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Communication: Memorials: An Exhibit for the Communication Technology behind a range of Memorials

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Communication: Memorials

An exhibit for the communication technology behind a range of memorials.

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Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

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Exhibition Information

Communication:
Memorials

This exhibit highlights various memorials around the world. Some are in remembrance of tragic events, some heroic, while others represent significant events in history.

The goal is to explore the different types of communication technologies employed in these exhibits, to show that different technologies may be used to communicate similar ideas.

Because this exhibit highlights not the events being memorialized, but the memorials themselves, the exhibit is presented in order of the erection or dedication of each memorial.

The Lion's Mound Battle of Waterloo 1815

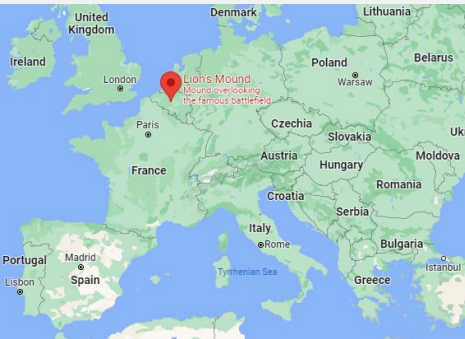
Built: 1823

Location: Waterloo, Belgium

Memorialized events: 1815

This lion sits atop a 133-foot (40.5 meter) mound at the site of the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. The soil of the hill was removed from the battlefield itself. Made of cast iron, the lion symbolizes the victory of the allied armies defying France. One of the lion's paws is laid on a globe, which symbolizes the restoration of peace after the victory of the Battle of Waterloo.

This original memorial communicates the sacrifice of the soldiers and the victory of their fight without the use of written words. Today, there is a museum and a panoramic painting on-site that visitors can view to learn more information about the battle. In the museum, there is now audio, video, and text communication.



Information: (*The Lion's Mound* | Waterloo Tourisme, n.d.)
Image: (Butte-lion-sd, n.d.)



Arlington Memorial Bridge

Built: 1931, **Dedicated:** 1932

Location: Washington, D.C., United States

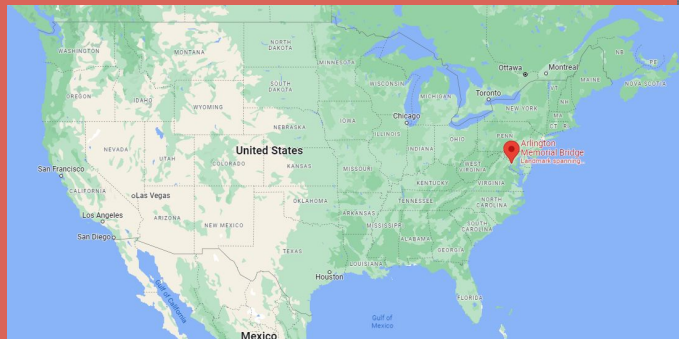
Memorialized events: 1851

This bridge spans across the Potomac River between Washington, D.C., and Virginia, United States.

As a bridge alone, it communicates nothing. Dedicated as a memorial, however, it symbolizes the strength of a nation by joining memorials on each side of the river. This bridge communicates without the use of words, using granite facing, sculptures of eagles and vases, and carvings of bison, poppies, and oak leaves.

Information: (*More Than a Bridge*, n.d.)

Image: (National Park Service, n.d.)



Aneyoshi Tsunami Stone

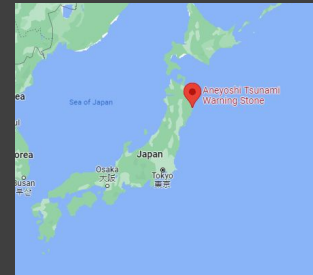
Built: 1933

Location: Aneyoshi, Japan

Memorialized events: 1896 & 1933

Erected and carved into stone by the survivors of the 1933 tsunami in Aneyoshi, it reads: “High dwellings are the peace and harmony of our descendants. Remember the calamity of the great tsunamis. Do not build any homes below this point.”

This serves as both a memorial for those lost, and a warning to future residents. Building their homes below the site of this stone is dangerous in the event of a tsunami.





Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial

Communication:
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Dedicated: July 2, 1947

Location: Oświęcim, & Brzezinka, Poland

Memorialized events: June 1940 - January 1945

Information: (*History of the Memorial*, n.d.)

Image: (*File_000*, n.d.)



Commonly regarded as a worldwide symbol of terror and genocide, the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial is the preservation of a Nazi concentration camp where Polish and Jewish prisoners were detained and exterminated. Called the “final solution of the Jewish question,” Auschwitz served as the the largest extermination center of the Jewish population between 1942-1944, where over 1.1 million jewish people were killed in gas chambers.

Dedicated as a memorial only two years after the liberation of the Jews, the Auschwitz-Birkenau museum conveys the solemn history of the location through the preservation of its buildings and artifacts found on-site. The site is open to visitors, to remember those who suffered and died, and to condemn the actions of Nazi Germany. The buildings now include museums with audio, video, and text descriptions.

Silver Memorial Bridge

Built: 1969

Location: Point Pleasant, West Virginia, US

Memorialized event: December 27, 1967

The Silver Memorial Bridge is the replacement for the Silver Bridge, originally built in 1928, which collapsed in 1967 due to old age and the increased weight of modern cars during rush hour. The collapse killed 46 people and injured nine more.

The new Silver Memorial Bridge was built a mile south of the old bridge site, across the Ohio river. At the site of the old bridge, a bronze plaque and bricks with the names of those killed was erected. Both the plaque and bridge serve as a memorial together, as a reminder of those lost, while still maintaining the functionality of a bridge – connecting Point Pleasant, West Virginia, to Kanauga, Ohio.



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Information: (Silver Bridge Disaster Memorial, n.d.)
Bridge Image: (Stewart, 2008)
Plaque Image: (WVPOImothman09, n.d.)



Vietnam Veterans Memorial

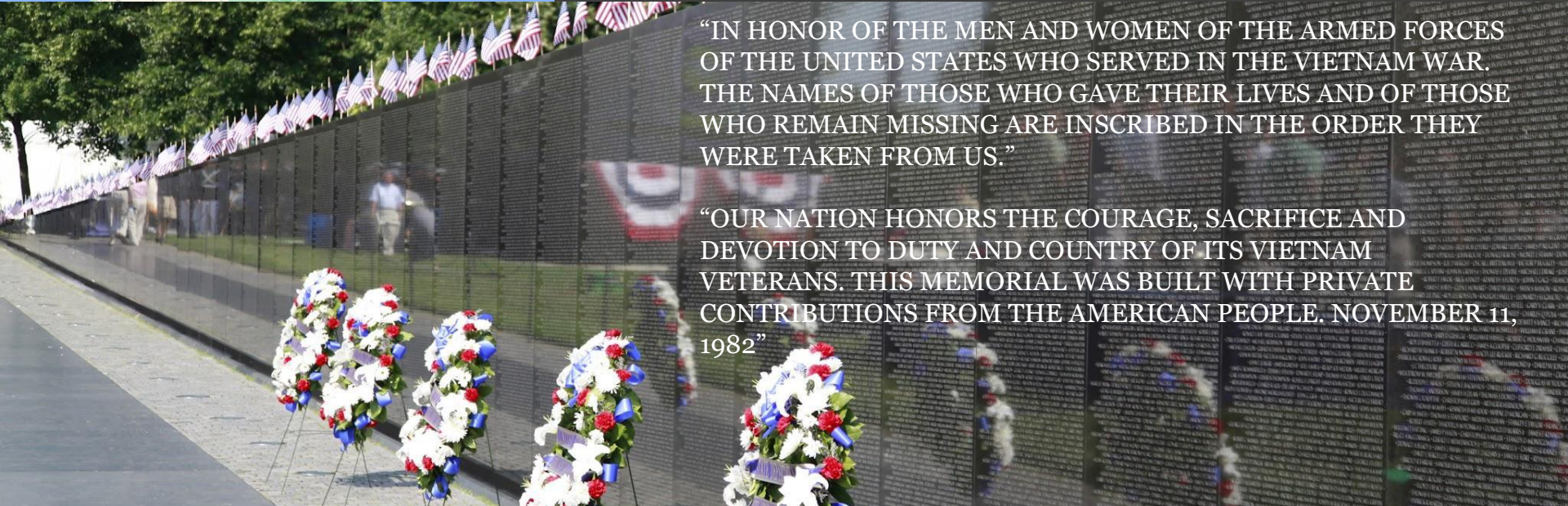
Communication:
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Dedicated: November 11, 1982

Location: Washington, D.C., United States

Memorialized events: November 1955 - April 1975

Information: (Lange, 2022) & (Sturken, 1991)
Image: (DeYoung, n.d.)



“IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR. THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES AND OF THOSE WHO REMAIN MISSING ARE INSCRIBED IN THE ORDER THEY WERE TAKEN FROM US.”

“OUR NATION HONORS THE COURAGE, SACRIFICE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY AND COUNTRY OF ITS VIETNAM VETERANS. THIS MEMORIAL WAS BUILT WITH PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. NOVEMBER 11, 1982”

The Vietnam War was a 20-year conflict between North and South Vietnam, which the United States' military took part in for 10 years. Over that decade, 58,220 Americans lost their lives. Many Americans were angry about the war, and the surviving Vietnam veterans faced an unwelcoming return. In an effort to change the view of the war and to honor the sacrifices of the Vietnam veterans, a 500-foot long black granite wall, in the shape of a V, tapering down from the center, was built and inscribed with 58,132 names of men and women

who died in the war. While the inscriptions list the names of those who perished, the only other inscriptions are above. The remainder of the memorial is symbolic. The black granite shows the reflection of the visitor, making them a participant. The vast number of the names conveys how overwhelming the casualties were. The order in which they are listed (starting from the center to the right, then continuing from the left to the center) is intended to form a circle (beginning and ending of a war). The memorial is, in summary, communicating the loss and thanks to those who served.

Oklahoma City National Memorial

Dedicated: April 19, 2000

Location: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma., United States

Memorialized event: April 19, 1995

On April 19, 1995, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on N.W. Fifth Street in Downtown Oklahoma City was bombed. The building included multiple offices and a child care center. 168 people were killed, including 19 children, and 800 were injured. The bomb damaged over 300 buildings in a 48 square-block area.

Information: (*The Memorial*, n.d.-b)
Image: (07_ON_19-OCN-003_Memorial-Showpiece_RV2, n.d.)

Five years later, on the site of the bombing, a memorial was opened with a multitude of symbolic features: ♦ The reflecting pool, occupying what was once N.W. Fifth Street, reflects the image of the visitor, who has been changed forever by their visit. ♦ The field of 168 chairs, each representing someone killed, in nine rows representing nine floors of the building, and 19 smaller chairs for the children. ♦ The survivor wall, the only remaining wall of the original building, with granite salvaged from the building, inscribed with over 600 survivors' names. ♦ The survivor tree, which survived the bombing and remains alive today, as a symbol of resilience. This memorial uses a multitude of materials and functionality to communicate remembrance. A museum has also been added, including videos, audio, and text descriptions. For more examples of communication through symbolism in this memorial, visit <https://memorialmuseum.com/experience/the-memorial/>.

Alamogordo Airborne Monument



Built: 2004

Location: Alamogordo, NM, United States

Memorialized event: Varies

This monument recognizes a list of people who earned their U.S. Army Airborne Wings. As is inscribed at the monument, “they volunteered out of a neighborhood that measures approximately one quarter of a square mile in area. This is believed to be the nation’s largest per capita concentration of paratroopers to issue from such a small and sparsely populated community.”

The monument consists of the main granite plaque inscribed with those from this neighborhood, a bronze plaque with a list of names of veterans from the area, various paintings, and a large brick plaza laid out in the shape of a parachute.

This monument communicates the gratitude of the community for their service. The monument may also be bragging.

Information: (Leandra, 2021)

Entrance Image: (Alamogordo-Airborne-Memorial-7, n.d.)

Memorial Image: (Alamogordo-Airborne-Memorial-2, n.d.)

Columbine Memorial

Built: 2007

Location: Littleton, Colorado, United States

Memorialized events: April 20, 1999

Near the end of a school year, a pair of students shot and killed 12 students and one teacher at Columbine High School, and then committed suicide. At the time, it was the deadliest school shooting in American history.

At a nearby park, a memorial was built to remember the events of that day. It includes a ring of remembrance with text reflections engraved in stone, and a wall of healing to recognize the injured and those who helped recover, filled with stones engraved with quotes from the community. This memorial communicates remembrance and a sense of community.



Information: (Design | Columbine Memorial, n.d.)
Image: (Johnson, n.d.)



Courtesy

New Orleans Katrina Memorial

Built: 2008

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana, United States

Memorialized event: August 29, 2005

This memorial plaque of black granite was erected in memorial of the Hurricane Katrina disaster of 2005. The memorial acts as a place of reflection and remembrance, and as a burial site for the unidentified and unclaimed victims killed by the disaster. The stone is surrounded by pathways in the shape of a hurricane. The inscription calls for constant preparedness, similar to the purpose of the tsunami stone of Aneyoshi, Japan.



Information: (Fisher, 2015)

Image: (*The New Orleans Katrina Memorial (Side 1)*, 2015)

THE NEW ORLEANS KATRINA MEMORIAL

Communication:
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ON AUGUST 29, 2005, HURRICANE KATRINA MADE LANDFALL UPON THE LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST, BRINGING DEVASTATION TO MANY COMMUNITIES. IN NEW ORLEANS, STORM SURGE AND THE FAILURE OF THE LEVEE SYSTEM CAUSED FLOODING IN OVER EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE CITY, TRAPPING THOUSANDS. IN THE CHAOTIC AFTERMATH, NEW ORLEANIANS FACED DESPERATE CIRCUMSTANCES IN HOMES, HOSPITALS, THE SUPERDOME AND OTHER MAKESHIFT SHELTERS. DESPITE THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF FIRST RESPONDERS, MEDICAL PERSONNEL, VOLUNTEERS AND THE MILITARY, OVER 1,100 CITIZENS LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE DISASTER.

MOST OF THE DECEASED WERE IDENTIFIED AND BURIED BY LOVED ONES IN PRIVATE CEREMONIES THROUGHOUT THE NATION. HERE LIE THE REMAINING, THE UNCLAIMED AND UNIDENTIFIED VICTIMS OF THE STORM FROM THE NEW ORLEANS AREA. SOME HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN, SOME REMAIN UNKNOWN.

THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED TO THESE INDIVIDUALS AND TO ALL WHO SUFFERED OR DIED DURING HURRICANE KATRINA. LET THE VICTIMS HERE FOREVER REMIND US OF THOSE HARROWING DAYS AND THE LONG STRUGGLE TO REBUILD OUR CITY. LET THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACE CALL US TO CONSTANT PREPAREDNESS. LET THEIR SOULS JOIN INTO AN ETERNAL CHORUS, SINGING WITH THE FULL MIGHT OF THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF NEW ORLEANS.

JEFFREY ROUSE, M.D., CHIEF DEPUTY CORONER
AUGUST 29, 2009



National September 11 Memorial

Communication:
Memorials

Dedicated: September 11, 2011

Location: New York, New York, United States

Memorialized events: September 11, 2001

Information: (*The Memorial*, n.d.-b)
Image: (Lee, n.d.)



The deadliest terrorist attack in American history, two airplanes were flown into the twin World Trade Center towers, causing the collapse of both towers and the death of 2,977 people, and the injury of countless more. The impact of this event was seen all around the world and reformed the security of the Nation. Ten years later, at the site of the World Trade Center attack, a 16-acre memorial was opened to the public in remembrance of these harrowing events.

The most substantial parts of the memorial are two pools, nearly an acre each, 30 feet deep, with a fully-encompassed perimeter waterfall, sitting in the footprint of each fallen tower. The pools, communicating the absence of the towers and victims, are surrounded by the name of those killed by the events of 9/11/2001. The pools are in a large plaza, complete with one *survivor tree*, a *memorial glade*, and a museum, which contains audio, video, and text inscriptions.

Reflection



A *text* is anything that “comprises signs, symbols, or sounds of any kind that intentionally convey meaning.” (Treharne & Willan, 2019)

This exhibit captured methods of communication (*text*) used by memorials in a non-traditional sense. It showed how communication can be traditional, through the use of words, sounds, and pictures. It also showed how memorials use of objects, such as bridges, trees, chairs, or walls can communicate meaningful messages, without the use of words, through symbolism.

Memorials, then, are examples of the most creative forms of *text*.

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