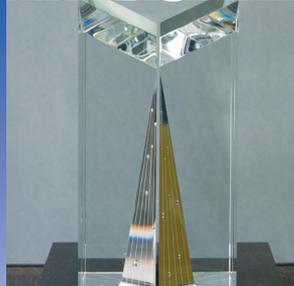




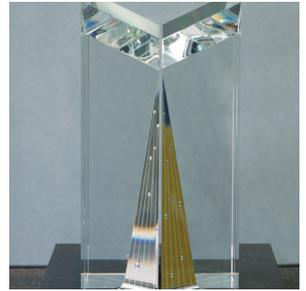
# MEMORIALS



*on the Empire State Plaza  
A Self-Guide*

# MEMORIALS

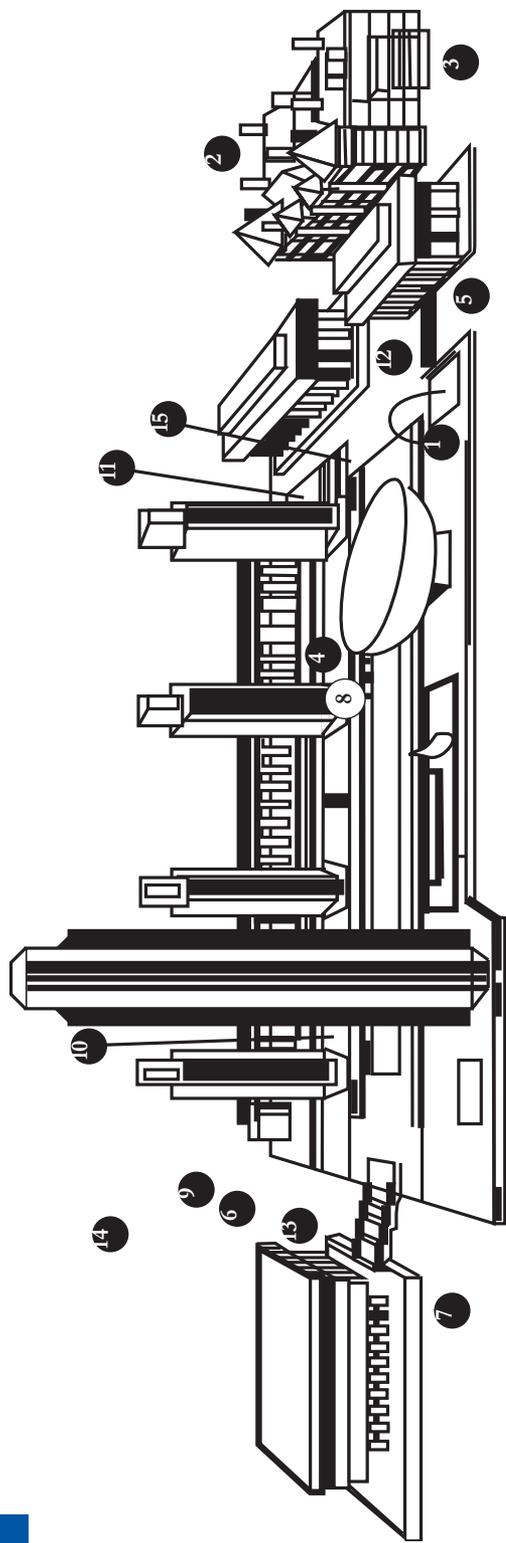
*on the Empire State Plaza*



*“The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly . . . who spends himself for a worthy cause.”*

—Theodore Roosevelt

Though the main function of The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza is to serve as the seat of government for New York State, the Plaza has also become a special site of remembrance and tribute. The memorials on the Empire State Plaza honor New Yorkers who have dedicated or given their lives in service to others. They celebrate the heroism of different generations and causes, each united by the common threads of duty and self-sacrifice. Three of the memorials honor national heroes from different eras in America’s history, and all of them offer visitors the opportunity to reflect on issues that touch the core of our society. It is appropriate that the capital of New York State provides a place of honor for these special New Yorkers and national heroes.



*This brochure offers an overview of the Empire State Plaza Memorials and can function as a self-guide for visitors. The numbers for each memorial correspond with the numbers indicating their location on the Plaza on this map.*

- |           |   |           |   |
|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| <b>1</b>  | The New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial   | <b>9</b>  | New York State Korean War Veterans Memorial         |
| <b>2.</b> | George Washington   | <b>10</b> | Children's Memorial                                 |
| <b>3</b>  | General Philip Henry Sheridan   | <b>11</b> | New York State Crime Victims Memorial               |
| <b>4</b>  | State of New York Police Officers Memorial  | <b>12</b> | New York State Emergency Medical Services Memorial  |
| <b>5</b>  | New York State Vietnam Memorial   | <b>13</b> | New York State Purple Heart Memorial                |
| <b>6</b>  | New York State Women Veterans Memorial  | <b>14</b> | New York State Missing Persons Remembrance Memorial |
| <b>7</b>  | World War II Memorial   | <b>15</b> | New York State Parole Officers Memorial             |
| <b>8</b>  | Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial is located on the North Concourse next to Key Bank |           |   |

1



## THE NEW YORK STATE FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL

The New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial honors the men and women of the fire service who have perished in the line of duty in the Empire State since 1811. The memorial is located between the Justice Building and The Egg in a park-like area bordered by Norway maple trees. Dedicated in 1998, it consists of a bronze statue group backed by a granite wall inscribed with the names of some eighteen hundred firefighters who gave their lives to save others. This memorial has taken on an even deeper meaning and poignancy since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. The courage, bravery, and sacrifice embodied in the firefighters who responded to these tragedies was truly heroic, and will not be forgotten.

The ten-foot-high sculpture, the work of artist Robert Eccleston of Schuylar Falls, represents two firefighters rescuing an injured comrade. In concept, the firefighters are dragging their comrade away from the wall of death. The wall is fifty-four feet long and fifteen feet high, with the names of the firefighters placed randomly to allow for additions.

Patina the color of soot darkens the bronze figures, but burnished highlights call attention to their faces and to details of their 1960s turnout gear. Cast at the Tallix Foundry in Beacon, New York, the statue rests on a granite pedestal and is centered in a plaza thirty-eight feet in diameter. The plaza's charcoal and red brick pavers form a Maltese Cross, a firefighter's symbol of protection and badge of honor. This insignia originates from the Knights of St. John, a band of crusaders who risked their lives to save their brothers-in-arms from a new weapon introduced in the war for possession of the holy land—fire—thus becoming the first firefighters.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON AFTER HOUDON

Albany's life-size bronze cast of George Washington is a reproduction of the famous marble original by French sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon, which graces the rotunda of Thomas Jefferson's State Capitol in Richmond, Virginia. In 1784 while Jefferson was serving as Minister to France, he secured the services of the French master artist, Houdon for the Washington commission. This was vital to the project, as there were no sculptors in America in the 1780s capable of creating a portrait statue. Houdon traveled to Mount Vernon to take detailed measurements of Washington and make a clay bust. The finished sculpture depicts him wearing the uniform of the Revolutionary officer, a choice Washington made over the classical garb often adopted in portraits of statesmen at that time.

Houdon scholar H. H. Aronson reported that the sculptor believed the statue was "one of the most important commissions of his life," and adding his own praise, wrote that the statue is "perhaps the finest portrayal of Washington in existence. One that embodies a curiously reflective and inward quality which may not accord with our general impression of Washington, but which adds a dimension to our conception of him."

Several bronze and plaster copies of the sculpture were made in the nineteenth century for such sites as the Virginia Military Institute and the Capitol in Washington, D.C. From 1910 to 1960, at least twenty bronzes were cast, including this one, which was ordered on May 13,



2 *George Washington, 1785-88*  
*Bronze, 6' 8"*  
*Cast by the Gorham Company, 1932*

1932 by the New York State Commission for the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the birth of George Washington. The finished bronze was originally to be erected in Academy Park, Albany, but for unknown reasons, the site was changed. The sculpture was unveiled in West Capitol Park on Armistice Day, November 11, 1932.

# MEMORIALS

*on the Empire State Plaza*

## GENERAL PHILIP HENRY SHERIDAN



*Philip Henry Sheridan*, 1829-1906, 1914-16  
John Quincy Adams Ward and Daniel Chester French  
Bronze, 13' 6"  
Pedestal, Stony Creek (CT) granite, designed by  
Henry Bacon

3

General Philip Henry Sheridan (1831-1888) was one of the most celebrated heroes of the Civil War. He was commander of the Union Army of the Shenandoah Valley, and is best remembered for a historic twenty-mile gallop on his famous horse Rienze to rally his retreating troops to victory at Cedar Creek, Virginia. Backed by infantry, his cavalry command also blocked Lee's escape at Appomattox. After the Civil War, Sheridan remained in the regular army, and served as commander-in-chief for the last five years of his life. While growing up, he lived with his family in Albany for about two years; in 1914 a state commission was formed

in the capital city to organize the construction of a monument to Sheridan's memory.

This bronze equestrian sculpture was designed by noted American sculptor, John Quincy Adams Ward (1830-1910), but was completed by Daniel Chester French (1850-1931), who is perhaps best known for the Lincoln Memorial. French was a former student and close friend of Ward's and their work on this sculpture was a unique artistic collaboration. Ward was initially hired by a Congressional commission to create a monument to Sheridan for Washington, D.C. in 1889. Known as the dean of American sculptors, Ward had made many major public monuments and portraits of important citizens, including the statue of George Washington on Wall Street in New York. However, plagued by ill health and other problems, he was unable to complete the Sheridan sculpture, and died in 1910.

Four years later, when the Albany commission was about to begin the search for a sculptor, Daniel Chester French proposed that Ward's 1906 working plaster model of General Sheridan become the basis for the memorial. He offered to complete it himself, and oversaw every detail of the project for no remuneration. French brought to life Ward's vision of General Sheridan: in the full-dress uniform of the General of the Army passing in review, riding a horse full of both action and dignity. The sculpture stands in the East Capitol Park, and was dedicated in 1916.

## STATE OF NEW YORK POLICE OFFICERS MEMORIAL

Located in the northwest corner of the Plaza, behind the Legislative Office Building and the Swan Street Building, this memorial honors police officers from New York State who have sacrificed their lives in the performance of their duties. It was constructed following legislation enacted in January 1989 and was designed by architect William F. O'Connor III, Deputy Commissioner for Office of General Services Design and Construction.

The memorial, one hundred feet long and ten feet high, is composed of gently curved, polished black granite. Inscribed with the names of deceased officers on ten panels, it is similar in its impact to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The black granite stands in contrast to the white marble of the Plaza. A waterfall at the top of the memorial flows over concrete projections into a small pool. A single linden tree stands nearby, part of a park-like setting that serves as an oasis of calm amid the bustle of the Plaza—a site for solitude and reflection.



4

At the dedication of the Police Officers Memorial in 1991, there were 888 names on the wall, including those of 534 officers from the New York City Police Department and housing and transit police. By May 2002, the number of slain officers had risen to well over one thousand, and includes the names of numerous police officers who lost their lives responding to the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center. Their unparalleled bravery and sacrifice in the face of this tremendous tragedy will reverberate throughout the history of our state and country.

# MEMORIALS

*on the Empire State Plaza*

## NEW YORK STATE VIETNAM MEMORIAL



5

The New York State Vietnam Memorial commemorates the military service of New York State residents who served their country in Southeast Asia between 1961 and 1975, including more than four thousand who lost their lives or were declared missing in action. Dedicated in 1984, the memorial was the first such state effort in the nation. It is made up of three components and was designed and built by the Office of General Services staff of Landscape Architects.

Outside the Robert Abrams Building for Law and Justice is a courtyard with a state honor roll on four bronze, double-sided panels. Filled with plantings that provide seasonal color, the courtyard is a place of quiet and contemplation.

Located in the Robert Abrams Building for Law and Justice east lobby, on State Street, are an exhibition gallery and a combined resource center/library. The gallery features changing exhibitions related to the Vietnam War and veterans' issues. The resource center contains books, tapes, and other materials on the war. The entire memorial represents a unique concept of changing exhibits, educational programs, and special events.

## NEW YORK STATE WOMEN VETERANS MEMORIAL

The New York State Women Veterans Memorial honors women in military service over the past two hundred years. Dedicated in December 1998, the memorial serves to educate the public on the role of New York State women in the armed forces—past, present, and future. Currently, women make up fourteen percent of the active-duty military force. Of the more than 1.2 million women veterans, more than 61,000 reside in New York State.

An eight-foot-high bronze statue by Albany artist Hy Rosen depicts Liberty standing on the crown of England (as in the New York State flag), breaking free from the bonds of colonization. The right arm is raised and carrying the state flag. The statue is meant to symbolize the spirit, strength, and commitment of the women who defended our nation and its principles, from the Revolutionary War to the present. It was cast at the Tallix Foundry in Beacon, New York.

Two cast bronze bas-relief sculptures with images of women veterans from all eras of service flank the figure of Liberty. Also included are several engraved bronze historical plaques. The memorial is on Madison Avenue near the New York State Museum and is entered through a grove of Japanese zelkova trees.



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Throughout history, women have made tremendous sacrifices serving our nation with distinction. We have a duty and an obligation to acknowledge New York State women veterans' service in the name of freedom, and give family and friends a place to quietly remember their loved ones.

# MEMORIALS

*on the Empire State Plaza*



7

Located next to the New York State Museum, this stirring memorial to those who served in World War II stands in striking contrast to many of the others. Rather than creating a contemplative environment, it evokes the feelings of unrest and agitation which were characteristic of the war. Curved granite copings encircling the right half of the pool are inscribed with significant dates, places, and battles that occurred in the European theater, such as the Invasion of Normandy (D-Day) and the Battle of the Bulge, while the left half represents the Pacific theater, including Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Midway, and Iwo Jima. The water in the pool will be kept in constant turbulent motion.

Two large granite panels serve not only to divide the pool in half, but also to further commemorate those who served and the ideals that inspired them. The north panel includes Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Four Freedoms. Additionally, enameled bronze plaques depict the ribbons of the six primary World War II service medals, and every campaign fought is inscribed on the panel, so that all who served

## WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

are remembered. The south panel includes quotes from General Douglas MacArthur and General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

A stainless steel eagle, created by Robert Eccleston and cast at the Tallix Foundry in Beacon, New York, serves as a powerful focal point at the center of the pool. It is mounted atop a pedestal, onto which a dedication by the memorial's designer and architect William F. O'Connor III, Deputy Commissioner for Office of General Services Design and Construction, is inscribed: "Dedicated to the Men and Women of New York State Who Answered the Call to Serve in the Armed Forces and Merchant Marine of the United States of America during the Second World War. We Thank the 1,700,000 Who Served. We Honor the 61,997 Who Were Wounded. We Will Always Remember the 27,659 Who Died."

The walkway around the pool is surrounded by an inverted arborvitae hedge in the shape of laurel wreath, signifying not only the heroism and triumph of the war, but also the grief. Seven flags flank the south wall of hedges, representing the United States, New York State, and the five branches of the Armed Forces.

This memorial will stand as a permanent tribute to the 1.7 million New Yorkers whose heroism and sacrifice helped win the Second World War. By preserving their legacy for future generations, we will ensure that their patriotism and bravery are never forgotten.

## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., MEMORIAL

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial was dedicated on May 24, 2000. A glass sculpture titled *Seeds of Enlightenment*, it was commissioned by Corning Incorporated as a gift to the people of New York State. Artist Eric Hilton designed the sculpture, which consists of four abstracted glass columns, joined by an elongated triangular prism. Tiny droplets of glass “seeds” appear randomly on the prism and spill over onto the base. The sculpture sits on a square of polished granite.

The artist made this statement about the work: “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s commitment to human rights, community service, and nonviolence—and his inherent and charismatic ability to spread the gospel across physical, racial, and economic barriers—was instrumental in pushing the civil rights movement in America along the path to truth and enlightenment. In planting the seeds of these ideals, Dr. King set into motion the ultimate achievement of his dream—a dream of hope, peace, justice, and freedom for all humankind.”

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial is located in the North Concourse near Key Bank.



# MEMORIALS

*on the Empire State Plaza*

## NEW YORK STATE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL



9

The New York State Korean War Veterans Memorial honors the 482,000 New Yorkers who served our nation in this “forgotten war.” It was dedicated on June 25, 1990, the fortieth anniversary of the start of the war. Thousands of New York State residents were killed, wounded, or lost in action during a conflict that included some of the fiercest and most devastating combat ever engaged in by United States forces. Four New Yorkers so distinguished themselves in the Korean War that they were awarded the nation’s highest tribute—the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The memorial, located in the Empire State Plaza’s Memorial Park along Madison Avenue between the State Museum and Swan Street, features a pool surrounded by bronze plaques of flags representing the sixteen nations that sent combat troops to Korea. Adjacent to the pool is a semicircular wall with three plaques offering a narrative of the war; statistical information on state residents who served, including casualties; and a map of North and South Korea, showing the 38th parallel and the location of key battles. This memorial was designed by architect William F. O’Connor III, Deputy Commissioner for Office of General Services Design and Construction.

## CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL

The Children's Memorial was installed in April 1999 to raise awareness of the plight of children from New York State who have died as a result of abuse or neglect. Located in a park on the southwest side of the Plaza, the memorial consists of a plaque embedded in a large granite stone with a facing bench. The plaque reads: "When the gift of life was taken from you, so was a piece of our heart. Your death will not be in vain. Those of us remaining must cherish the children, and shield them from harm."

The memorial was established through the efforts of Capital Region residents—families and friends of child victims, as well as local professionals involved in the crusade to prevent violence against children. They hope that the memorial will serve as a reminder of this issue and an encouragement to the community to join the effort to protect children from abuse and neglect. Materials and labor were donated by Ted Burek of Century Monuments, Rensselaer, New York.



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# MEMORIALS

*on the Empire State Plaza*

## NEW YORK STATE CRIME VICTIMS MEMORIAL



11

In April 1996, this memorial was placed on the north side of the Plaza near the Legislative Office Building. The limestone-and-calcite boulder permanently commemorates fallen victims of crime and their families, as well as survivors of crime, in New York State. A bronze plaque on the boulder reads: “Dedicated to All New York State Men, Women and Children and Their Families Who Are Victims of Crime. May Justice Prevail.”

The Memorial Walkway, a brick pathway from the Crime Victims’ memorial to the adjacent sidewalk, was dedicated on April 13, 1997. The Capital District Coalition for Crime Victim’s Rights, an Albany-based group devoted to increasing public awareness of the effects of crime on its victims, placed the first bricks. Each brick is engraved with the name of a survivor or deceased victim of violent crime in New York State. The effects of violent crime on its victims and their families are heartbreaking. We all share the sting of suffering that violent-crime victims feel. This memorial demonstrates that they are not forgotten.

## THE NEW YORK STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEMORIAL



12

Dedicated in May 2004, the New York State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Memorial is located at the north end of the Empire State Plaza. It was designed by the New York State Office of General Services Design and Construction group to be in keeping with the theme of the National EMS Memorial in Washington, D.C. The New York State Memorial features a large granite tablet with a graceful and flowing “Tree of Life” engraved into its slightly rounded surface. The leaves on the tree are shaped like the “Star of Life,” the national symbol of the EMS. Each leaf bears the name, organization and date of death of a member of the EMS system who fell in the line of duty.

The beginnings of today’s EMS system can be traced to the first aid training which the Red Cross began to offer around 1910, so that

people other than doctors could treat injuries at the scene of an accident. The first independent volunteer rescue squad was organized in Roanoke, Virginia in 1928. In the 1960s, state and federal laws established rigid standards for EMS training and certification.

The New York State EMS system is composed of a working partnership between Independent Volunteers, Fire Department Volunteers, Municipal Fire Departments and Fire Districts, Hospitals, Private and Police operated ambulances, and first response organizations. Nationally, there are more than 750,000 people providing pre-hospital emergency medical services.

# MEMORIALS

## ON THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

### THE NEW YORK STATE PURPLE HEART MEMORIAL



13

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in the world in current use. Created by General George Washington in 1782, it is awarded to members of the United States Armed Services and civilian nationalists serving with them who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy. It is also given posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration, and was the first U.S. decoration to be awarded for the personal suffering of a common soldier.

The New York State Purple Heart Memorial is located on Madison Avenue, adjacent to the New York State Women Veterans Memorial. It was donated to the state by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, which was formed in 1932

for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the decoration. It is the only veterans' service organization composed strictly of combat veterans.

The red granite memorial is fittingly inscribed with the words, "My stone is red for the blood they shed. The medal I bear is my Country's way to show they care. If I could be seen by all mankind maybe peace will come in my lifetime." Since the War of Independence, an estimated two million Americans have been awarded the Purple Heart. It honors the New York State residents who have joined this revered and courageous group.

## THE NEW YORK STATE MISSING PERSONS REMEMBRANCE

The Missing Persons Remembrance is dedicated to the men, women and children of New York State who have been reported missing, and offers families affected by the unexplained disappearance of a loved one a place to reflect and remember. It was created in partnership with Mary and Doug Lyall and their non-profit organization, the Center for Hope. The Lyall's daughter, Suzanne, has been missing since 1998, and her birthday, April 6th, has been designated as Missing Persons Day in New York State.

The Remembrance stands on a small hill on the southeast corner of Madison Avenue and Swan Street, and can be reached by a curving concrete path through a scattering of mature evergreens. A square, gray granite base is surmounted by a 20-foot-tall stainless steel sculptural frame that supports an eternal flame, which is meant to both literally and figuratively provide the light home.

In addition to the Remembrance site, the Center for Hope, the NYS Division of Criminal Justice, the Office of General Services (OGS), and the NYS Museum have installed Missing Persons Kiosks at the Empire State Plaza and NYS Museum. The kiosks will provide the public with access to the most current information available about missing persons. The kiosks also offer safety information and instructions on what to do if someone goes missing.



14

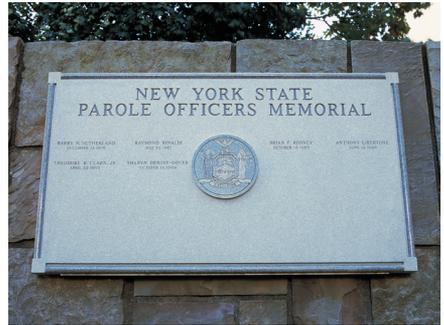
The Remembrance was designed by the former OGS Deputy Commissioner for Design and Construction, William F. O'Connor and the OGS Capitol Architect, James Jamieson, and was built by The Pike Company of Rochester, NY.

# MEMORIALS

## ON THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

### NEW YORK STATE PAROLE OFFICERS MEMORIAL

Resting in the tranquil courtyard behind the Legislative Office Building, this memorial honors those Parole Officers of New York State who were killed in the line of duty. Designed by the Office of General Services Staff Architects, this large granite tablet is inscribed with the names of fallen officers to commemorate their bravery and dedication, ensuring that their sacrifices will be remembered.



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## DIRECTIONS TO THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

- From the North:* Take Interstate 87 (Northway) to Interstate 90 (East) exit, proceed to Interstate 787 and take Empire Plaza exit.
- From the South:* Take New York State Thruway (Interstate 87) to Exit 23 – straight through tollbooth to Interstate 787, then take Empire Plaza exit.
- From the East:* Take Interstate 90 and cross Hudson River. Take exit to Interstate 787 South, along river. Take Empire Plaza exit.
- From the West:* Take the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90) to Exit 24 (Albany), proceed east on Interstate 90 to Interstate 787 South, along river. Take Empire Plaza exit.

## PARKING AT THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

*All visitor parking under the Empire State Plaza is located in the V Lot (formerly known as P-3 North). Visitors entering the V Lot are required to show a photo identification, and their vehicle is subject to a search. Handicapped parking is available.*

*There are also two visitor lots on Madison Avenue, which borders the Plaza on the south: the Cathedral and Madison Avenue lots, on either side of the NYS Museum. The Cathedral lot also offers handicapped parking.*

*Limited on-street parking is available. For more information on parking at the Plaza, call 518-474-8118 or look online at [www.ogs.state.ny.us](http://www.ogs.state.ny.us)*

Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor  
State of New York

For information on the Empire State Plaza Memorials,  
please contact the OGS Plaza Visitor Office at  
(518) 474-2418 or [www.ogs.ny.gov](http://www.ogs.ny.gov)

*All photographs courtesy of Michael Fredericks.*

# MEMORIALS



*on the Empire State Plaza*