

EMANCIPATION HALL



Emancipation Hall, the heart of the Capitol Visitor Center, was named by Congress to recognize the enslaved laborers and craftsmen who helped build the U.S. Capitol.

On December 18, 2007, Congress passed legislation to name the Capitol Visitor Center's central space "Emancipation Hall" to recognize the contributions of the enslaved laborers who helped build the U.S. Capitol. Emancipation Hall is a central gathering place for visitors coming to see the Capitol.

When construction of the Capitol began in 1793, Washington, D.C., was little more than a rural landscape with dirt roads and few accommodations beyond a small number of boarding houses. Skilled labor was hard to find or attract to the fledgling city. The federal government relied heavily on

enslaved labor to ensure the new capital city would be ready to receive Congress when it moved to Washington from Philadelphia in 1800.

Enslaved laborers, who were rented from their owners, were involved in almost every stage of construction. They cut trees, cleared grounds, baked bricks, and quarried stone and delivered it to the building site. They molded clay, sawed timber, and worked with masons to erect the building. In the early 1860s, an enslaved craftsman named Philip Reid assisted with casting the bronze Statue of Freedom on the Capitol dome.



U.S. CAPITOL
www.visittbecapitol.gov

The U.S. Capitol is open from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday – Saturday. It is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Inauguration Day.





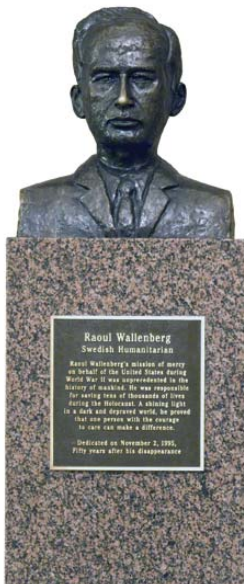
Grand skylights above Emancipation Hall offer visitors dramatic views of the Capitol Dome and allow natural light to fill the interior space.

Honoring Human Rights Leaders

The busts of two people who fought against oppression — abolitionist and women’s rights advocate Sojourner Truth and Swedish humanitarian Raoul Wallenberg — can be seen near the plaster model for the Statue of Freedom on the west side of Emancipation Hall.

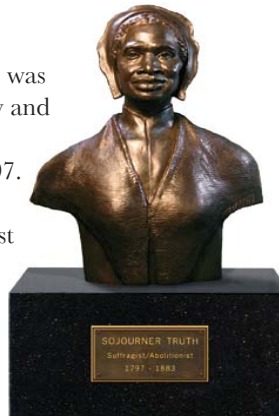
The bronze portrait bust of Sojourner Truth is the first sculpture to honor an African-American woman in the U.S. Capitol.

Raoul Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat who, through his country’s legation in Budapest during World War II, helped save the lives of tens of thousands of Jews threatened by the occupying Nazi forces and their Hungarian collaborators. The bust of Wallenberg by Miri Margolin was accepted in 1995.



Sojourner Truth was born into slavery and named Isabella Baumfree in 1797. One of 13 children, she was first sold at auction around the age of nine. Before she was 30, she had been enslaved to five owners. In 1826, a year before the state of New York completed its gradual emancipation of enslaved people, her owner reneged on a promise to free her as a reward for hard work. She courageously walked away to be free with her infant child. In 1843, inspired by her religious beliefs, Isabella changed her name to Sojourner Truth and set out to travel and preach about abolition and women’s rights.

Shackled slaves make their way down Pennsylvania Avenue. In the background is the U.S. Capitol before the central domed portion was constructed in the 1820s.



Left, the bust of the emancipated slave and inspirational speaker for abolition and women’s rights. Right, Sojourner Truth, by Artis Lane, was unveiled in Emancipation Hall in 2009.



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Architectural Features

From its inception, the Capitol Visitor Center was conceived as an extension of the Capitol. The materials used to construct the Visitor Center were selected to match the colors, textures, and materials seen throughout the historic building.



Nowhere in the Visitor Center is this continuity more evident than in Emancipation Hall.

Rising 36 feet above the floor, the walls and columns of Emancipation Hall are lined with sandstone slabs marked by a variety of color and texture similar to the sandstone seen in the Capitol.

At the entrance to the Exhibition Hall, visitors can see two round columns with a decorative leaf detail at the top of each column that matches the design of the 40 Doric columns in the Crypt of the Capitol,

the space directly below the Capitol Rotunda.

The floors of Emancipation Hall are accented with rose and burgundy marble slabs from quarries in Tennessee. These same quarries provided much of the ornamental marble for the Capitol extensions built during the 1850s.

It is perhaps the most modern feature of Emancipation Hall — two large skylights — that provides visitors the greatest connection to the historic Capitol. These skylights, each measuring 30 feet by 70 feet, offer dramatic views of the Capitol's majestic dome while allowing natural light to fill the interior space.

Measuring 20,000 square feet, the floor of Emancipation Hall is nearly three times the size of the Capitol Rotunda's 7,200-square-foot circular floor.



The Statue of Freedom

The Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol Dome is a classical female figure. Her right hand rests on the hilt of a sheathed sword; her left hand holds a laurel wreath of victory and the shield of the United States. A brooch inscribed "U.S." secures her fringed robe.

The original plaster model for the Statue of Freedom has been restored and is now the focal point of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center, giving visitors an up-close view of the allegorical figure. The model is 19½ feet tall and weighs approximately 13,000 pounds.

In 1857, Thomas Crawford, an American sculptor working in Rome, completed the plaster model for the Statue of Freedom. After Crawford's death, another American sculptor, Clark Mills, was hired to cast the statue at his foundry in the District of Columbia. When the worker who had put the plaster model together refused to disassemble it unless his unreasonable demands for extra pay were met, Philip Reid, an enslaved craftsman owned by Clark Mills, determined how to separate the sections so they could be moved to the foundry for casting.

There Reid was put in charge of keeping the fire going under the molds, and he worked with other enslaved laborers as the sections of the plaster model were cast into bronze. Philip Reid was emancipated shortly before the completed bronze statue was moved to the Capitol Grounds in 1862, and he was a free man when the last piece was put in place on the dome on December 2, 1863.

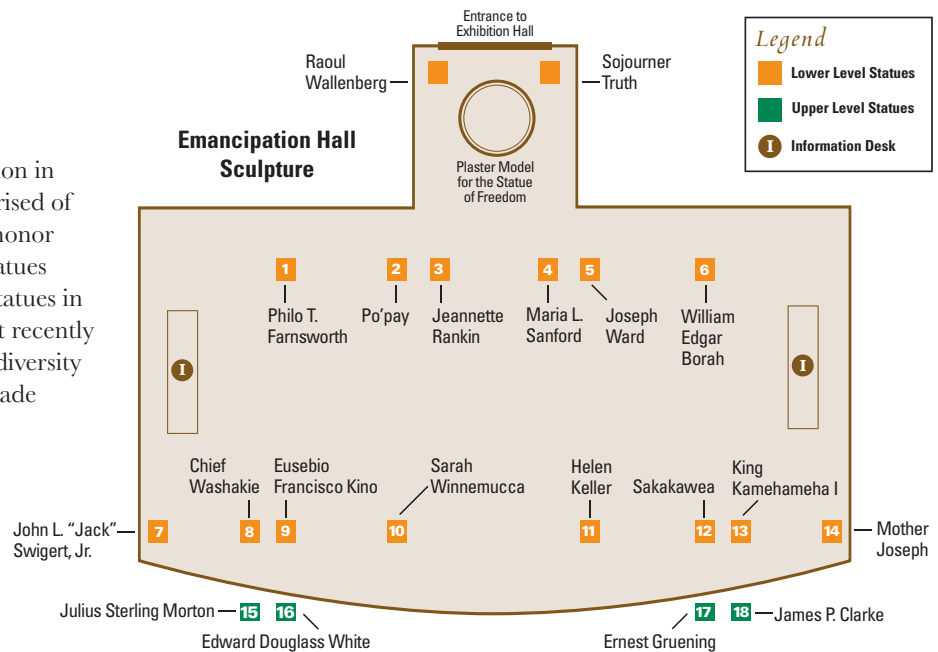


The plaster model for the Statue of Freedom stands prominently at the west side of Emancipation Hall.

Statues in Emancipation Hall

The National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol is comprised of statues donated by individual states to honor persons notable in their history. Two statues are contributed by each state. The 18 statues in Emancipation Hall are among the most recently donated statues and also represent the diversity of the country and the contributions made by its citizens.

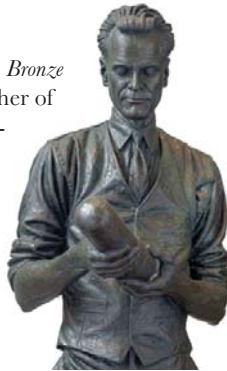
For more information on Emancipation Hall and the U.S. Capitol see www.aoc.gov and www.visitthecapitol.gov.



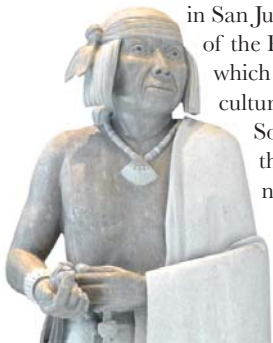
Statues in Emancipation Hall from the National Statuary Hall Collection

Dates in italics indicate year that the statue was added to the Collection.

1 Philo T. Farnsworth (1906–1971) Utah, Bronze by James R. Avati, 1990. Inventor. Called “the father of television” for devising an early electronic television system, which he first conceived in high school. Early televisions used 100 of his patents. Received more than 160 patents for inventions used in the development of the infrared night light, electron microscope, baby incubator, gastroscope, astronomical telescope, and radar. Shown holding an electronic camera tube that he invented in the 1920s.



2 Po'pay (1630?–before 1692) New Mexico, Marble by Cliff Fragua, 2005. Pueblo religious and spiritual leader. Born in San Juan Pueblo, now New Mexico. Organizer of the Pueblo Revolt against the Spanish in 1680, which helped ensure the survival of the Pueblo culture and shaped the history of the American Southwest. Holds a bear fetish and the knotted rope used to coordinate the timing of the uprising; the sculpture includes a pot, a symbol of Pueblo culture.

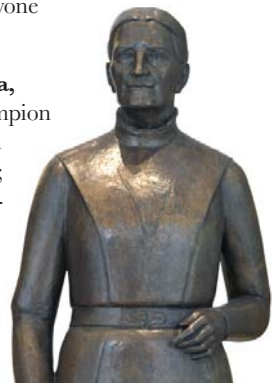
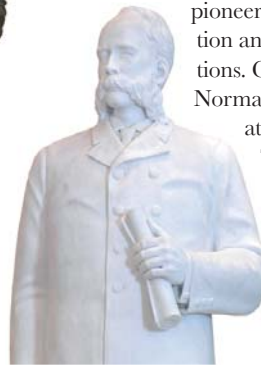


3 Jeannette Rankin (1880–1973) Montana, Bronze by Terry Minnaugh, 1985. Social worker, lecturer, and U.S. Representative who served from 1917–1919 and from 1941–1943. First woman elected to Congress. Noted lobbyist for peace and women’s rights. Voted against America’s entry into World Wars I and II. Only Member of



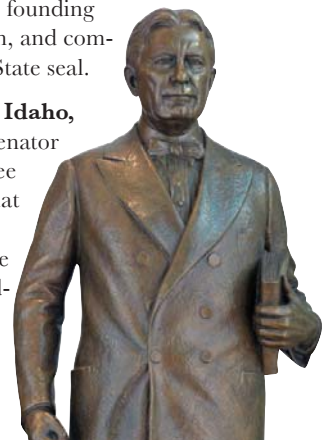
Congress to oppose declaration of war on Japan in 1941, saying, “As a woman I can’t go to war...and I refuse to send anyone else.”

4 Maria L. Sanford (1836–1920) Minnesota, Bronze by Evelyn Raymond, 1958. Educator and champion of women’s rights. Supported suffrage for women and the education of African Americans; pioneered the concept of adult education and parent-teacher organizations. Graduated from Connecticut Normal School. Professor of history at Swarthmore College. Taught for 20 years at University of Minnesota. One of the first women to



5 Joseph Ward (1838–1889) South Dakota, Marble by Bruno Begh , 1963. Missionary and educator. Leader in movement for South Dakota statehood. Ordained in Yankton, capital of Dakota Territory. Opened Yankton Academy and was instrumental in founding Yankton College. Drafted State constitution, and composed State motto and description for the State seal.

6 William Edgar Borah (1865–1940) Idaho, Bronze by Bryant Baker, 1947. Lawyer, U.S. Senator 1907–1940. As Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, sponsored bills that created the Department of Labor and the Children’s Bureau. Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Outstanding orator, known as the “Lion of Idaho.”



7 John L. “Jack” Swigert, Jr. (1931–1982)

Colorado, *Bronze by George and Mark Lundeen, 1997.*

Pilot and astronaut. Air Force combat pilot in Korea and test pilot. One of three crew members aboard 1970 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Apollo 13 moon mission, aborted after an oxygen tank ruptured. Crew spent almost six days in space. Executive director of House Committee on Science and Technology. Elected to House of Representatives in 1982, but died one week before taking office.



8 Chief Washakie

(1800?–1900) Wyoming, *Bronze by Dave McGary, 2000.* Warrior and spokesman for Shoshone tribe. Fluent in French, English, and several Native American languages. He united several Shoshone bands. Negotiated with the U.S. Army to ensure preservation of more than three million acres in Wyoming as home to the Shoshone. Given a full U.S. military funeral. Details of clothing are finely painted in color.



9 Eusebio Francisco Kino (1645–1711)

Arizona, *Bronze by Suzanne Silvercray, 1965.*

Missionary, explorer, and cartographer. Jesuit priest born in Italy. Led exploratory expeditions to Mexico and lower California and worked with Pima Indians in south-ern Arizona. Built missions, ranches, and roads in California and Arizona. Shown holding an astrolabe, used in calculating latitude from the stars.

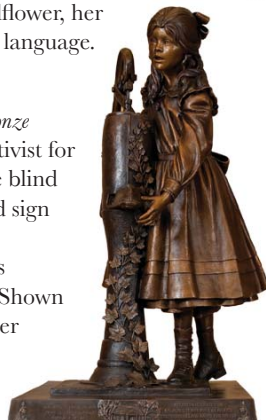


10 Sarah Winnemucca

(1844–1891) Nevada, *Bronze by Benjamin Victor, 2005.* Interpreter, educator, and author. Negotiated between her Paiute people and the U.S. Army. Started a school for Native American children, teaching in both the native language and English. Her autobiography, *Life among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims*, was the first book written by a Native American woman. Holds a shellflower, her name in the Paiute language.



11 Helen Keller (1880–1968) Alabama, *Bronze by Edward Hlawka, 2009.* Author, lecturer, and activist for the disabled and for other social causes. Became blind and deaf following an illness in infancy. Learned sign language, speech, and Braille. First blind and deaf person to graduate from college. Known as “America’s goodwill ambassador to the world.” Shown as a seven-year-old child at the water pump at her home in Tuscumbia, Alabama, where she first understood the signed word “water” and learned to communicate.



Other Statues in the Capitol Visitor Center

The following six statues from the National Statuary Hall Collection are located in areas of the Capitol Visitor Center outside Emancipation Hall. If you are interested in seeing any of these statues, please speak to a Visitor Assistant.

John M. Clayton (1796–1856) Delaware, *Marble by Bryant Baker, 1934.* Lawyer, State legislator, U.S. Senator 1829–1836, and chief justice of the State supreme court.

James Z. George (1826–1897) Mississippi, *Bronze by Augustus Lukeman, 1931.* Soldier, lawyer, State justice, and U.S. Senator 1881–1897. Served in Mexican War. Appointed to the Mississippi Supreme Court and made chief justice before being elected to the U.S. Senate.

Wade Hampton (1818–1902) South Carolina, *Marble by Frederic W. Ruckstull, 1929.* Planter, State legislator, governor, U.S. Senator 1879–1891, and U.S. railroad commissioner. Hero of the Confederacy, raising a legion of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. Fought at Gettysburg. Rose to lieutenant general of the cavalry.

Ephraim McDowell (1771–1830) Kentucky, *Bronze by Charles H. Niehaus, 1929.* Surgeon and founder of Centre College. Helped draft the Kentucky constitution. Pioneer in abdominal surgical techniques; first to successfully remove an ovarian tumor.

Dr. John McLoughlin (1784–1857) Oregon, *Bronze by Gifford Proctor, 1953.* Physician for British North West Company fur-gathering post on Lake Superior; instrumental in merger with Hudson Bay Company. Called “Father of Oregon” because of his generosity to American pioneers.

Gen. E. Kirby Smith (1824–1893) Florida, *Bronze by C. Adrian Pillars, 1922.* Soldier, businessman, and educator. Resigned from the U.S. Army to join Confederate forces. Last surviving full general of the Confederate army. Telegraph company president, university chancellor, and professor of mathematics.

12 Sakakawea (1788?–1812) North Dakota, *Bronze, replica of 1910 statue by Leonard Crunelle, 2003.* Interpreter and guide.



In 1805, carrying her newborn son, assisted Northwest Expedition headed by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in what is today North Dakota. Her presence was a sign to tribes that the expedition was peaceful. Honored as traveler, translator, diplomat, wife, and

mother. Named Sakakawea, or “Bird Woman,” by her Hidatsa tribe.

13 King Kamehameha I (1758?–1819) Hawaii, *Bronze and gold, replica of 1879 statue by Thomas R. Gould, 1969.* Warrior and king. Unified all the inhabited islands of Hawaii under his rule. Encouraged trade and opened Hawaii to the rest of the world. Also called Kamehameha the Great. Shown wearing the gilded regalia of Hawaiian royalty including a helmet and a cloak of Hawaii Mamo bird feathers.





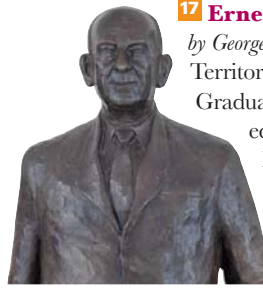
14 Mother Joseph (1823–1902) Washington, *Bronze by Felix W. de Weldon, 1980.* Missionary and architect. Born Esther Pariseau near Montreal, Canada. Became a Catholic nun at age 20. Led missionaries to the U.S. Pacific Northwest Territories, including the future State of Washington. Designed, oversaw construction, and raised funds for 11 hospitals, seven academies, five Native American schools, and two orphanages. Shown on the pedestal are drafting instruments and images of her buildings.



15 Julius Sterling Morton (1832–1902) Nebraska, *Bronze by Rudolph Evans, 1937.* Farmer, legislator, and cabinet member. Founder of Arbor Day, celebrated on his birthday, April 22. Staked a claim in Nebraska before it was a territory. Member of territorial legislature and appointed secretary of the territory. Served as President Cleveland’s Secretary

of Agriculture. Began to edit the multivolume *Illustrated History of Nebraska*. Seen at the base of the sculpture are a tree trunk, sapling, pruning shears, and shovel symbolizing Arbor Day.

16 Edward Douglass White (1845–1921) Louisiana, *Bronze by Arthur C. Morgan, 1955.* Lawyer, state legislator, U.S. Senator 1891–1894, U.S. Supreme Court justice 1894–1921, and served as Chief Justice of the United States 1910–1921. Enlisted in the Confederate Army at age 16, but later as Supreme Court justice supported the right of African Americans to vote. Appointed to Supreme Court by President Cleveland.



17 Ernest Gruening (1886–1974) Alaska, *Bronze by George Anthonisen, 1977.* Journalist, Governor of the Territory of Alaska, and U.S. Senator 1959–1969. Graduated from medical school, but became a reporter, editor, and managing editor in Boston and New York. Appointed to Alaska International Highway Commission. Served as governor from 1939 until retirement in 1953. One of first two Senators from Alaska. Called “the father of Alaska Statehood.”

18 James P. Clarke (1854–1916) Arkansas, *Marble by Pompeo Coppini, 1921.* Lawyer, state legislator and attorney general, governor, and U.S. Senator 1903–1916. Twice elected President *pro tempore* of the Senate. Supported the Panama Canal project and Philippine independence. As Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, helped pass employers’ liability and workmen’s compensation legislation.

