

GRANT

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Grant Monument Association

GRANT

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GRANT'S TOMB BILL NEEDS SUPPORT

Last introduced in the 105th Congress, the Grant's Tomb National Monument Act is a piece of legislation in need of support in Congress. This bill has two primary aims: (1) the completion of the monument's restoration, and (2) the site's ongoing protection so that improvements made at present are not permitted to be reversed in the future. We have been alerted to Grant's Tomb's recent history of extreme desecration and deterioration and the improvements that followed, but problems continue to plague the site.

Much of the area surrounding the Tomb, including stairways and paths leading to the monument from the north, remains in serious disrepair. Grant's temporary tomb site, itself a memorial worthy of respect, is still in deplorable condition. The floor surrounding the sarcophagi containing President and Mrs. Grant's remains is cracked and discolored.

The surrounding landscape presents both an aesthetic problem and a threat to the structural integrity of the plaza. The overlook pavilion is in terrible condition. The monument itself has never been completed. There is still no visitor center at the site to provide the interpretation that historic sites minimally require. The site lacks public restrooms. The federal government does not even own most of the land adjoining the Tomb.

The site is still in need of a visitor center and public restrooms.

The Grant's Tomb National Monument Act included provisions for perpetual 24-hour military guards and a visitor center at the Tomb to satisfy long-term preservation and interpretive needs, along with the federal acquisition of adjoining land and completion of the Tomb. The bill died when the 105th Congress ended its session in 1999. It should be reintroduced during the current

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CONSTRUCTION BLOCKS VIEW OF TOMB

Some local residents are not happy with the Manhattan School of Music because it has erected a building that blocks the one remaining side of Grant's Tomb that was visible in Manhattan.

Nan Patterson, a long-time resident of the Morningside Heights community, said that the 23-story building, which houses two theaters and living quarters for the school of music and has leased offices

for nearby Bank Street College among other things, obstructs the view of the Tomb from the east.

When Grant's Tomb was first constructed, it was intended to be starkly situated on a treeless plane. Although the surrounding area initially allowed an unobstructed view of the monument from all directions, this situation changed over the years with the construction of large nearby buildings

(notably Riverside Church) and the concealing effect of large trees from the north, west, and south. Yet until recently, the view from the east reached across Manhattan.

"You used to be able to see it [the Tomb] from the East River, but you can't anymore," Patterson said. "People in New Jersey could probably still see it in

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the winter when the foliage is gone, but no one can see it from the Island [Manhattan] anymore.”

Patterson also said that the school informed the neighborhood at an impromptu meeting last April that construction on the building would begin the next day. She added that because the school is a non-profit organization (with its taxes essentially paid by the community), it should have shown more concern for its neighbors, even though it owns the land on which the new building sits.

Kevin McGee, 47, who was born and raised in Morningside Heights, also said he feels the school

said local residents initially proposed that a shorter structure be built so that the view of the Tomb

all the space for its programmatic needs.

Meanwhile, according to McGee, the school has leased out a significant portion of the structure to outside interests, such as the Bank Street College offices.

“I think it’s a very sad story,” McGee said. “For the past 100 years, the Tomb was visible for everyone on the island to see from the east. Now no one can see it. That new building is an eyesore.”

“I think it’s a very sad story,” Kevin McGee said. “For the past 100 years, the Tomb was visible for everyone on the island to see from the east. Now no one can see it.”

should have listened more to the community before building the high rise. He

would not be so obstructed, but the school responded that it needed



Photos Courtesy of Bonnie Garner.

The photos above illustrate the view of Grant’s Tomb from the east as construction progressed.

JOHN V. LINDSAY (1921-2000)

John V. Lindsay, the 103rd mayor of New York City and an Honorary Trustee of the Grant Monument Association, died in Hilton Head, South Carolina on December 19, 2000 at the age of 79. Mr. Lindsay was born in Manhattan on November 24, 1921. Between his college and his law school years (both at Yale), he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1943 and participated in the invasion of Sicily and operations in the Pacific theater. He eventually won five battle stars and reached the rank of lieutenant.

After law school, Mr. Lindsay began to practice law and became active in Republican politics. He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1959 to 1965, in which capacity he was an outspoken supporter of civil rights and displayed a willingness to vote with Democrats on such issues as immigration, housing, and education.

He was twice elected mayor of New York, first as a candidate of the Republican and Liberal parties and then on the Liberal and

Fusion party lines.

His terms as mayor lasted from 1966 to 1973. This period has largely been remembered as a turbulent time for New York, but Mayor Lindsay was also known for bringing an energetic idealism to public service that included several efforts to innovate municipal administration.

After an unsuccessful attempt to secure the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination, Mr. Lindsay decided not to seek reelection as mayor. Following his years in City Hall, he became a commentator on ABC's "AM America" and resumed the practice of law. He also wrote three books and a number of articles for various periodicals. Mr. Lindsay ran unsuccessfully for the Senate in 1980.

His later years included service as chairman of the Lincoln Center Theater between 1984 and 1991 and, more recently, an appointment as special counsel to the City Commission for the United Nations.

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.

GRANT MONUMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The life and extraordinary public service of General and President Ulysses S. Grant is reflected in the grand monument in New York City that serves as his final resting place – popularly known as Grant's Tomb. The Grant Monument Association, the successor to the organization of the same name that built and administered Grant's Tomb until it was transferred to the National Park Service in 1959, was formed to ensure that this important part of our heritage would be preserved. To become a member of the Grant Monument Association or renew your membership for 2001, fill out the form below:

Membership Enrollment Form

You can join the GMA with an annual gift of \$25 or more (\$10 for students and senior citizens). Please indicate your gift below:

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* Membership gifts are charitable donations and are tax deductible.

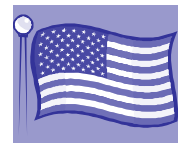
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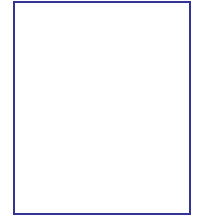
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IN MEMORIAM:

Hon. John V. Lindsay
1921-2000



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This year marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of President James Madison. Madison's home, Montpelier, is open to the public for visitation and is observing this anniversary throughout the year. Those who are interested in aiding the preservation of Madison's home should contact the Friends of Montpelier, 11407 Constitution Highway, P.O. Box 67, Montpelier Station, VA 22957.

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congressional term.

Expressions of support from concerned citizens to their legislators are needed.

How you can help:

Contact your representative in the House of Representatives (Washington, DC 20515) and your senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510) requesting that they secure the reintroduction of the Grant's

Tomb National Monument Act. All congressional offices may be reached through the Capitol switchboard: (202) 225-3121.

When making your request, it would help to identify the legislation as the former H.R. 546 in the 105th Congress. The Grant Monument Association would be glad to provide you a copy of this legislation on request. Simply write to us at the address

on the front page, or you can email us at gma1897@yahoo.com.

Thank you very much for your help.

Frank Scaturro
President
Grant Monument
Association