



## INDIANA WAR MEMORIALS

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### **MISSION**

The mission of the Indiana War Memorials Commission is carved in the Indiana Limestone above the main entrance to the World War Memorial and has been engrained into every action we take: "TO COMMEMORATE THE VALOR AND SACRIFICE OF THE LAND SEA AND AIR FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALL WHO RENDERED FAITHFUL AND LOYAL SERVICE AT HOME AND OVERSEAS; TO INCULCATE A TRUE UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP; TO INSPIRE PATRIOTISM AND RESPECT FOR THE LAW TO THE END THAT PEACE MAY PREVAIL, JUSTICE BE ADMINISTERED, PUBLIC ORDER MAINTAINED AND LIBERTY PERPETUATED." The primary means of how we accomplish our mission is through the services we provide for our customers.

Our customers are classified into five distinct categories:

Hoosier Veterans – Our primary mission is to commemorate the contributions of Hoosier veterans of the Armed Forces.

Tenants – The National Headquarters of the American Legion, the American Legion, and Department of Indiana all occupy leased office space in the War Memorial complex.

Tourists - On average, over 200,000 tourists visit our museums and monuments annually. Our goal is to increase attendance 10% each year.

Organizational Activities – Last year over 200 events were held in our Indiana War Memorials meeting facilities and over 400 events were conducted on the properties. Events range from small weddings to large events that range from 1,000 to over 80,000 in attendance.

Community Events – Our outdoor venues host over a dozen major community events (attendance greater than 10,000) ranging from Earth Day in the spring to the Celebration of Lights for Christmas. In all, more than 1 million people visit our properties annually and over half are participants or spectators in these community events.

The Indiana War Memorials Commission is responsible for 24 acres of downtown property including the World War Memorial, American Legion Mall, Veterans Memorial Plaza, University Park, USS Indianapolis, and the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in the center of downtown that has become the icon of Indianapolis as well as the State of Indiana. The Indiana War Memorial, being the icon of the city and state, is always in the public eye. We strive to provide all our customers a safe, clean, and attractive surrounding both indoors and in our parks so that we can remain the center of attraction. In order to do so, we are constantly updating our museum that chronologically features expansive exhibits from the revolutionary war through our current conflicts. We strive to portray an accurate and clear representation of Hoosier military history in our museums, programs, and website to further our commitment to the memory of our veterans. Another important service includes ensuring the long-term viability of facilities and grounds. With efforts from our Master Plan, we have pursued aggressive measures through repair and rehabilitation and preventive maintenance to provide for the safekeeping of historic artifacts and documents entrusted to our care and ensuring appropriate stewardship of the taxpayers' resources.

### **Programs and Functions:**

The Indiana War Memorials primary function is to honor and commemorate Hoosier Veterans. With five city blocks of monuments and memorials, it is our responsibility to educate citizens on the accomplishments of Hoosier Veterans by paying tribute throughout our properties. Our facility has become the epicenter of all veteran activities for all branches of service across the State of Indiana. In order to maintain high expectations, we have a small but dedicated staff that strives to achieve the level of commitment to ensure the facilities exceed expectations.

Our Museum Specialists manage collections of over 7,000 items of military memorabilia; provide access to more than 180,000 visitors per year to 60 separate exhibits in two museums encompassing 32,500 square feet of exhibit space.

The Physical Plant Division is responsible for the Preventive Maintenance program including repair and rehabilitation, landscaping and custodial services for four occupied structures, seven exterior memorials, 45 pieces of exterior statuary, and over 1.3 million square feet of parkland.

The Capitol Police provide a full range of public safety/law enforcement services within the War Memorial Plaza and Soldiers & Sailors Monument. Responsibilities include seven day, twenty-four hour police presence, safety of visitors and staff within the complex and the physical security of properties and historic artifacts.

The Administrative office supports the operating elements and provides administrative, personnel, financial, program and contract management oversight to the operations of the War Memorials. This division is also responsible for the scheduling and operation of over 400 events held on the property each year.

## **Accomplishments and Challenges over last 2 years:**

Over the last two years, a number of changes have taken place and like most changes there are challenges and the War Memorial was no exception.

We continue to utilize 15 Department of Corrections (DOC) residents from the IREF program thereby releasing our previous private contractors who conducted landscape and maintenance duties. The savings from the commercial landscape contractor was over \$200,000 annually. Additional contractors such as heating/cooling, plumbing, and concrete work have also been done in house with the residents.

Additionally, we have begun using the DOC residents on interior projects that were identified as Capital Projects such as the restoration of the wood in the two large meeting rooms. The estimate for this work was \$1.3 million in the IWM Master Plan and the work was accomplished for under \$1,500.

## **Objectives for next biennium:**

The Indiana War Memorials Commission developed a Master Plan in 1994 to update our facilities in order to adhere to the public safety codes and restore the years of wear and tear of our structures. Each year projects are completed making us one-step closer to completion. Over the next biennium, we request funding to continue progress on the Master Plan, which was updated in 2006. This request would provide funding for our most critical capital projects including repairs to the "Victory" statue at the top of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument; enhanced fire safety in the lower level museum of the War Memorial, window and door refurbishment for the War Memorial and mechanical-electrical improvements to the American Legion State Headquarters building. An itemized priority list has been submitted.

Another objective is the preservation of the State's Civil War battle flags. The Indiana War Memorials Commission is the repository for the flags, which are property of the State. Funds obtained by the Build Indiana Fund allowed us to obtain the appropriate storage cabinets to impede further deterioration of the flag material. The technology now exists to take the next step and restore the approximate 400 flags so they may be displayed and used for educational purposes. Currently, only 25-30 are in sufficient shape to display. This is an important project to restore the State's Battle Flags and we are currently seeking private funds to continue the restoration.