Flag Poles:

In theory, the wooden flag poles could have been left up, and the flags flown from them on a daily basis. However, the National Capital Parks staff felt that the wooden poles "did not possess the aesthetic quality to merit their remaining in place throughout the year."(8) So, before the flags could be flown on a daily basis, new and better quality poles had to be acquired. Serious planning for their purchase and installation dates from the mid-1950s. In February 1956, Park Superintendent Edward Kelly reported that the Bureau of the Budget was recommending to Congress that funds be made available in Fiscal Year 1957 for new "removable bronze flag poles." Congress approved the funds, and \$11,400 was made available for the new poles. Another Park official reported in February 1957 that the park was canvassing twenty manufacturers in order to find suitable replacements for the unsightly wooden poles.(9)

According to the letter sent to the manufacturers, the Park Service was seeking flag poles of "non-corrosive metal of a simple design which will not require painting, with poles made of aluminum, bronze magnesium, or their alloys" being preferred. The Service also required that the poles be removable from their base receptacles which were to be installed flush with the ground. The other listed specifications called for the poles to be 25 feet high, with the strength to withstand winds of up to 100 miles per hour.(10)

By late May 1957, the Park Service mailed out materials seeking bids on the flag pole project to seven companies. From the available records, the number which actually submitted bids is unknown. The winning bid was submitted by the American Flagpole Equipment Company of New York City, and they were awarded the contract on June 26, 1957. American Flagpole arranged for a local Washington, D.C. firm, Young and Crary, Inc., to install the base receptacles around the Washington Monument's circular drive. The Service also asked the Potomac Electric Power Company to relocate nine of the street lamps around the Monument's circular drive as part of the flag pole project.(11)

Early on in the planning for the flag pole project, it was decided to install 50 base receptacles around the Monument's base. It seems likely that this was due to the anticipated addition of Alaska and Hawaii to the Union. While 50 receptacles would be installed, only 48 poles would be put up at first, with the other poles being placed as the new states were admitted. The Park

Service also considered several different arrangements for the poles, including arranging them in a square with rounded corners, and in an ellipse. However, the Service adopted the traditional circular arrangement for the new poles since it was felt this gave the most "pleasant effect." (12)

Having approved the design, the Park Service informed the American Flag Equipment Co. that work on the project could not begin until after the work on the new floodlighting system for the Monument was completed. In late January 1958, the Service informed the company that the installation of the base receptacles could now proceed. The contractor fulfilled the Park Service's desire that "the installation be completed and the poles erected prior to Washington's Birthday." The project's cost was reported to be \$11,338.00 (13)

Flags Flown Daily:

At some point--a point which remains unknown--someone suggested that the flag display be made permanent. A 1958 Park Service memo states, "The proposal that the flags at the base of the Washington Monument be flown on a continuing basis has been made on many occasions in the past 15 years." (14) This would date the idea for a permanent display to about 1943. However, as noted above, the Park Staff felt the wooden poles were not of high enough quality to be left up on a daily basis. However, it is interesting to note that even when the new flag pole project began, no formal decision to fly the flags daily had been made. The poles were still to be removable, and one memo notes that storage space for them would have to be found when they were not in place at the Monument. (15)

It is clear, however, that at some point during late 1957 or early 1958, a decision was made to fly the flags from the new poles on a daily basis. An August 1957 memo written in response to the Park Service's Chief of Parkways', suggestion that the flags be flown daily states that the idea was already under consideration by "several officials of the National Capital Parks." However, the memo reported, theft and the cost of raising and lowering the flags daily concerned the Park's staff. Another memo prepared in response to a similar suggestion from Margaret H. Crosby, a Commerce Department employee, also noted that the idea was under consideration. Crosby would later claim to have been the one who suggested flying the flags daily. The Interior Department's Incentive Awards Committee rejected her claim, noting that the idea went back well before the date of her suggestion. (16)

Apparently, the Park Staff overcome their concerns about the possible theft of the flags, as well as their concerns over the costs of raising and lowering them on daily basis. While no "smoking memo" has been located ordering the flags flown daily, several secondary sources report that the flags first flew daily on February 22, 1958 -- George Washington's Birthday. A number of references to the flags in official National Park Service documents after that date state that they were flown daily. Also, all photographs taken during the normal operational hours of the Monument after that date show the flags flying. In addition, remarks made in Congress about the flag display refer to them as having been flown on a daily basis. (17)

While many people found the daily flag display an attractive addition to the Monument, others objected. Foremost among those objecting was the Fine Arts Commission of the United States. At its March 18, 1959 meeting, the Commission discussed the flags, and they unanimously agreed to write the Park Service to request that the daily flag display be reconsidered. The Commission felt that the display "was a misuse of the flag, and that the poles and flapping banners detracted from the appearance and solidity at the base of the

Monument." At most, the Commission stated, two flags at the door of the Monument could be used with no ill effect upon the structure. To this date, the Fine Arts Commission has not formally approved the addition of the flag display to the Washington Monument. (18)

49th and 50th Flags Added:

When the flags began flying on a daily basis on the new aluminum poles around the Washington's base in February 1958, there were only 48 States in the Union. However, in 1959, the United States added two more States--Alaska and Hawaii. By custom, a new State's star was not officially added to the United States flag until the July 4th following its admission date. So, with Alaska's admission to the Union on January 3, 1959, and Hawaii's on August 21, 1959, the United States had a 49-star flag from July 4, 1959 to July 3, 1960. The current 50-star flag, recognizing the admission of Hawaii, became the official flag on July 4, 1960. (19)

As was noted earlier, the National Park Service anticipated the admission of Alaska and Hawaii to the Union by having 50 receptacles installed around the Washington Monument's circular driveway. At first, of course, only 48 poles were erected to fly flags representing the 48 States. With Alaska's admission to the Union in January 1959, a 49th pole and flag was added to the Monument's ring on the 4th of July 1959. The 49 flag display lasted only one year, however. On the morning of July 4, 1960, the forty-nine 49-star flags were raised for the last time around the Monument's base. During a military ceremony that evening, the 49-star flags were lowered, and admission of Hawaii to the Union was recognized as fifty 50-star flags were hoisted in their place. Thus, the current 50 flag display has flown on a daily basis around the Washington Monument since July 4, 1960. (20)

Concerns Over Proper Ceremony:

With the Washington Monument flags flying on a daily basis, the thoughts of a number of people turned to arranging some type of flag raising and lowering ceremony. With no staff of its own to spare for such a ceremony, the National Capital Parks staff naturally turned to the military which has a number of ceremonial units in the Washington, D.C. area. At the suggestion a Congressman, Park Superintendent Harry Thompson asked the Marine Corps to conduct a daily flag raising and lowering ceremony at the Monument. The Marines, however, replied that they already had a full plate, and could not take on a daily ceremony at the Monument. Although no documentation has been located, it seems likely that the other military services replied in the same manner if they were contacted. (21)

Without the participation of the military, the National Capital Parks' staff was left with the task of raising and lowering the Washington Monument flags on a daily basis. According to contemporary sources, the task was performed by either the Park's Rangers or the Maintenance staff. (Which group got the job varied from time to time.) The flags were raised about 8:00 a.m. each day, and they were lowered each evening about 5:00 p.m., a task which took two or three persons about one hour to complete. When lowered, the flags were supposed to be properly folded, placed in a cart, and then placed in storage overnight. (22)

Very early on, the lack of ceremony in raising and lowering the Monument's flags caught the eye of Congressman Bob Wilson, a California Republican. Wil-

son took a very personal interest in the flag display, and he was the Congressman who suggested to Superintendent Thompson that the Marines be used to conduct a flag raising and lowering ceremony. Apparently, Wilson was disturbed by the lack of dignity in the hurried raising and lowering of the flags, and the fact that the flags were often not properly folded when they were lowered. In 1967, he stated: "These flags now are wadded into huge baskets after being lowered each evening and remain that way until they are raised the next morning. This is not the proper respect for a flag that thousands of Americans have given their lives to defend." Several years earlier, Wilson had complained that the flags were treated like "Mrs. O'Leary's wash." (23)

Having failed to interest the Marine Corps on his own, Wilson sought to have Congress require that "appropriate ceremonies" be conducted with the raising and lowering of the Monument flags. On five separate occasions--in 1960, 1961, 1963, 1965, and 1967--Wilson introduced resolutions in the House of Representatives which said "That the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall arrange for appropriate ceremonies to be conducted in connection with the daily raising and lowering of the flags of the United States surrounding the Washington Monument ..."(24) As to what he had in mind, Wilson himself visualized "a squad of soldiers, marines, sailors, or airmen smartly lowering the flags--accompanied by bugles and drums, perhaps with the playing of 'Taps.'" He added that many visitors to the Monument would "benefit from the feeling of national pride" which would accompany the raising and lowering of the flags. (25) (For the complete wording of Wilson's resolutions, see Appendix A.)

The 1960 and 1961 versions of Wilson's resolution included wording which would have required the use of armed forces personnel in the proposed ceremony. The United States Army, however, was not happy about a daily ceremony at the Washington Monument, and they officially opposed Wilson's resolution each time it was introduced. The Army stated that a "proper" flag ceremony at the Washington Monument would require 100 to men raise the 50 flags, while lowering them would require 200 men and a brass band. These large numbers were required since, to be a proper military ceremony, all 50 flags would have to be raised and lowered at the same time. Responding to the Army's concern's, the resolution's later versions left open the question of who would perform the ceremony. Wilson thought that Washington, D.C. area reserve units, veterans groups, or the like would gladly volunteer their services for such a ceremony. (26)

Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on one's point of view, Wilson's resolution was never passed by both houses of Congress. The 1960 and 1961 versions died in the House of Representative's Armed Services Committee, as did the 1967 version. The House passed Wilson's resolution twice, on July 15, 1963, and again on July 18, 1966. On both occasions, the resolution was then referred to the Senate's Armed Services Committee, where it died each time. (27) After five defeats, Wilson apparently gave up on the idea of requiring a flag raising and lowering ceremony at the Monument.

The issue of having a flag ceremony at the Monument lay dormant until early 1970. Sometime early that year, a Congressman--whose identity could not be determined--went by the Monument as the flags were being taken down for the day. Apparently, the flags were not being properly folded by Park Service personnel, but merely put into a cart. This upset the Congressman, who quickly brought pressure on the Park Service to establish a flag raising and lowering ceremony. The result of this pressure was a daily flag lowering ceremony conducted by the United States Park Police. (The flags continued to be run up in the morning by Park Service personnel without ceremony.) According to Mr. Irving Tubbs, a former Park Police officer who participated in the ceremony, a group of officers

would go to the Monument each evening and conduct a brief retreat ceremony. After the retreat, three to five flags were lowered at a time, and each was properly folded. This ceremony was conducted daily until July 4, 1971, when the flags were ordered flown 24 hours a day by President Nixon.(28)

Flags Ordered Flown 24 Hours a Day:

The issue of proper ceremonies for raising and lowering the Washington Monument flags became academic on July 4, 1971. Beginning that day, the flags were ordered flown 24 hours a day by Presidential Proclamation 4064. The Proclamation read:

The Washington Monument stands day and night as America's tribute to our first President. The fifty American flags that encircle the base of the Monument represent our fifty States and, at the same time, symbolize our enduring Federal Union.

As this Nation's 200th year approaches, I believe that it would do all Americans well to remember the years of our first President and to recall the enduring ideals of our Nation.

As an expression of our rededication to the ideals of America and in accordance with the joint resolution of Congress of June 22, 1942 ... which permits the flag to be displayed at night 'upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect,' it is appropriate that our national colors henceforth be displayed day and night at the Washington Monument.

This Proclamation was signed by then President Richard M. Nixon on July 6, 1971, and published in the Federal Register on the 10th. Since that Independence Day, July 4, 1971, the Washington Monument flags have flown around its base 24 hours a day.(29) (The complete Proclamation is included as Appendix B.)

From the available records it could not be determined who originally proposed that the flags be flown around the clock, nor could any other information on the background to the Proclamation be located. However, with this Proclamation, the Washington Monument joined a rather short list of places where the United States flag was flown 24 hours a day by Presidential or Congressional order at that time. Among the others places were the White House, the Marine Corps War Memorial (the Iwo Jima statue), Fort McHenry, and the Capitol. In addition, the flag flies all day and night over Francis Scott Key's birthplace in Keyville, Maryland, and over his at his grave in Frederick, Maryland.(30)

Proposals to Change the Flag Display:

While many residents and visitors to Washington, D.C. find the flag display around the Washington Monument one of the city's most inspiring sights, others have sought to alter the display. Most of these proposals have involved substituting the individual flags of each State for the United States flags. The daily flag display was not even one year old when members of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association began writing the National Park Service requesting that the individual State flags be flown on the new aluminum poles around the Monument's circular drive. In fact, a number of individuals and groups have written the Park Service or other government agencies to make sim-

ilar requests. However, none of these requests has proven successful.(31)

The nearest any of these requests came to succeeding was in 1982. Begun by Louisiana woman with the help of a local Washington lobbyist, the campaign gained the support of several ranking government officials, including Lyn Nofziger, a close advisor of President Ronald Reagan, and then Texas governor William Clements. At the direction of Secretary of the Interior James Watt, Interior Department and National Park Service officials met several times to consider the issue. A draft Presidential Proclamation was drawn up ordering the change to State flags in its words, to better reflect "the cultural, economic, geographic, political, and historical diversity" of the United States. In the end, however, the Interior Department's Solicitor put an end to this attempt by noting that while the President's legal authority over the national flag was clear, his authority to order the circumstances under which the flags of individual States could be flown was not.(32)

Three attempts have been made to alter the Monument's flag display by Congressional action. Senator Andrew F. Schoepel (R-Kansas) introduced a bill in 1959 to require that historic United States flags be flown around the Monument. Under this bill, for example, the first 13 States would have been represented by replicas of the original American flag. The poles for Vermont and Kentucky would have carried the 15-star and stripe flag, and so on until the pole for Alaska which would have flown the 49-star flag and the pole for Hawaii which would have carried the 50-star flag. Schoepel's bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee--where it died. The Park Service opposed this proposal due to the cost of keeping 39 different United States flags in stock, most of which would have to have been special ordered.(33)

The next attempt came in 1961 when Representative Julian Gary, a Democrat from Virginia, sought to have the individual State flags flown at the Monument. His resolution was introduced on May 9, 1961, but it never moved beyond the House Interior Committee. In March 1971, Senator Robert P. Griffin, a Michigan Republican introduced a similar resolution in the Senate in March 1971. The Senator argued that while the Lincoln Memorial's architecture included a tribute to the States of the Union, the Washington Monument did not. He felt the use of State flags at the Monument would be "a colorful and inspiring sight for all who visit the Nation's Capital." Despite eventually gaining over fourteen co-sponsors, this resolution died in the Senate Interior Committee.(34)

According to the official correspondence generated in response to these various proposals, the National Park Service has opposed altering the Monument's United States flag display for several reasons:

- 1) Park Service officials believe that the National colors should surround the Monument to George Washington, the nation's first President.
- 2) The Service feels that simplicity and uniformity of the current display matches the "plain lines" of the Monument, enhancing its dignity and aesthetic appearance.
- 3) Since 50 United States flags are flown, each State is represented. As stated in Proclamation 4064, the United States flags "represent our fifty States and, at the same time, symbolize our enduring Federal Union."
- 4) The flying characteristics of the State flags vary due to differences in size, shape, and even weight (some flags have different designs on each side and are thus heavier). So, in a light breeze, some State flags would stretch out, while others would remain limp. The Service feels that this would present an "odd appearance" around the Monument.
- 5) If the 50 State flags were flown from the Monument poles, America's overseas territories and the District of Columbia would be left out.

In addition, the Service has noted that the flags of the States and territories are already well represented in the city of Washington. They are currently displayed by Congressional mandate at Columbus Plaza in front of Union Station, and in the Kennedy Center's Hall of States. The State and territorial flags are also displayed at the Museum of American History, and at the Washington National Cathedral. (35)

Conclusion:

From the above, one can see that the display of a United States flag for each State of the Union around the base of the Washington Monument is a practice of long standing. The flags have been displayed yearly for Washington's Birthday since 1920--a period of over 70 years. With the installation of the aluminum flag poles in early 1958, the flags have flown on a daily basis around the Monument's circular driveway. With President Nixon's Proclamation of July 1971, the National colors have flown on a 24 hour-a-day basis at the Monument's base for over twenty years. The Monument's flag display has certainly become a well recognized part of the Washington, D.C. scene.

The flag display has been recognized as part of the Monument's historic fabric as well. Information on the flagpoles and the flag display was included in the forms completed for the Monument's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. (36) Whether or not one feels that the flag display is historic, the sight of the many flags flying in the breeze has become a well recognized part of the Washington Monument, and an inspiration to many of the city's residents and visitors. Untold millions of Americans, as well as millions of people from around the world, have seen the flags flapping in the wind, both in person and in untold thousands of media images. Given the certain popularity of the flag display, as well as its widespread recognition, future attempts to alter the display will likely be as unsuccessful as the earlier attempts outlined above.

The author would like to thank Mr. Terry Carlstrom, Mr. Norbert Erickson, Mr. John Parsons, Mr. Jerry Poole, Mr. Gary Scott, and Ms. Nancy Rae Young of the National Park Service--National Capital Region office, and Mr. John Williams of Mall Operations for their help in locating records and information for this report. Thanks also to Mr. Matthew Gilmore of the Martin Luther King Memorial Library's Washingtoniana Division for his help with the library's newspaper clipping files and the Star collection.

APPENDIX A

Representative Bob Wilson (R-California) introduced resolutions in Congress on five separate occasions to require a flag raising and lowering ceremony at the Washington Monument. All of these attempts to require a ceremony ultimately failed to become law.

The first two of these resolutions (H.J. Res 783, 2 July 1960; and H.J. Res 194, 2 February 1961) read as follows:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall arrange for appropriate ceremonies to be conducted in connection with the daily raising and lowering of the flags of the United States surrounding the Washington Monument in the District of Columbia, and shall assign contingents from the Armed Forces to conduct such ceremonies."

The third, fourth, and fifth versions of this resolution (H.J. Res 375, 4 April 1963; H.J. Res 421, 5 April 1965; and H.J. Res 343, 21 February 1967) all read as follows:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall arrange for appropriate ceremonies to be conducted in connection with the daily raising and lowering of the flags of the United States surrounding the Washington Monument in the District of Columbia.

The only difference in the later version of the Wilson resolution was that it dropped the specific requirement that members of the Armed Forces be used in the ceremony.

APPENDIX B

Transcript of Presidential Proclamation 4064:

Display of Flags at the Washington Monument

By the President of the United States

A Proclamation

The Washington Monument stands day and night as America's tribute to our first President. The fifty American flags that encircle the base of the Monument represent our fifty States and, at the same time, symbolize our enduring Federal Union.

As this Nation's 200th year approaches, I believe that it would do all Americans well to remember the years of our first President and to recall the enduring ideals of our Nation.

As an expression of our rededication to the ideals of America and in accordance with the joint resolution of Congress of June 22, 1942 (56 Stat. 377), as amended by the joint resolution of December 22, 1942, (56 Stat. 1074), which permits the flag to be displayed at night "upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect." it is appropriate that our national colors henceforth be displayed day and night at the Washington Monument.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that, effective July 4, 1971, the fifty flags of the United States displayed at the Washington Monument in the District of Columbia be flown at all times during the day and night, except when the weather is inclement.

The rules and customs pertaining to the display of the flag as set forth in the joint resolution of June 22, 1942, as amended, are hereby modified accordingly.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-sixth.

(signed) Richard Nixon

NOTES ON SOURCES

The information for this report was gathered from a variety of sources:

Official National Park Service documents, memos, letters, and annual reports were of great help. These documents were obtained from the Federal Records Center, and are contained in Accession 64A-42, Boxes 07, 27, and 32. The notes below refer to this source as "FRC 64A-42" and the Box number the record is in.

Records and drawings in the National Park Service--National Capital Region's Land Use Coordination Office were also of help. This office maintains a file on flags and flagpoles in the National Capital Parks.

Other Park Service Records were located in the Washington Monument files in the Cultural Resources Office of National Capital Parks--Central. There are three files: a general Washington Monument file, a Washington Monument Flag file, and a Washington Monument Photograph file. The notes below refer to these sources as "NACC C/R WAMO file," "NACC C/R WAMO Flag file," or "NACC C/R WAMO Photo file."

The Congressional Record was most helpful in locating information on the various resolutions introduced in Congress to require a formal flag raising and lowering ceremony, or to change the flag display.

Washington, D.C. newspapers were also of great use in tracking down the date that the flags first flew, and for documenting other information as well. Most of the articles referred to below were photocopied, and filed in the WAMO Flag file. There are several scrapbooks of newspaper clippings located at Mall Operations in Survey Lodge as well.

Several other sources were used, and are noted individually in the notes below.

Most of the documents, records, and newspaper stories referred to below were photocopied. The copies are in either the National Capital Parks--Central Washington Monument file, or the Washington Monument Flag file.

ENDNOTES

Abbreviations:

FRC: Federal Records Center
NACC C/R: National Capital Parks--Central, Cultural Resources
NCP: National Capital Parks
NPS: National Park Service
Post: The Washington Post (newspaper)
Star: The Evening Star (newspaper)
WAMO: The Washington Monument

- 1) "Unusual Tributes Paid Washington," Star, 23 Feb. 1920, p 1. "Mount Vernon Is Mecca," Post, 24 Feb 1920, p 8. These stories make clear that the flags were displayed for the "first time."
- 2) For example, see "48 Flags Encircle Washington Shaft," Star, 22 Feb 1922, p 1; "Washington Fete in Four Programs," ibid, 21 Feb 1923, p 19; News photo showing WAMO flags, ibid, 23 Feb 1923, p 17; News photos and caption, ibid, 22 Feb 1927; "Floral Offerings Laid At Monument," ibid, 20 Feb 1932; and News photo, Post, 21 Feb 1928; "Washington's Birthday: Monument Anniversary and Brotherhood Week," ibid, 18 Feb 1945, p 6-B; and "Monument Is Ringed With 48 Banners for Washington Tribute," Washington Daily News, 22 Feb 1937.

In addition see the Annual Report of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks for the following years: 1927, p 37; 1932, p 46; 1933, p 113. and 1947, p 112.

- 3) See Newspaper story and photo, Star, 23 Feb 1924, p 1, 12. Frederick L. Harvey, the 1923 Keynote speaker caught a bad cold during the Washington Monument ceremony, and he died a few days later. The 1923 ceremony was also the first to be broadcast. For 1929, see the Annual Report, 1929, p 42.
- 4) See "Capital Planning Many Fetes for Independence Day," Star, 3 July 1932, p 1; "U.S. In War Peril Arlington Throng Told by Clark," ibid, 3 July 1935, p 1; and News photo, ibid, 5 July 1940, p 19. Also see Letter, Demaray to Smythe, 25 June 1942, FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1430--WAMO General #3.
- 5) WAMO Monthly Report, July 1941, FRC 64A-42, Box 32, File 1430--WAMO General #3. News photo, Star, 5 July 1944. News photo showing President Truman near WAMO, ibid, 5 July 1948. Annual Report, 1947, p 1, NACC C/R WAMO file.
- 6) News photo showing 10,000 WAVES near WAMO, NACC C/R WAMO Flags file. Quote from Letter, Gartside to Strassberg, 20 Jan 1956, ibid. NPS photo of Catholic Church ceremony, 24 Oct 1954, NACC C/R WAMO Photo file.
- 7) For example, the following photos show the base of the Washington Monument without flags and flagpoles: News photo, Star, 26 Feb 1928; News photo ibid, 12 June 1933; News photo, ibid, 14 Sept 1957. News photo, Washing-

ton Daily News, 12 May 1930; News photo, ibid, 27 Jan 1938; and photo, National Geographic, Nov 1932. In addition, NPS photos dated August and September 1940 clearly show no flags or flag poles around the Monument, NACC C/R WAMO Photo file.

The temporary nature of the flag display and the removal of the wooden poles is documented in "Washington Monument Improvements Planned," Star, 23 Feb 1956; Annual Report, 1957, p 3; NACC C/R WAMO file; and Memorandum, Tolson to Chief, Branch of Incentive Awards, 26 Nov 1958, FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles.

- 8) Memorandum, Tolson to Chief, Branch of Incentive Awards, 26 Nov 1958, FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles.
- 9) See Annual Report to the Washington National Monument Society, 1955, p 2, FRC, 64A-42, Box 32, File 1430--Washington Monument General, #4; and ibid, 1956, p 1.
- 10) The NPS sent a letter to 20 metal pole manufacturers inquiring if they made a flag pole which would fit the project's requirements. For example, see Letter, Thompson to J.D. Lang/Union Metal Manufacturing Co., 12 Feb 1957, FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles. A list of companies that letters were sent to is in the same file.
- 11) The Flag pole project was Contract Number 14-10-028-1302, and covered by Purchase Order Number 28-2216. See Memorandum to Unger, 28 May 1957; Memorandum from Haussmann, 23 July 1957; and Letter, Unger to American Flagpole Equipment Co., 25 July 1957. Also see Letter, American Flagpole Equipment Co. to Unger, 12 Aug 1957; and Letter NPS to Potomac Electric Power Co., 2 August 1957. All contained in FRC 64A-42, Box 32, File 1430--WAMO Construction and Repair.
- 12) See Letter, Thompson to Lang, 12 Feb 1957, FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270, Flags and Flagpoles. Also see Blueprints/Drawings Numbers NCP 44-279-1, NCP 44-279-2, and NCP 44-279-3, located in National Capital Region, Land Use Coordination Office Blueprint and Drawing file. The approved circular design is Drawing NCP 44-279-3, and was approved on 23 July 1957.
- 13) Letter, Unger to American Flagpole Equipment Co., 25 July 1957; and Letter, Horne to American Flagpole, 21 Jan 1958. Both in FRC 64A-42, Box 32, File 1430--WAMO Construction and Repair. The new poles can be seen in a news photo taken on the evening of February 22, 1958; see Star, 23 Feb 1958. Cost figure from the Annual Report for the Washington National Monument, 1957, p 3, NACC C/R WAMO Flag file.
- 14) Memorandum, Tolson to Chief, Branch of Incentive Awards, 26 Nov 1958, FRC, 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles.
- 15) Memorandum from Haussmann, 23 July 1957, in FRC 64A-42, Box 32, File 1430, WAMO Construction and Repair.
- 16) See Memorandum, Chief of Parkways (Bayliss) to Chief Landscape Architect, 9 May 1957; Memorandum, Superintendent National Capital Parks to Chief Landscape Architect, 23 Aug 1957; Letter, Crosby to Sec. of Interior,

3 Oct 1957; Letter, Aandahl to Crosby, 24 Oct 1957; Memorandum, Tolson to Chief, Branch of Incentive Awards, 26 Nov 1958; and Memorandum, Jett to Wilkinson, 7 Jan 1958. All in FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles.

- 17) The clearest statement that the flags first flew daily on Washington's Birthday, 1958 is in a newspaper story from July 1959. See "Historical Flags Urged for Display at Monument," Star, 31 July 1959. It states, "The circle of 6 by 9 foot nylon United States flags has flown each day around the Monument since Washington's Birthday, 1958."

Also see: NPS Photo, 13 April 1958, NACC C/R WAMO Photo file; News photo, Post, 28 Sept 1958; Memorandum from Jett and Notes prepared for Thompson NBC Radio interview, 10 Feb 1959, FRC 64A-42, Box 32, File 1430, WAMO General #4; Letter, Thompson to Gen. Pate, FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles; "The Washington Monument," The Star Sunday Magazine, 2 June 1963; and "It Takes Plenty of Man-Hours to Make Old Glory Wave," Star, 4 Sept 1963. In addition, see the remarks by Rep. Bob Wilson in The Congressional Record, Vol 106, p 15823-24; Vol 109, p 5827; and Vol 113, p 4158-59.

- 18) Park Service files contain several letters both praising and objecting to to flag display. For example, see Darling to NCP/NPS, 25 Sept 1958; and Carlson to Fine Arts Commission, 21 Jan 1959; both in FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles. The objections of the Fine Arts Commission is outlined in the "Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, 18 March 1959," and their letter to the NPS Director, Conrad Wirth, 19 March 1959. See copy in NACC C/R WAMO Flag file.

- 19) See "50-Star Flag Flies First Time Tomorrow," Star, 3 July 1960; and The 1992 Information Please Almanac (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1991), p. 630, 740, 745.

- 20) See Memorandum from Jett and Notes prepared for Thompson NBC Radio interview, 10 Feb 1959, FRC 64A-42, Box 32, File 1430--WAMO General #4; Letter, Thompson to Gen. Pate, FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles. "50-Star Flag Flies First Time Tomorrow," Star, 3 July 1960; and news photo, NACC C/R WAMO Flag file.

There were occasions when the flags were not displayed, however. It seems likely that the flags did not fly on Christmas Day and New Years Day when the Monument was closed to the public. Also, the flags were taken down on November 15, 1969 during the National Moratorium Day anti-war protest held on the Monument grounds. Apparently, the Park Service felt the flags might become a target for the protestors or vandals. Congressman John O. Marsh (D-Va) objected to the failure to display the flags, however, and accused the Park Service of "striking the colors." He added that the flag's absence was noted in the media. See his remarks in The Congressional Record, Vol 115, p 35246.

- 21) Letter, Thompson to Gen. Pate, 28 May 1959; and Letter, Gen. Pate to Thompson, 22 June 1959; both in FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles. The Marines were, however, willing to participate in

ceremonies on holidays and other special occasions, according to Gen. Pate's letter.

- 22) See Letter, Thompson to Gen. Pate, 28 May 1959, FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles; "The Washington Monument," The Star Sunday Magazine, 2 June 1963; and "It Takes Plenty of Man-Hours to Make Old Glory Wave," Star, 4 Sept 1963.

It does appear, however, that a ceremony was held on occasion. On Washington's Birthday and the 4th of July the flags probably received more elaborate treatment. Also, Scout troops, occasionally raised and/or lowered the flags. For example, see "50 Cubs to Raise Monument Flags," Star, 17 Nov 1961.

- 23) Letter, Thompson to Gen. Pate, 28 May 1959, FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270, Flags and Flagpoles. Quotes from The Congressional Record, Vol 109, p 5827; and ibid, Vol 113, p 4158.

- 24) Quote from The Congressional Record, Vol 106, p 15824. Also see the references below:

Summary of Wilson Resolution attempts:

- 1) Introduced 2 July 1960 as H.J. Res 783, 86th Congress. Assigned to Armed Forces Committee. Died in Committee. Ibid, Vol 106, p 15823, 15824, 15850.
 - 2) Introduced 2 Feb 1961 as H.J. Res 194, 87th Congress. Assigned to Armed Forces Committee. Died in Committee. Ibid, Vol 107, p 1706.
 - 3) Introduced 4 April 1963 as H.J. Res 375, 88th Congress. Assigned to Armed Forces Committee, reported favorably in House Report 500, passed the Committee, and PASSED HOUSE ON 15 JULY 1963. Referred to Senate Armed Services Committee, died in that Committee. Ibid, Vol 109, p 5826-27, 5833, 12319, 12489.
 - 4) Introduced 5 April 1965 as H.J. Res 421, 89th Congress. Assigned to Armed Forces Committee, reported favorably, passed the Committee, and PASSED HOUSE ON 18 JULY 1966. Referred to Senate Armed Services Committee, died in that Committee. Ibid, Vol 111, p 6915. Vol 112, p 15065, 15900, 16108.
 - 5) Introduced 21 Feb 1967 as H.J. Res 343, 90th Congress. Assigned to Armed Services Committee, died in Committee. Ibid, Vol 113, p 4158-4159.
- 25) Ibid, Vol 106, p 15824. Wilson made similar comments each time he introduced his resolution, and he also often noted that the Interior Department crews assigned to the task of raising and lowering the flags handled it as a chore and not a ceremony. See Ibid, Vol 113, p 4158.
- 26) For example, see "Flag Raising Bill Hoists Army's Ire," Post, 23 June 1963; "Army Dander Goes Up With Flag-Raising Bill," Star, 15 July 1963; and "Flag Rites at Monument Approved, Army Objects," Post, 9 July 1966. Wilson's comments in The Congressional Record, Vol 113, p 4158.

- 27) See Note #23.

- 28) Telephone interview with Mr. Irving Tubbs. A memorandum on the interview is in the NACC C/R WAMO Flag file.
- 29) Presidential Proclamation 4065, published in the Federal Register, Vol 36, No. 133, 10 July 1971. Transcript of Proclamation attached to this report.
- 30) See "Monument's Flags to Fly Round Clock," Post, 9 July 1971.
- 31) A number of letters from members of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association are contained in FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles. The standard NPS/NCP response can be seen in Jett to Steward, 5 Dec 1958, ibid. Other examples of letters on the subject are William to Vice President Humphrey, 15 Nov 1967; Guirard to Watt, 20 May 1982; and Clements to Watt, 10 June 1982; all in NACC C/R WAMO Flag file.
- 32) See Letter, Guirard to Watt, 20 May 1982; Watt to Guirard, 3 June 1982; Letter, Clements to Watt, 10 June 1982; Memorandum, Hutchinson to Watt, 30 June 1982; Draft of Presidential Proclamation, undated; Briefing Statement on State Flags at WAMO, 21 June 1982; and Memorandum by Sturgill for the file. All in NACC C/R WAMO Flag file.
- 33) Bill S.2465, introduced on 30 July 1959; see The Congressional Record, Vol 105, p 14665, 14668. Letter, NPS to Schoeppel, 1 Sept 1959, FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270--Flags and Flagpoles. "Historical Flags Urged For Display At Monument," Star, 31 July 1959.
- 34) H.R. 6916, 9 May 1961 and Rep. Gary remarks in The Congressional Record, Vol 107, p 7688. Griffin resolution introduced as S.J. Res 62. His remarks in ibid, Vol 117, p 4802. Co-sponsors listed throughout the same volume, see index for references.
- 35) See Letter, Jett to Steward, 5 Dec 1958, FRC 64A-42, Box 27, File 1270, Flags and Flagpoles. Letter, Baker to Humphrey, 15 Dec 1967; Briefing Statement on State Flags at WAMO, 21 June 1982; and Letter, Watt to Clements, 30 Aug 1982; all in NACC C/R WAMO Flag file. Also see Proclamation 4064, Federal Register, Vol 36, No 133, 10 July 1971.
- 36) See National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, The Washington Monument, Washington, D.C. The Monument was placed on the National Register on 15 Oct 1966. It is interesting to note that the Nomination Form contains incorrect information regarding the flags and flagpoles--dating their original to 1937, and the daily flag display to 1959 rather than 1958.