

Centennial of Honor: A Brief History of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Part 1

"We have had no national expression of any sort since the war ended that would give the people an opportunity to show their appreciation of the services over there of the young manhood of the nation and it seems to me it would be a very fine thing for Congress to make some provision for a ceremony that would give the people of the country an opportunity to do that."

– General of the Armies John Pershing

On November 11, 1918 at 11:00am the guns on the western front of France fell silent and the "War to end all Wars" came to an end. After four years of brutal conflict and over 9 million military and 10 million civilian dead the world took a collective breath, paused, and began to count the cost of World War I. How many empires had broken during those years? How many advances, horribly destructive advances, had occurred in military tactics and technology? How many generations of young men were lost?

Those questions soon turned to how to appropriately remember our fallen. To understand the history of our Unknown Soldier and our selection process, first we must look to the French and English: and inquiry into our history and sacred duty is important as our nation prepares to commemorate the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 2021.

Unknown Brothers-in-Arms

Setting aside the controversy of who first thought of the idea and when in 1916, both France and Great Britain officially began the process of selecting one of their fallen to represent all the dead from World War I in 1919.

France decided to lay their *Soldat inconnu* (Unknown Soldier) to rest at the center of the Arc de Triomphe, the full title being Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile (Arch of Triumph of the Star), on November 11, 1920. One unidentified body of a French soldier was selected from eight cemeteries and brought to the Citadelle of Verdun. The placement of the caskets was constantly changed so that no one could know from which cemetery the body came from, a strategy that we adopted in 1921 when selecting our own Unknown Soldier.

On November 9, 1920 Private August Thin of the 132nd Regiment was given the honor of choosing the *Soldat inconnu*, as both he and his father had fought during the war (his father was killed in battle). Private Thin walked around the flag-draped caskets once, and then made his selection on the sixth casket in line by placing a bouquet of red and white violets upon the casket¹. Both having an enlisted Soldier make the selection and using a bouquet of flowers were adopted in our selection in 1921.

The casket was transported to Paris by train on November 11 and carried by horse-drawn cannon platform to the Arc de Triomphe. The Unknown Soldier remained within the Arc de Triomphe laying in state, until January 28, 1921 when he was finally laid to rest under the arch with a simple inscription covering his grave of: "Here lies a French Soldier who died for the Country 1914-1918".

France's Unknown Soldier was finally at rest.



The French Unknown Soldier is laid to rest under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on November 11, 1920.

Great Britain followed a similar method of selecting their Unknown Warrior, as four unidentified remains were selected from the four main British battle areas. All the remains arrived at Saint Pol-sur-Ternoise at different times, coming from different routes, something that we would adopt in 1921 when selecting our own Unknown Soldier.

The quartermaster teams that had exhumed and transported the bodies were immediately sent back to their units, and the remains (which were held in a sack rather than a casket, resting upon a stretcher) were reexamined, covered in the Union Jack, and laid in a row in front of a single coffin of English pine near the altar of the Chapel of Saint Pol.

At midnight November 8, 1920 Brigadier Louis John Wyatt entered the chapel and selected one of the sets of remains to represent all the soldiers, sailors, and pilots lost during the war. Brigadier Wyatt and another officer then moved the Unknown Warrior into the pine coffin. At midday, the Unknown Warrior was transported to the Boulogne-sur-Mer Castle (more commonly known as the Château de Boulogne-sur-Mer) where he was guarded throughout the night by members of the French 8th Regiment.

On November 10, 1920, the British Unknown Warrior's pine coffin was placed inside a large oak casket and that bore the inscription on an iron shield: "A British Warrior who fell in the Great War 1914-18 for King and Country". He then was transported to England (fifty bags of French soil had arrived on at Westminster Abby the same day to be used in the ceremony) aboard the HMS Verdun, and then via train to Victoria Station where he remained throughout the night guarded by sentries of the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards².



The casket of the Unknown Warrior prior to it being sent to France in 1920.

The next morning on November 11, 1920 the British Unknown Warrior made his final journey: his casket, draped in the war torn Union Jack which had been used by Chaplain David Railton as an altar cloth, and at times to cover the remains of fallen British soldiers during the war, which still bore the blood stains of his countrymen. He was laid to rest at Westminster Abbey near the west door, after pausing at The Cenotaph for the Great Silence and the playing of "Last Post"³. King George V then scattered soil from France upon the casket and millions of mourners then paid their respects.

Great Britain's Unknown Warrior was finally at rest.

The Worlds Unknown Soldiers

Soon nations that had fought during the war decided to also exhume and then bury one of their own to represent all the fallen. Portugal chose to bring home two Unknown Soldiers who fell in France and Africa, entombing them in the Monastery of Batalha near Leiria on April 6, 1921.

Italy laid to rest their Unknown Soldier on November 4, 1921 in Rome, with both Communists and Fascists standing side by side to honor his sacrifice.

Belgium, chosen by a blinded war veteran, laid their Unknown Soldier at the base of the Congress Column in Brussels on November 11, 1922.

These Unknown patriots were finally at rest.

America's Unknown Soldier

"He should not be taken from any particular battlefield, but should be so chosen that nobody would know his identification or the battlefield he comes from. He should represent in himself the North, the South, the East, and the West."

- Congressman Hamilton Fish, February 1921

While the world laid the unidentified remains of their fallen in places of honor in 1920 through 1922, the United States had no such plans in place. In fact, much like in Great Britain, the idea of removing a fallen Soldier and bringing him home to represent all who had fallen met with resistance from the military establishment. As early as the fall of 1919 it was suggested to the War Department that the United States follow suit and honor those that fell in World War I. It was rejected.

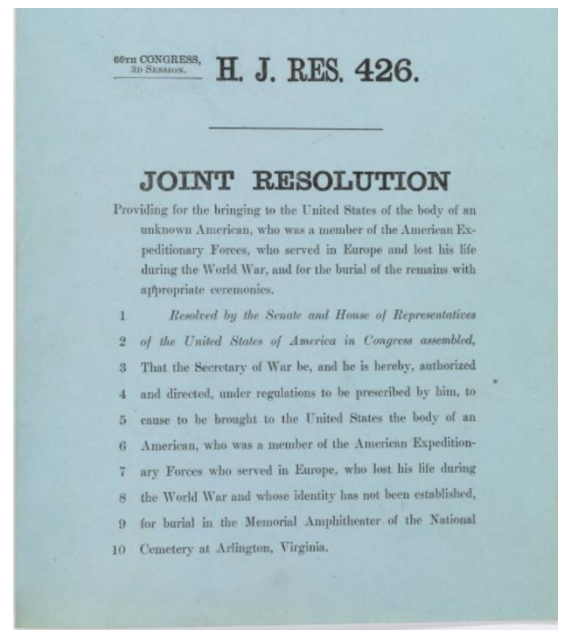
Initially the reason given was that due to the relatively low numbers of dead, it was presumed that the Army Graves Registration Service would be able to identify all of them. Then came the fact that we had no suitable national monument like some of the other countries. As fervor grew amongst the population, newspapers warned those in charge to ensure that our Unknown Soldier not be associated with any single state or unit. Calls laying the Unknown Soldier in the Rotunda of the US Capitol soon came, instead of Arlington National Cemetery as "many Americans never go to Arlington."

House Joint Resolution 426 which was first proposed on December 21, 1920 by Congressman Hamilton Fish (NY)⁴. Congressman Fish, a combat veteran of the Great War serving with the 369th Infantry Regiment "Harlem Hellfighters," had seen firsthand the devastation "modern" warfare inflicted upon his Soldiers. In July of 1918 he witnessed one of his orderlies severely gassed to the point of unconsciousness by enemy shells. Stretcher bearers were sent forward to recover the wounded orderly when an artillery shell fell directly on top of the group, immediately killing three of the stretcher bearers as well as the orderly who they had been sent to retrieve⁵.

Before these men could be recovered, another shell landed directly on the group leaving no bodies to bury. Their remains, what was left of their corpses, were later buried by the French, but with no identification to put upon the field cross except "Unidentified American Soldier."⁶

Motivated by his war time experiences, Congressman Fish proposed legislation that would provide... "for the bringing to the United States of a body of an unknown American, who was a member of the American Expeditionary Forces, who served in Europe and lost his life during the World War, and for the burial of the remains with appropriate ceremonies."

President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the authorization to "...bringing to the United States of the body of an unknown American, who was a member of the American Expeditionary forces, who served in Europe and lost his life during the World War, and for the burial of the remains with appropriate ceremonies." on March 4, 1921, and at the same time a companion



Copy of HJ Res 426 provided by the US Capitol Visitors Center

act conferred upon the British and French Unknown Soldier the Medal of Honor. While originally recommended that the ceremony occur on Memorial Day, it was moved to Armistice Day (November 11) of 1921.

On October 2, 1921 General of the Armies John Pershing laid the Medal of Honor on the tomb of the French Unknown Soldier under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. A few weeks later on October 17 at Westminster Abbey in London, after much behind the scenes politics, he laid the Medal of Honor on the grave of their Unknown Warrior "...with its ribbon of watered blue silk, on the grave, above the breast of the unknown hero beneath"⁷

Plans went into overdrive and the Army's Quartermaster Corps was given the monumental task of finding an unidentifiable body to represent all of the unidentifiable fallen Americans. It was determined that four bodies would be exhumed from the four major battle locations that American had fought in. On October 22, 1921 instructions were given to the four teams on which cemetery they were to go to, and what grave they were to exhume. Back up plans were also in place in the event that an exhumed body upon inspection was actually identifiable, an alternate grave was identified. These alternates were never exhumed. Each of the four bodies were placed into a casket and put inside a highly polished transfer case.

Once suitable candidates were selected, the teams were ordered to the town of Châlons-sur-Marne (now called Châlons-en-Champagne) at explicitly set times on October 23: no team would arrive at the same time, and no team would know where the other came from. Inside city hall the transfer cases were used as a biers⁸, and the steel caskets placed upon them with the flag of our nation covering them. Following the same guidelines that the French and British used, the caskets were placed in line in a single room within the Hôtel de Ville: At odd times they were rotated to further insure against disrupting the determination of unidentifiable remains. An honor guard of French military stood watch through the day over these honored war dead that had sacrificed all to ensure their freedom; a joint honor guard of American and French watched over him throughout the night.

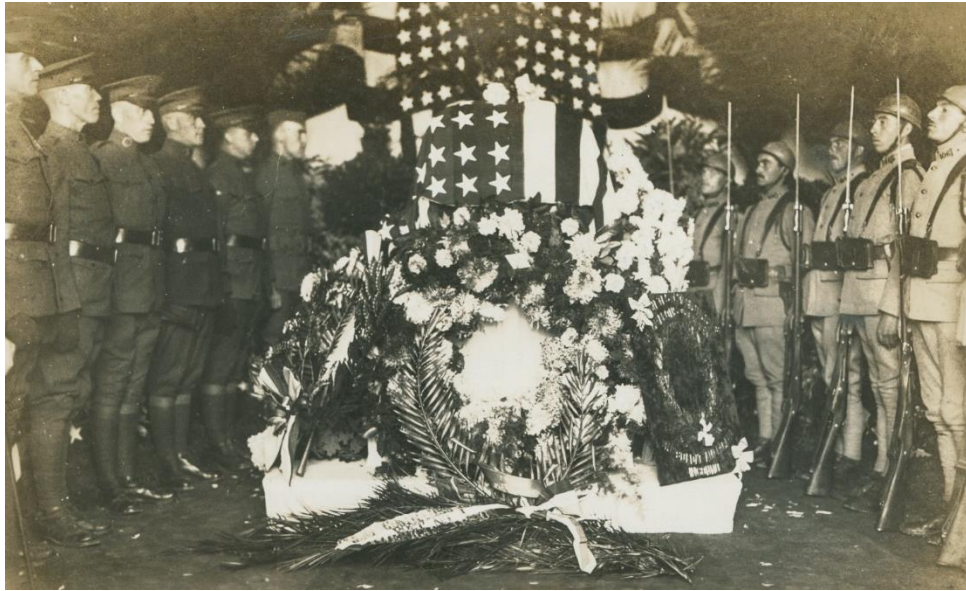
All paperwork was destroyed, sealing the last pathway to identity to ensure that the soon to be selected Unknown Soldier was truly known but to God.

On the morning of October 24, 1921, the French people began to gather near the town square in front of the Hôtel de Ville. Although the ceremony would not take place until 11:00AM, many were present to pay their respects. The original plan provided for an American officer to make the selection, much like the British, but at the last minute a non-commissioned officer was chosen by Major General Harry Rogers: he wanted someone that possibly served beside the Unknown Soldier in the trenches. Sergeant Edward F. Younger, of the Army of Occupation on the Rhine (assigned to the 50th Infantry), was designated to make the final selection: He was the recipient of two wound chevrons (precursor to the Purple Heart) and had fought on many of the same battlefields that the unknown candidates possibly fell.

SGT Younger entered the room where the four caskets awaited. He had been given a spray (bouquet) of white roses⁹ by the officer in charge to lay upon the casket of his choice. The roses had been presented by family who had lost two sons in the war. He entered the room and circled the caskets three times. As he mentioned years later "I was numb, I couldn't choose"¹⁰. After circling the caskets he stopped at the third casket from the left. He then placed the roses upon the casket, stepped back and saluted.

The casket was moved immediately the casket was moved to another room, the body then moved to a special casket. The bodies not selected were transferred to Romagne-sous-Monfaucon and buried before nightfall.

The Unknown Soldier was then placed upon a catafalque where he lay in state with an honor guard of French lining one side of the hall, and one of American's lining the other. The waiting public were then allowed to enter the room where they paid their respects and presented flowers and wreaths.



Joint Honor Guard of American and French Soldiers stand the watch after Sergeant Younger made the selection on October 24, 1921.

At 5:00PM the body bearers removed the Unknown Soldier from the Hôtel de Ville and carried him to the caisson outside. The caisson carried the Unknown Soldier through the streets of Châlons-sur-Marne to the train station, with the spray of white roses still upon the flag draped casket. From here the Unknown Soldier, never left unguarded by the Army honor guard, made his way to Paris where he remained overnight. Present with the honor guard throughout this journey in France was a uniformed member of the American Legion.

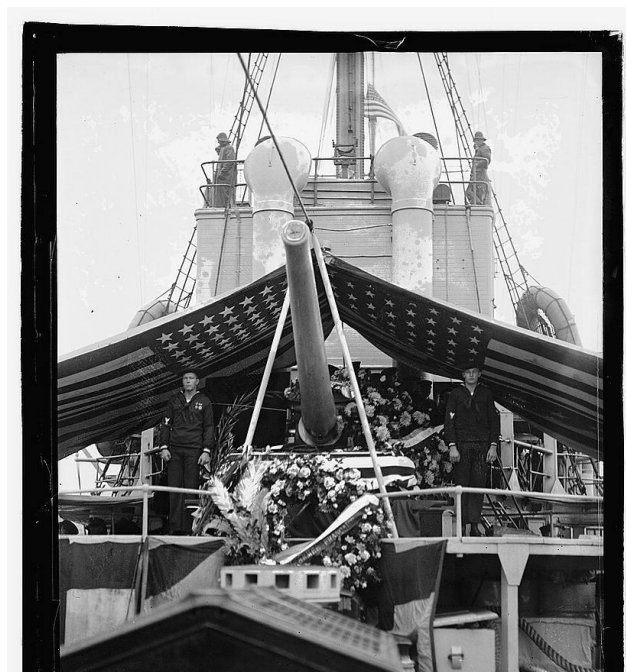
Early the next morning on October 25th the Unknown Soldier left Paris via train and arrived in the port city of Le Havre on the west coast of France, where he would be carried on a final voyage home aboard the USS *Olympia*.

The Olympia's Rendezvous with Destiny

Departing from Melville, Rhode Island on October 2nd, with a special detachment of United States Marines, the USS *Olympia* docked in Plymouth, England on October 14th. The *Olympia's* Marine Detachment was commanded by CPT Graves B. Erskine who was wounded three times in France and awarded the Silver Star for bravery in combat at Belleau Wood. The Marine detachment would assume the responsibility of watching over the Unknown Soldier on the voyage across the Atlantic. The USS *Olympia*, the flagship of Admiral of the Navy George Dewey during the battle of Manila Bay, arrived in Le Havre on October 24th at 2:40am and began preparations to accept their precious responsibility.

Once the Unknown Soldier made his way through the streets of Le Havre, his entourage stopped near the USS *Olympia*. Then Andre Maginot spoke on behalf of the French government and pinned the Crois de Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur upon the flag draped casket next to a spray of white roses. Upon the completion of the rendering of honors, the USS *Olympia* band played Chopin's "Funeral March" as the Unknown Soldier was transferred from US Army control to the US Navy, and Sailors from the *Olympia* carefully carried him aboard the ship with all appropriate military honors of a distinguish visitor embarking onto a naval vessel. Repeated in history many years later in 1958 and 1984, our nations' Navy would always have the responsibility to carry to the mainland America's unknown servicemen that would be interred near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

The USS *Olympia*, whose keel was laid in 1891, is one of the few remaining steel hulled cruisers from that era. Her holds and hatches were too small to accept the large casket, so it was decided that the Unknown Soldier's casket would be lashed to the deck on the signal deck: Captain Henry Lake Wyman, USN, the *Olympia's* skipper, instructed the Marine guard not to slant or tip the coffin. The coffin would not be placed in a cargo hold. Therefore, the coffin of the Unknown Soldier could not be moved to the interior of the ship through bulk head doors. Everyone onboard understood the dignity and respect deserving this fallen hero of America.



The Unknown Soldier rests on the signal deck after being moved from the fantail where he had been originally placed during the ceremonies.

At 3:28pm the USS *Olympia* departed France and began the long voyage home. CPT Erskine, later promoted to General after World War II, reminisced about the voyage home and their encounter with a tempest in the middle of the Atlantic saying that *"We had a real rough trip back. We had some very rough weather coming home, and there were times when we thought we might not make it home. The chaplain and the captain got together, and he held a special service, praying to God that the ship wouldn't sink. Many times, the waves would go up to the bridge. In the wardroom we had at least four inches of water most of the time. It was so bad for*

several days that we couldn't eat at the table. You just sat down with sandwiches and coffee, and you'd hold on to something with one hand and grabbed your sandwich with the other¹¹."

At one point during the tempest it was suggested that the Marines standing watch come inside, but they refused and instead lashed themselves to the deck just as the Unknown Soldier was. They would not leave their post, weather be damned¹². This simple, yet immensely powerful, desire to remain on post is carried on today by the Tomb Guards of the 3d United States Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard): never faltering they have watched over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and each of the crypts (World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War) since 1948¹³.

The USS *Olympia* arrived at the Navy Yard in Washington D.C on November 9, 1921 and docked at Pier #3 at 3:01pm. As the body bearers moved the Unknown Soldier down the sanded gangway and onto the pier, with the spray of white roses still resting upon the flag draped casket, they paused as the National Anthem played welcoming home its long-awaited son. The US Navy then transferred responsibility of the Unknown Soldier back to the 3d Cavalry Regiment of the US Army, who were mounted and waiting on the cobblestone pier facing *Olympia*.



The Unknown Soldier is carried from the USS Olympia after her arrival on November 9, 1921 at the Navy Yard. The spray of white roses used in France by Sergeant Younger are on top of the flag draped casket.

The Unknown Soldier then made his way out of the Navy Yard and through the streets of Washington D.C. stopping at the Capitol. Here the casket was placed in the center of the rotunda upon the same catafalque that bore the bodies President's Lincolns, Garfield and

McKinley. The next morning on November 10, 1921 the public, veterans, and dignitaries were allowed to pay their respects throughout the day with many laying flowers or wreaths upon casket¹⁴.

As the dawn broke on November 11, 1921 the nation was in mourning for a son who fell in the Great War. Mothers in thousands of cities across the United States wondered if it was their son that the nation was honoring. Mourners who had filed passed the casket wondered if it was their son or buddy lying beneath our nations flag. As a nation we paused in profound grief as the Unknown Soldier was moved from the Rotunda of the Capital and again placed upon a caisson from the 3rd Cavalry Regiment and began the last leg of his journey. The procession moved through the streets of our nation's Capital, pausing at the White House where



The Unknown Soldier is carried from the US Capitol to the waiting caisson on November 11, 1921.

President Harding joined those walking the Unknown Soldier to his final resting place in Arlington National Cemetery some 5 miles away. Amongst the funeral cortege were all branches of the uniformed military services, Medal of Honor recipients, and veteran or patriotic organizations including the Daughters of the American Revolution, Colored Veterans of the War, Jewish War Veterans of the World War, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Gold Star Mothers who had all lost sons in the war.

Hundreds of thousands of mourners, veterans, and citizenry lined the procession route and watch in silence as this unknown American passed. They cheered when the Medal of Honor

recipients passed, and those cheers became a “roar when the Gold Star Mothers approached¹⁵”.

Through the streets, past the memorials, and into Arlington National Cemetery¹⁶. The procession stopped at the west entrance to the Memorial Amphitheater where the body bearers carried the Unknown Soldier to the black draped stand. Thousands gathered inside, with hundreds of thousands gathered outside.



President Harding delivers his remarks during the ceremonies for the World War I Unknown Soldier inside the Memorial Amphitheater. Above the stage the words of President Lincoln state “We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain.”

President Harding addressed the nation and her grieving families. He asked for all in the United States to “pause from their accustomed occupations and labor” for a two-minute silence¹⁷ beginning at noon. The President’s speech was broadcast on a “transmitter” known as a “Bell Loud Talker”¹⁸ that allowed those outside to hear in clear detail the words, while more listened in as the transmission was relayed (what we would consider a broadcast) in San Francisco and New York’s Madison Square Garden. Truly a moment in time when all of America was one Nation bound by their profound grief; their love of Country and their sacred duty to never forget.

Upon the conclusion of the President's remarks, he laid the Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross upon the casket. Nations who have fought alongside the Unknown Soldier also conferred their highest medal for valor, including the Victoria Cross and French Medaille Militaire¹⁹. The Unknown Soldier was carried the last few steps from the Memorial Amphitheater to his final resting place. Once in place Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Western New York, Charles Brent, who was the American Expeditionary Forces Chaplain during the war, conducted the final rites above the Unknown Soldier.



Episcopal Bishop Brent concludes the burial rites during the interment of the World War I Unknown Soldier on the east plaza of the Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery. Pictured to the left is Chief Plenty Coos (Coups) of the Crow Nation.

Congressman Fish then came forward and laid the first wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on behalf of those who fell during the war. This was followed by two Gold Star Mothers who laid a wreath for all the grieving mothers.

Chief Plenty Coos (Coups), the elder statesman of the Crow Nation who represented all of the American Indian tribes, came forward and placed his weathered war bonnet and coups sticks upon the open grave of the Unknown Soldier, one warrior honoring another warrior. A man of many visions and ability to find ways to work with white people he spoke about the thousands of native Americans who fought in uniform during the war and how *"I hope that the Great Spirit will grant that these noble warriors have not given up their lives in vain and that there will be peace to all men hereafter"*.

With the ceremonies complete the Unknown Soldier was lowered into his final resting place atop the soil from France that the USS *Olympia* carried in her hold on the tempestuous journey home.

As 3rd Cavalry Regiment bugler Staff Sergeant Frank Witchey played the last haunting note of “taps” as if saying “Fare thee well, day has gone, night is on²⁰” there was barely a dry eye in the audience.

The Unknown Soldier was finally at rest.



SGM Gavin McIlvenna, US Army Retired, is President of the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (SHGTUS) and is working with the government and various non-governmental organizations on the Centennial Commemoration of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (1921-2021).

The Society is actively developing educational programs, lectures, and events to support the Secretary of Defense’s efforts as they plan for, and conduct, a program to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as directed by Congress under the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act.

The Society was founded by veterans in 1999 as a non-profit 501(C)(3) educational organization, created by current and former members of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Honor Guard to support mission of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier platoon, and the members of the Honor Guard. These patriots continue to honor the Unknown Soldiers buried on the east plaza of the Memorial Amphitheater, educate our nation and its visitors about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, commonly and erroneously referred to as “Tomb of the Unknowns,” and what this shrine means to the millions of Gold Star and MIA/POW families and the nation.

¹ PVT Thin commented that he chose the sixth casket because he counted the numbers of his regiment (132nd) and came up that number. Commemorating France’s Unknown Soldier by Robert Korengold, <https://bonjourparis.com/history/commemorating-frances-unknown-soldier/>

² From “Unknown Soldiers: The story of the missing of the First World War” by Neil Hanson, Chapter 25, The Peoples Pilgrimage

³ The Great Silence, part of the National Salute re-instituted by the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, was two minutes in length with the first minute to commemorate “those who had fought and come home, and the second to remember those who did not”. This two minutes of silken would also be incorporated into the ceremonies for the Unites States Unknown Soldier in 1921 in Arlington National Cemetery. “Unknown Soldiers: The story of the missing of the First World War” by Neil Hanson, Chapter 24, The Great Silence.

⁴ “The whole purpose of this resolution is to bring home the body of an unknown American warrior who in himself represents no section, creed, or race in the late war and who typifies, moreover, the soul of America and the Supreme sacrifice of heroic dead”. Congressman Hamilton Fish, February 1921

⁵ Testimony from Congressman Fish as recorded in the Congressional record of Hearings before the Committee on Military Affairs on February 1, 1921.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ From “Unknown Soldiers: The story of the missing of the First World War” by Neil Hanson, Chapter 25, The Peoples Pilgrimage

⁸ A movable frame on which a coffin in placed before burial. Also referred to as a carafalque.

⁹ The roses were presented by a French family who had lost their two sons in the war. The American Rose Society has researched the history of the variety of rose and determined that the *Niphetos* variety grown exclusively in France in 1921 was most likely the rose presented to American officials. “The Rose of the Unknown Soldier” by American Rose Society President Robert Martin.

¹⁰ Sergeant Younger later would describe the scene as “dim inside, the only lighting in through small windows”. “The Unknowns: The untold story of America’s Unknown Soldier and WWI’s most decorated heroes who brought him home”, Chapter 28 by Patrick K. O’Donnell

¹¹ Excerpts from oral interviews with General Erskine in 1969 through 1970.

¹² Excerpts "With the Hand of God" written by 1LT(Ret) J.R. Neubeiser, USMC.

¹³ From 1921-1925 there were not guard present at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Quartermaster civilian guards were introduced on November 17, 1925 during the hours the cemetery was open. Military guards were first introduced on March 25, 1926 but only during the hours the cemetery was open. The 24-hour guard started on midnight July 2, 1937. The Old Guard assumed duties on April 6, 1948 and have maintained the vigil ever since.

¹⁴ At the suggestion of the Society a unique opportunity for the public to pay their individual respects to the Unknown Soldiers in a similar fashion will be repeated on November 9-10, 2021 in Arlington National Cemetery. During those two days individuals will be allowed to enter the chains surrounding the plaza where the Tomb Guards walk and proceed onto the mat, pausing to lay a flower and pay their respects, brining full circle to events 100 years ago in the Capitol Rotunda.

¹⁵ From "Unknown Soldiers: The story of the missing of the First World War" by Neil Hanson, Chapter 27, In the Grey Dusk

¹⁶ The Society proposed that this procession in 1921 be recreated in 2021 and be known as "The President's Procession". Taking a page from history and allowing the President of the United States (POTUS), or his representative, to lead this Veterans Day in fulfilling America's sacred duty to never forget or forsake all those who have served and sacrificed in times of war or armed conflict on behalf of America. This moment will be a singular opportunity to unite all of America in a solemn and dramatic demonstration of America's profound gratitude and respect for these patriots whose service and sacrifice ensured our freedom since our founding and our citizenry's unshakable commitment to those principles and values for which they fought and define us as Americans.

¹⁷ The Society asks the people of the United States each year on November 11 to gather in their communities to create and participate in the National Salute, where those gathered will call for honors 21 times (five second interval between counts) at 11:00am by any means possible (church bells and/or rifle salute) brining attention to those who have served and sacrificed for our nation. Then mirroring events in 1921 in the Memorial Amphitheater those gathered will pause in silence for two minutes, one to remember those that have fallen and one for those that will fall in the future. Taps is recommended to close out the National Salute.

¹⁸ Excerpts from "The Unknowns: The untold story of America's Unknown Soldier and WWI's most decorated heroes who brought him home", Chapter 29 by Patrick K. O'Donnell

¹⁹ The Unknown Soldier was ultimately presented with the Victoria Cross (UK), Military Medal (FR), Legion of Honor (Chevalier) (FR), Croix de Guerre (FR), Gold Medal for Bravery (IT), Croix de Guerre (BE), Military Virtue Medal (RO), War Cross 1918 (CZ), and the War Order of Military Virtue (PL). Each of these medals, as well as the casket flag, are still on display inside the Memorial Amphitheater Display room.

²⁰ From "An excerpt from Twenty-Four notes that tap deep emotions: The Story of America's most famous bugle call" by Master Sergeant (Ret) Jari Villanueva, USAF.