

GRANT

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Grant Monument Association

GRANT

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GRANT BIRTHDAY CEREMONIES INCLUDE MUSICAL PREMIERE OF GRANT FANFARE

On April 27, 2000, an impressive crowd of spectators gathered at Grant's Tomb to commemorate the 178th anniversary of the birth of Ulysses S. Grant in ceremonies that included the premiere performance of a musical composition commissioned by the Grant Monument Association (GMA). This musical score, the *Monument Fanfare and Tribute*, was composed by Juilliard composer

Philip Rothman and performed by the United States Military Academy Band following an introduction by Ulysses Grant Dietz of the GMA. The purpose of this composition is to commemorate Ulysses S. Grant and his world-famous tomb as we begin a new millenium.

Monument Fanfare and Tribute is a bril-

liant, stirring composition inspired by the grandeur of the Tomb as well as the promise of upcoming years. Rothman, who graduated *summa cum laude* from Rice University and subsequently earned the Master of Music degree at the Juilliard

School, used the letters of Grant's name in a musical fashion to spell out the first notes of this melody. The theme steadily builds in scope and volume until

it is time for the brass fanfare to excitedly reappear. The main theme is then powerfully presented as the composition reaches a sweeping conclusion. Those in attendance were visibly impressed with the performance.

The April 27 ceremonies were organized

The composer used the letters of Grant's name in a musical fashion to spell out the first notes of this melody.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: A LOW RATING FOR RATERS OF PRESIDENT GRANT

C-SPAN recently released the results of a survey in which 58 historians ranked each of the 41 U.S. presidents according to their performance in several different categories. Overall, Grant was ranked 33rd out of 41, below many presidents whose impact on the country was clearly less both in magnitude and in quality. In-

cluded in this category are Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Benjamin Harrison, John Quincy Adams, and James Garfield, whose presidency lasted six months, much of which was spent trying to recover from an assassin's bullet.

Consider a few points. The process begun by the sweeping Treaty of Washington of 1871, regarded variously as the greatest treaty of

arbitration ever or as the greatest American treaty since the 1783 peace treaty with Great Britain, capped one of the most successful presidential foreign policy records, yet Grant ranked 33rd in "international relations." Despite the success of so many domestic and for-

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MEMBER PROFILE: FRANK SCATURRO



Frank J. Scaturro is an attorney at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in New York City. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia University

and his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Scaturro has several publication credits, including *President Grant Reconsidered* (Madison Books, 1999) and *The Supreme Court's Retreat from Reconstruction* (Greenwood Press, 2000).

In 1991, while dorming at Colum-

bia, Frank volunteered with the National Park Service and began guiding tours of nearby Grant's Tomb. As he became more familiar with the 150-foot granite structure, he noticed that what was formerly one of the nation's most popular attractions was showing serious signs of neglect. The roof leaked, the walls were discolored, and the site was slowly becoming masked with graffiti and treated like a bathroom. Drug users and their associated paraphernalia became more and more prevalent on the tomb's front staircase and plaza. Thus began a personal crusade, soon to be joined by others, to inform the

Park Service, and later political leaders and the general public, of the tomb's deterioration. By 1997, his many reports and memos were answered with a \$1.8 million face-lift.

Scaturro, now 28, is the president of the Grant Monument Association, which he helped revive in 1994. He remains deeply involved in advocating the Grant's Tomb National Monument Act, which would provide the site among other things with a visitor center, restrooms, a perpetual 24-hour military guard, and the acquisition by the federal government of adjoining land necessary to insure a lasting restoration.

CLINTON DEFENDS GRANT

In an interview with C-SPAN earlier this year, President Clinton had this to say about President Grant:

"Grant is normally viewed as one of the two or three worst presidents, and I think that he was better than that. I think he gets an unfair rap in history, both — often in his generalship as well as in his presidency. And his presidential memoirs are the best ever written. Of course he had a pretty good story to tell."

Clinton also said the following at the recent dinner marking the 200th anniversary of the White House:

"I think he gets an unfair rap in history."

"You may remember that a lot of people in Washington didn't like General Grant. He was

5-foot-4, unimposing. He forgot to shave on some days when he was more interested in battle, and he was said to enjoy drink from time to

time. And when some of the people here in Washington were criticizing this rube from the hinterland because of his drinking habits, President Lincoln wryly suggested that he wished that the person would find out what General Grant drank and give it to the other generals. It might end the war more quickly. In fact that was one of many things that wasn't true. There's not a single documented inference of Ulysses Grant ever being drunk on the job. I thought I would use this historic moment to clean his slate a little bit."

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eign policy initiatives and a precedent-setting record in dealing effectively with Congress, Grant ranked 31st in "relations with Congress," behind Nixon, who was on the verge of being thrown out of office by Congress when he resigned.

Perhaps most glaring was the participating historians' inattentiveness to a civil rights record that included the successful ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment; passage of several bills enforcing civil and voting rights for American blacks and a bill

desegregating public accommodations and transportation; the establishment of the Justice Department; and intervention in the South to enforce political equality even after it became widely unpopular throughout the country. Grant towered over both predecessors and successors in defending racial equality under the law, in part because Hayes, his successor, opened the door to the development of a new era of Jim Crow when he adopted (albeit under incredible pressure) a policy of fed-

eral noninterference in the South. So where did Grant rank on "pursued equal justice for all?" Eighteenth, below numerous presidents who faced lesser challenges and pursued less sweeping changes, and below the first six presidents, who it can be argued did not even deal significantly with this issue.

Grant comes out 30th or lower on "crisis leadership," "performance

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JEAN MACARTHUR (1898-2000)

Jean MacArthur, widow of General Douglas MacArthur and Honorary Trustee of the Grant Monument Association, died in New York on January 22, 2000 at the age of 101. The former Jean Marie Faircloth was born in Nashville, Tennessee on December 28, 1898. She attended Ward-Belmont College in Nashville for one year and graduated in 1917 from Soule College in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Following her graduation, Mrs. MacArthur made several trips to the Far East. Perhaps the most significant of her excursions was in 1935. On her way to Shanghai, she sat next to General MacArthur at a shipboard dinner in the Pacific. The next day, she received flowers from him, and according to Mrs. MacArthur, "that was that." On April 30, 1937, she and the General were married in New York City. After several more years

in the Far East, they returned to the United States in 1951 and took up residence in the Waldorf Towers in New York, where she continued to live until her death. Shortly before his death in 1964, General MacArthur described his wife as "my constant

She received flowers from General MacArthur, and according to her, "that was that."

friend, sweetheart and devoted support."

After her husband's death, Mrs. MacArthur pursued her interests in theater and opera and became involved in many civic and philanthropic activities. She served as honorary chairman of the Board of Directors of

the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation in Norfolk, Virginia and in 1984 received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the U.S. Department of Defense. In 1988, President Reagan presented her with the Medal of Freedom. Jean MacArthur is buried beside her husband in the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk.



Mrs. MacArthur with her husband
Courtesy General Douglas MacArthur Foundation

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by the United States Military Academy at West Point and the National Park Service (NPS), as they are every year on that date, and they included a moving color guard and gun salute by West Point cadets. Wreaths also were placed by representatives of President Clinton, the NPS, and the City of New York, another part of this annual custom. The Academy's band has not been as regular a fixture at Grant birthday ceremonies over the years. In 1972, a New York paper headlined the embarrassing fact that the band at the Grant birthday ceremony outnumbered the spectators, and for a long time, the presence of musical ensembles at

Grant's Tomb on April 27 was the exception rather than the rule. This has changed in recent years as the audience at Grant's Tomb on April 27 has regularly numbered in the hun-

Ceremonies included a color guard and gun salute by West Point cadets.

dreds – even thousands in the case of the 1997 Centennial of the monument.

Conspicuous in this year's ceremonies were schoolchildren, a primary focus of the NPS as it has aimed to make the anniversary an educational opportunity. "The events are designed to give students a feeling of the life and

times of Grant during the Civil War," said Steve Laise, Chief of Interpretation for the Manhattan Sites Unit of the NPS. Supplementing the main ceremony itself were several programs organized by the NPS: presentations of Civil War soldier activities (including how to load and fire a musket and a cannon), the work of medical divisions during the Civil War, and the role of women in that period.

On April 30, the Oliver Tilden Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans included a recording of Rothman's Fanfare in its Sunday observance of Grant's birthday. This event, another annual tradition at Grant's Tomb, was also well attended.

The GMA Mission:

- To commemorate and perpetuate the accomplishments of Ulysses S. Grant and Julia Dent Grant and their memory.
- To undertake educational activities and ceremonies as they pertain to President Grant's service to his country.
- To cooperate with public and private parties to insure the repair, maintenance and upgrading of Grant's Tomb in New York City.
- To raise funds to accomplish the foregoing purposes.

For information on how to join the GMA, write to:

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IN MEMORIAM:

Jean MacArthur
1898-2000

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within context of times," "moral authority," and "vision/setting an agenda." Hayes outranked him in each of these categories, and on "vision," historians are more charitable to both Garfield and William Harrison, most of whose 30 days in office were spent suffering from pneumonia. Historians may have forgotten Grant's reputation for integrity or his pleas on behalf of blacks and Indians and instead tried to blame him for corruption -- usually defined haphazardly or without meaningful connection to the administration. One wonders whether this combination of selective and distorted memory would explain Grant's "moral authority" ranking, which was well below that of Lyndon Johnson, arguably one of three presidents most responsible

for the recent decline in presidential credibility.

Why these results? In a discussion by a panel of historians who helped design the survey, Richard Norton Smith of the Gerald R. Ford Museum explained that post-Civil War presidents were ranked so low (in contrast to early and modern presidents) because of their "failure ... to come to terms with the consequences of the [Civil] war -- even to understand perhaps ... what the war was about, what victory meant." John Splaine of the University of Maryland seemed to agree: "Through Coolidge, they all believed in a racial theory that whites were superior to everybody else, helping to explain some of the history." He added: "You've always got to consider

[presidents] in context of their time, but you can't forgive certain things, and you can't forget. That's history."

Each of these statements only underscores how much professorial ignorance clouds Grant's political reputation. Disturbingly, despite the C-SPAN poll's shortcomings, Grant's rank was considerably lower in other recent surveys involving far more scholars.

In the future, it may be advisable for historians inclined to rate presidencies as if they were term papers to include with their surveys a test of their own historical knowledge. As they now stand, these surveys offer harsher lessons about the current state of historical education than the presidencies being evaluated.