

REPRESENTATIONS OF AMERICA'S GODLY HERITAGE IN NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND OTHER

Washington Monument

From:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Monument

<http://thenarrowpassage.com/2011/06/29/%E2%80%99Claus-deo%E2%80%99D/>

<http://usparks.about.com/cs/natlparkbasics/a/washingtonmon.htm>

http://living-in-washingtondc.com/washingtonmonument_10.php

Location: National Mall in Washington D.C.

Date Built: 1848-1884 (delayed due to Civil War and funding problems)

Purpose: Commemorate George Washington

Height: 555 feet, 5.125 inches

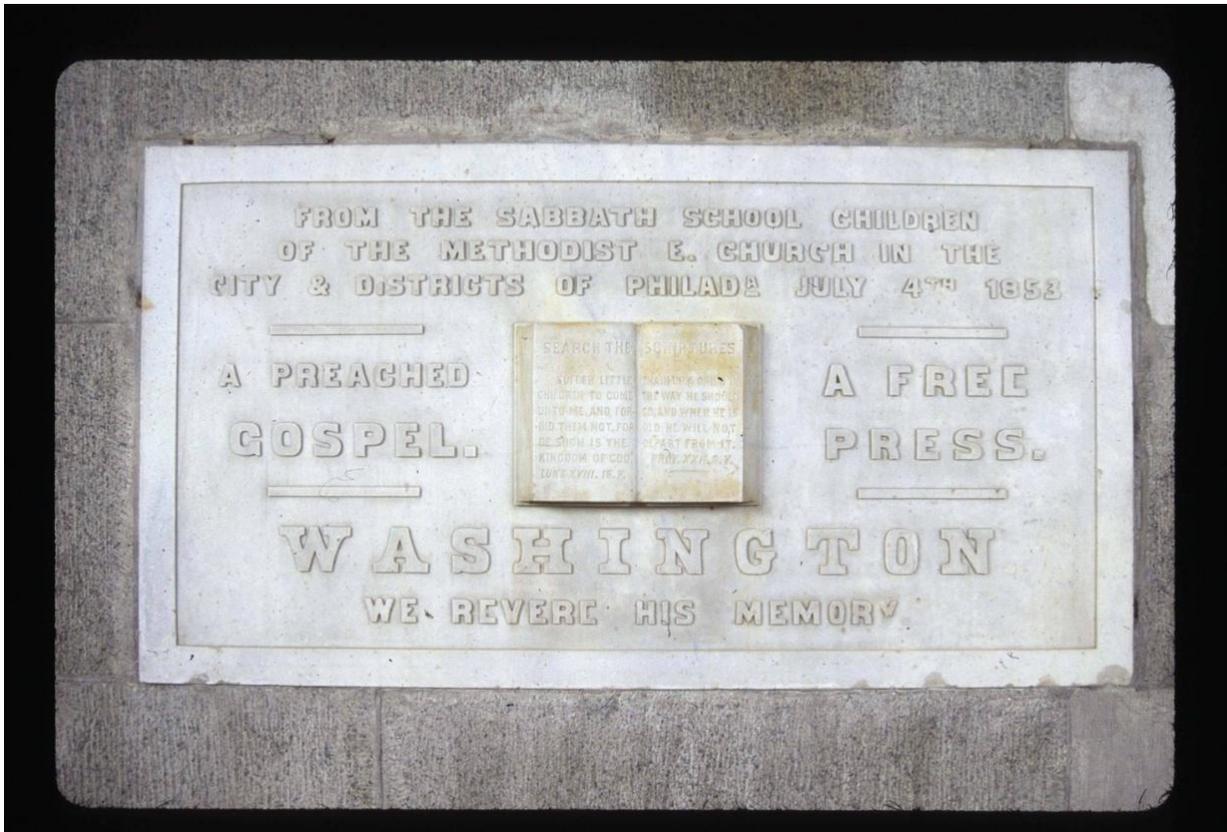
On the east face of the Washington Monument's aluminum capstone is the inscription "Laus Deo" which means "praise be to God" in Latin.



Inspection of the Capstone on the Washington Monument

Inside the Washington Monument are 193 commemorative stones, donated by various governments and organizations. You can see each of the stones here (some are very interesting):

<http://www.nps.gov/wamo/photosmultimedia/Washington-Monument-Stones.htm>



**Stone Presented by Sabbath School Children, Methodist E. Church
(Includes Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6)**

There are many other stones that have Bible verses and references God. In addition, the cornerstone of the Washington Monument **holds a Bible** and some other things.

Per wiki answers:

[http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What are the contents of the cornerstone of the Washington monument](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_are_the_contents_of_the_cornerstone_of_the_Washington_monument)

“According to experts at the National Park Service the cornerstone contains a bible. There are two references supporting this. One reference was from the National Archives, Record Group 42, which covers Washington Monument history, and the other was from research material he found at the U.S. Library of Congress.”

It is also interesting to note that no building in Washington, D.C. is taller than the Washington Monument.

National Monument to the Forefathers

From:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Monument_to_the_Forefathers

<http://chaplainjim.blogspot.com/>

Location: Plymouth, Massachusetts

Date Built: Dedicated August 1, 1889

Purpose: Commemorate Mayflower Pilgrims

Height: 81 feet

It is thought to be the world's largest solid granite monument, and is the third-tallest statue in the United States.

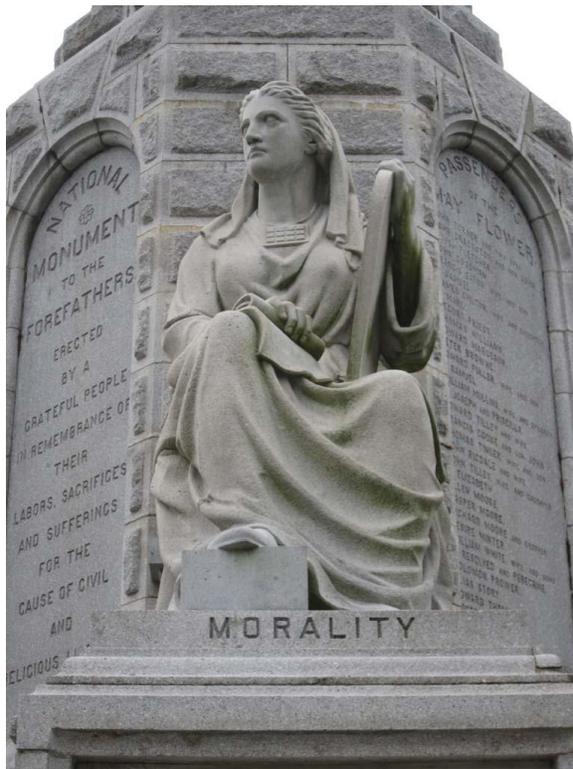
This monument is discussed in the movie "Monumental" by Kirk Cameron.



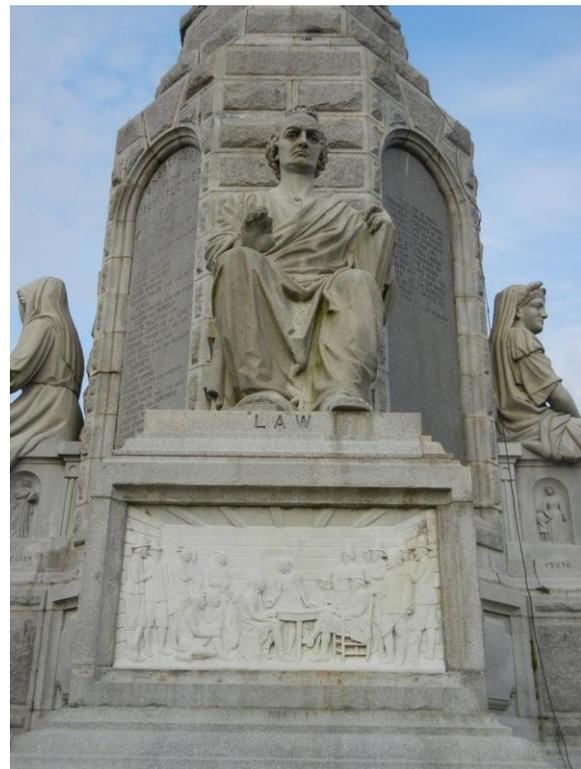
National Monument to the Forefathers

The main figure at the top is called "Faith" (inscribed under the figure). One hand holds a Bible and the other is pointing up to God (or heaven). On her forehead is a star that is said to represent wisdom.

Around the figure "Faith" is four other sitting figures. These figures represent the principles upon which the Pilgrims founded their Commonwealth, each having a symbol referring to the Bible that "Faith" possesses. Counter-clockwise from the east are "Liberty", "Morality", "Law" and "Education". Each was carved from a solid block of granite, posed in the sitting position upon chairs with a high relief on either side of minor characteristics.

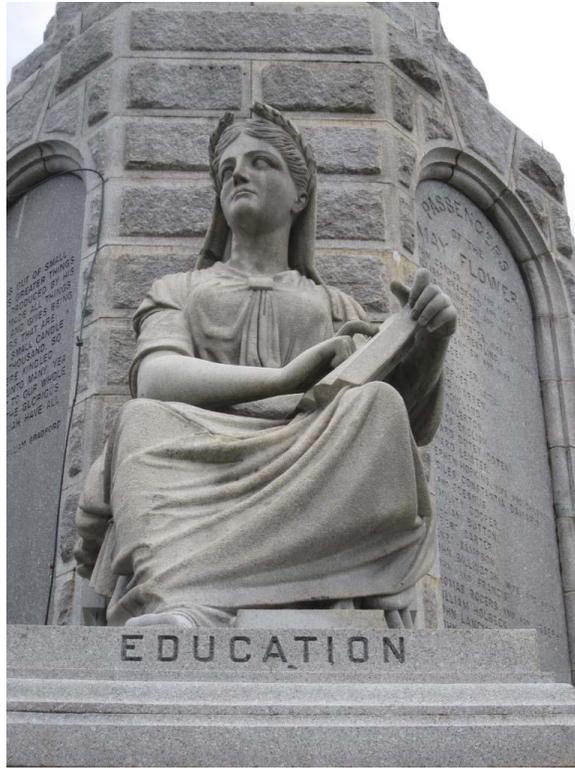


The Figure "Morality"



The Figure "Law"

"Morality" holds the Ten Commandments in her left hand.



The Figure "Education"



Ten Commandments in Hands of "Morality"

Under "Liberty" stand "Tyranny Overthrown" and "Peace;" under "Morality" stand "**Prophet**" and "**Evangelist**;" under "Law" stand "Justice" and "Mercy;" and under "Education" are "Youth" and "Wisdom."

The small figure "Wisdom" is pictured with the Ten Commandments and Bible.



Figure "Wisdom" With Hand Pointing to Bible and Ten Commandments



Bible and Ten Commandments at "Wisdoms" Feet



The “Evangelist” Writing (Beneath “Morality”)

On the face of the buttresses, beneath these figures are high reliefs in marble, representing scenes from Pilgrim history. Under "Freedom" is "Landing;" under "Morality" is "Embarcation;" under "Law" is "Treaty;" and under "Education" is "Compact."

Upon the four faces of the main pedestal are large panels for records. The front panel is inscribed as follows: *"National Monument to the Forefathers. Erected by a grateful people in remembrance of their labors, sacrifices and sufferings for the cause of civil and religious liberty."* The right and left panels contain the names of those who came over in the *Mayflower*. The rear panel, which was not engraved until recently, contains a quote from Governor William Bradford's famous history, *Of Plymouth Plantation*:

"Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand that made all things of nothing and gives being to all things that are; and as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many, yea in some sort to our whole nation; let the glorious name of Jehovah have all praise."

Unfortunately, this is not a federal National Monument. In addition, the monument has been neglected and largely forgotten.

U.S. Supreme Court Building

From:

http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/Believer's%20Corner/honorable_judge_moore.htm

<http://www.thinking-catholic-strategic-center.com/church-and-state-in-art.html>

<http://www.americanchristianhistory.com/constitution08.html>

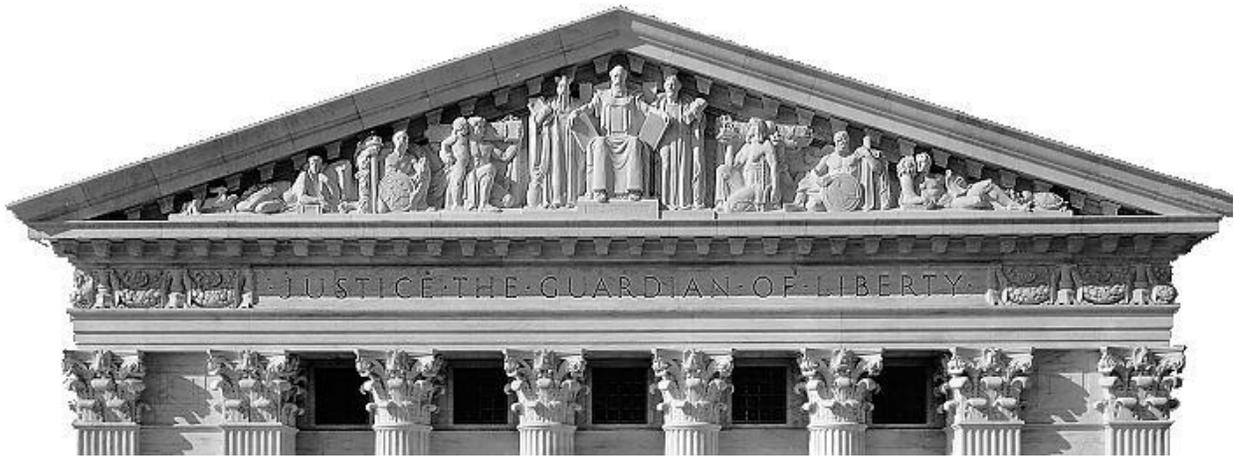
Location: Washington, D.C.

Date Built: 1935

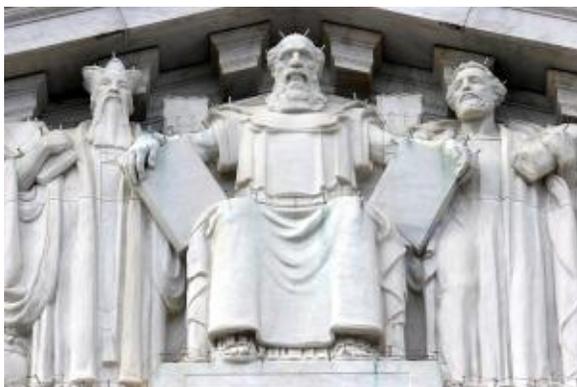
Purpose: To house the U.S. Supreme Court

The Supreme Court building contains various references to Moses and the Ten Commandments both inside and outside.

On the east top of the Supreme Court building is a sculptured frieze that consist of a line of the world's various law givers and philosophers. Front and center is Moses holding the Ten Commandments tablets. Others on the left and right look in towards Moses.



Top East Side of Supreme Court Building



Moses with Two Tablets



Moses on the West Exterior Facade



Moses and Ten Commandments in the Great Hall Ceiling (8 Times)

The Ten Commandment tablets appear on both the brass exterior doors and the inner courtroom oak doors.



**The Ten Commandments on
Oak Door Entrance to Courtroom**



Ten Commandment Tablets on Doors

Inside the courtroom is a frieze that shows the development of law. Near the middle is Moses holding the Ten Commandments.



Moses on East Wall Frieze

U.S. Capitol Building

From:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Capitol

Location: Washington, D.C.

Date Built: Construction started September 18, 1793

Purpose: Meeting place of the U.S. Congress

From:

<http://www.dakotavoice.com/2010/11/the-congressional-prayer-chapel/>

http://chaplain.house.gov/religion/prayer_room.html

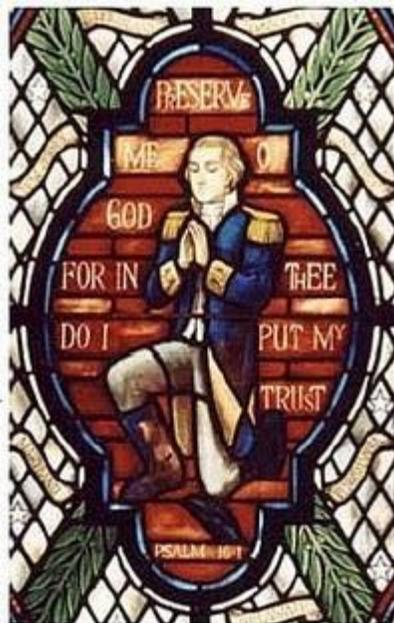
Inside the U.S. Capitol is a room called the Congressional Prayer Room. The room was set aside for congressmen to pray in 1954 and is not open to the general public. Inside this chapel is a kneeling bench for those who want to kneel, and a Bible in front of that which can be used to read the Scriptures. Over this area is a stained glass window with General George Washington in the middle, kneeling in prayer.



The Entire Stained Glass Window

Above George Washington appear the words "This Nation Under God" from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Around Washington are the words from Psalm 16:1 – *Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust.*



Praying George Washington

There is also artwork in the U.S. Capitol that includes the following paintings.

From:

<http://www.aoc.gov/capitol-hill/historic-rotunda-paintings/embarkation-pilgrims>



Embarkation of the Pilgrims

This large painting (12' x 18') hung in 1843 depicts the Pilgrims on the deck of the ship Speedwell on July 22, 1620, before they departed from Delfs Haven, Holland, for North America, where they sought religious freedom.

The group appears solemn and contemplative of what they are about to undertake as they pray for divine protection through their voyage; the words "God with us" appear on the sail in the upper left corner. The figures at the center of the composition are William Brewster, holding the Bible; Governor Carver, kneeling with head bowed and hat in hand; and pastor John Robinson, with extended arms, looking Heavenward.

From:

<http://www.aoc.gov/capitol-buildings/cox-corridors>



Painting in Cox Corridor of Capitol Cornerstone Ceremony

This painting depicts the laying of the U.S. Capitol building cornerstone that occurred in 1793. It was created by Allyn Cox. The painting includes a preacher and others. **The original cornerstone included (includes) a Holy Bible.** Watch this:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWpxGWewUyg>

There is also a painting called "The Baptism of Pocahontas" and other artwork/murals with other miscellaneous religious references.

When House and Senate wings were added in 1851, Senator Daniel Webster gave a speech that was deposited in the new cornerstone. According to the United States Senate website:

http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/Capitol_Cornerstone_Dedicated.htm

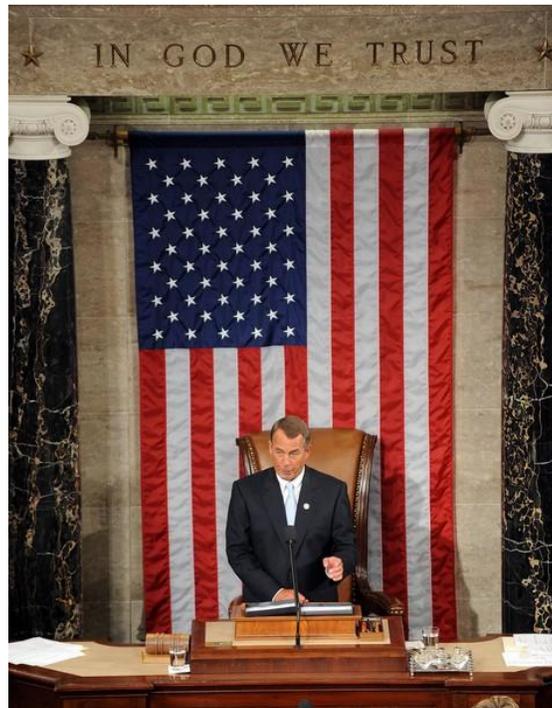
"On an unusually mild summer's day, a large parade moved festively up Capitol Hill. Led by President Fillmore, the procession included veterans of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and individuals who had witnessed the 1793 cornerstone laying. Into a specially fashioned granite block, Architect Walter placed a glass jar containing current newspapers, documents, and 40 dollars in coins. A Masonic official sealed the cornerstone with the same trowel that President George Washington had used in 1793. Daniel Webster then delivered a deeply patriotic address that kept listeners spellbound for its two-hour duration. An artillery salute and fireworks on the mall concluded this most festive Independence Day."

The speech contains the following words:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkRxTa1a7qc>

“And all here assembled, whether belonging to public life or to private life, with hearts devotedly thankful to Almighty God for the preservation of the liberty and happiness of this country, unite in sincere and fervent prayers that this deposit, and the walls and arches, the domes and the towers, the columns and the entablatures now to be erected over it may endure forever.”

“In God We Trust” is chiseled into the Marble in the House of Representatives chamber above where the Speaker of the House sits.



“In God We Trust”

From:

http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Capitol#section_1

In its early days, the Capitol building was not only used for governmental functions. On Sundays, church services were regularly held there - a practice that continued until after the Civil War. According to the US Library of Congress exhibit "Religion and the Founding of the American Republic" – "It is no exaggeration to say that on Sundays in Washington during the administrations of Thomas Jefferson (1801–1809) and of James Madison (1809–1817) the state became a church. Within a year of his inauguration, Jefferson began attending church services in the House of Representatives. Madison followed Jefferson's example, although unlike Jefferson, who rode on horseback to church in the Capitol, Madison came in a coach and four. Worship services in the House—a practice that continued until after the Civil War—were acceptable to Jefferson because they were nondiscriminatory and voluntary. Preachers of every Protestant denomination appeared. (Catholic priests began officiating in 1826.)"

White House

Location: Washington, D.C.

Date Built: Construction started October 13, 1792

Purpose: To House the U.S. President

The White House is the larger of two dining rooms contained in the White House. The 1902 mantel was restored during the Kennedy renovation and includes the inscription placed there by Franklin D. Roosevelt, from a letter by John Adams to his wife Abigail written immediately after he first moved into the house in 1800:

“I pray Heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this House, and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof.”



The Mantle Prayer

Federal Hall National Memorial

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:George_Washington_in_prayer_at_Federal_Hall_in_New_York_City_IMG_1694.JPG

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Federal_Hall_NYC_29.JPG

Location: New York City / Manhattan

Date Built: Original Federal Hall built in 1700; memorial built in 1842

Purpose: New York's City Hall, First Capitol Building, etc.

The Federal Hall National Memorial has both a relief of George Washington praying on the side of the building and also a statue of George Washington from his inauguration ceremony (with hand out to Bible).



Prayer at Valley Forge on Building



Statue of Washington with Hand out to Inauguration Bible

Library of Congress

From:

<http://www.thinking-catholic-strategic-center.com/church-and-state-in-art.html>

There are statues of both Moses and the Apostle Paul in the Library of Congress.



Moses Holding Ten Commandments in Rotunda Library



The Apostle Paul and Micah 6:8 Quoted

Jefferson Memorial

From:

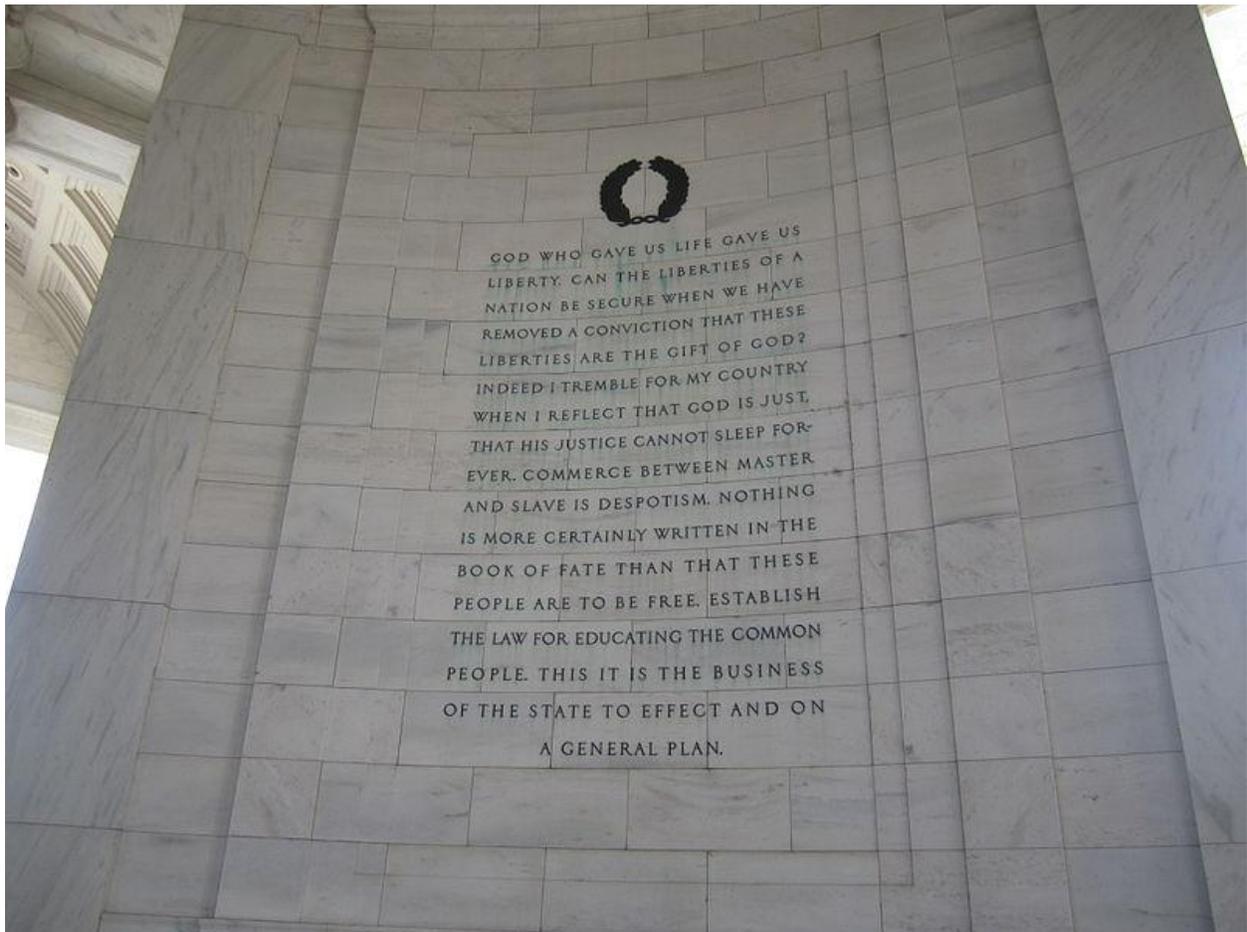
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefferson_memorial

Location: Washington, D.C.

Date Built: 1938-1943

Purpose: To commemorate Thomas Jefferson (Founding Father and 3rd President)

The memorial includes various quotes from Thomas Jefferson; some with references to God.



“GOD WHO GAVE US LIFE GAVE US LIBERTY. CAN THE LIBERTIES OF A NATION BE SECURE WHEN WE HAVE REMOVED A CONVICTION THAT THESE LIBERTIES ARE THE GIFT OF GOD? INDEED I TREMBLE FOR MY COUNTRY WHEN I REFLECT THAT GOD IS JUST. THAT IS JUSTICE CANNOT SLEEP FOREVER.”

Lincoln Memorial

From:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Memorial

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln%27s_second_inaugural_address

<http://usgovinfo.about.com/library/blabe2.htm>

Location: Washington, D.C.

Date Built: 1912-1922

Purpose: To commemorate Abraham Lincoln (16th President of United States)

The memorial has inscriptions of the Gettysburg Address and the entire second inaugural address from March 4, 1865. Consider these parts of the second inaugural address that are inscribed in the memorial:

... Neither party expected for the war, the magnitude, or the duration, which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. **The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offenses! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh!"** ... Fondly do we hope -- fervently do we pray -- that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said **"the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether."**

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan -- to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

In this address are allusions and quotes from Genesis 3:19, Matthew 7:1, Matthew 18:7, Psalm 19:9, Psalm 147:3, and James 1:27.

U.S. District Court Building

From:

http://www.jmcenter.org/pages/van_orden.html

Outside of the U.S. District Court Building is a three-sided monument. At the top of one side is a depiction of praying hands with a cross and the Ten Commandments.



Cross and Ten Commandments

National Archives Building

From:

<http://egnorance.blogspot.com/2012/01/finally-atheists-make-schools-obey.html>

Location: Washington, D.C.

Date Built: 1935

Purpose: Holds various documents including the original Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights

The Ten Commandments are included in the floor pattern of the National Archive building at the entrance.



Part of National Archives Floor Pattern

Currency

Consider our currency with the phrase “In God We Trust”:



Back of \$20 Bill



Quarter



Back of \$1 Bill

Annuit Coeptus is Latin for “He [God] has favored our undertakings”.