



## AS WE SEE IT

### The Guard Is Here to Stay!

THE last workmen have taken their tools and departed, the speeches all have been made, the troops and the crowds have come and gone and now the National Guard Memorial is completed.

Looking out on the grassy plaza which surrounds the National Capitol, the structure finally is ready to serve the purpose for which it was conceived.

Scores of thousands of Guardsmen, all over the Country, contributed an uncountable number of hours to bring it into existence, mostly in fund-raising. Others, the comparative handful of officers in whose minds the idea was born, and on whose shoulders the burden of actual planning fell, labored even more strenuously to convert their dream into reality. And many officers and men gave of their time to plan for and participate in the soul-lifting ceremonies which formally inaugurated the Memorial.

Now, it's time to ask, and attempt to answer, a simple question:

What does it mean?

Just what will the building mean to Guardsmen, today, tomorrow, and for many tomorrows? Why were so many devoted individuals willing to sacrifice so much time and effort and money to its construction? It's a beautiful marble and steel and glass structure, a fitting memorial to all the Guardsmen who have served their Country and, in thousands of instances, given their lives in its defense. It's also an attractive, efficient home for the National Guard Association of the United States. But it's much more than just a building; it's an idea, a dream, and a reaffirmation of all the qualities which make Guardsmen what they are.

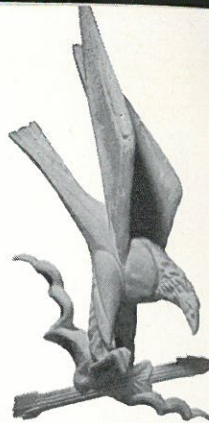
It stands for permanency—a constant reminder to others that the Guard is older even than the Nation, that it has had its dark days and its good ones, yet has stubbornly, proudly, honestly held on to its simple creed, that a Nation is no stronger than the willingness of its individual citizens voluntarily to serve, and fight for, their nation. It represents prestige, too—a quality which, in Washington especially, never can be discounted. Thousands of visitors have toured the structure, or simply stood outside and gazed into the Hall of States where the flags of every State hang in colorful array, symbolizing America itself and its strength.

Many of the visitors were men high in the councils of the Country and they left the Memorial in many cases with a far better idea of the important role the Guard plays in America's military affairs. They saw stability and strength in the building—and they saw that the men who built the Memorial must possess those same qualities.

In the solidity of the building, visitors saw, many of them for the first time, the continuity and integrity and unselfish purpose of the Guard itself, and the manner in which it has become not just a military force but a part of America itself.

Those visitors saw, just as thousands more will see in the years ahead, that the Guard is here to stay, a vital, living part of the Country which it serves.

That's what the new National Guard Memorial means to Guardsmen.



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GENE WATTERS .....	INSIDE BACK COVER

**OUR COVER:** Biggest spectacle (short of mobilization) in the National Guard's proud history took place when streamer-bedecked Colors of 1400 Army and Air Guard organizations were paraded and massed at ceremonies highlighting ex-Guardsman, ex-President Harry S Truman's dedicatory address at the sparkling new National Guard Memorial in Washington. On both front and back cover and inside are photos of the momentous event.

(Photos by US Army, NJARNG, Capitol Photo Service and Bob Striar)

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