The Rotunda of the United States Capitol, completed in 1824, has always been considered the most suitable place for the nation to pay final tribute to its most eminent citizens by having their remains lie in state (in the case of government officials and military officers) or in honor (in the case of private citizens). These occasions are either authorized by a congressional resolution or approved by the congressional leadership, when permission is granted by survivors. The prominent individuals who have been so honored are listed below.

**Henry Clay.** July 1, 1852, following a memorial service in the Senate Chamber (S-228). Member of the House of Representatives for five nonconsecutive terms (1811–1825). Served as Speaker in 1811–1814, 1815–1820, and 1823–1825. Secretary of State from 1825 to 1829. U.S. Senator from Kentucky intermittently for eighteen years between 1806 and 1852. Died June 29, 1852, in Washington, D.C., during the 32d Congress, 1st Session. No resolution.

**Abraham Lincoln.** April 19–21, 1865. Member of the House of Representatives from Illinois, March 4, 1847, to March 3, 1849. President of the United States from March 4, 1861, until his death. Assassinated April 14, 1865, in Washington, D.C., and died there April 15, 1865, after adjournment of the 38th Congress, 2d Session. No resolution.

**Thaddeus Stevens.** August 13–14, 1868, prior to a memorial service in the Rotunda. Member of the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania, March 4, 1849, to March 3, 1853, and again from March 4, 1859, until his death August 11, 1868, in Washington, D.C., during recess of the 40th Congress, 2d Session. No resolution.

**Charles Sumner.** March 13, 1874, prior to a memorial service in the Senate Chamber. U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, April 24, 1851, until his death, March 11, 1874, in Washington, D.C., during the 43d Congress, 1st Session. No resolution.

**Henry Wilson.** November 25–26, 1875, prior to a memorial service in the Senate Chamber. U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, January 31, 1855, to March 3, 1873, when he resigned to become Vice President. Vice President of United States from March 4, 1873, until his death. Died November 22, 1875, in the Vice President’s room in the Capitol, Washington, D.C., after adjournment of the 43d Congress, 2d Session. No resolution.

John Alexander Logan. December 30–31, 1886, prior to a memorial service in the Senate Chamber. Member of House of Representatives from Illinois, March 4, 1859, to April 2, 1862, when he resigned to enter the Union Army, and again from March 4, 1867, until March 3, 1871. U.S. Senator from Illinois, March 4, 1871, to March 3, 1877, and again from March 4, 1879, to December 26, 1886. Died December 26, 1886, in Washington, D.C., during the 49th Congress, 2d Session. No resolution.

William McKinley, Jr. September 17, 1901, following a memorial service in the Rotunda. Member of House of Representatives from Ohio, March 4, 1877, to May 27, 1884, and again from March 4, 1885, to March 3, 1891. Governor of Ohio from 1892 to 1896. President of United States, March 4, 1897, until his death. Assassinated September 6, 1901, in Buffalo, New York, and died there September 14, 1901, after adjournment of the 56th Congress, 2d Session. No resolution.

Pierre Charles L’Enfant. (re-interment) April 28, 1909, prior to a memorial service in the Rotunda. Planner of the city of Washington, D.C. Died June 14, 1825, and was buried on Digges farm, Prince George’s County, Maryland. Remains were brought to Capitol, April 28, 1909, to be re-interred in Arlington National Cemetery. Authority for use of the Rotunda granted by Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, 61st Congress, 1st Session, agreed to March 26, 1909.


Unknown Soldier of World War I. November 9–11, 1921. Chosen to honor and perpetuate the memory of the heroes who gave their lives in World War I. The body was that of an unknown American who served as a member of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe. Congress was in session, 67th Congress, 1st Session. No resolution.

Warren Gamaliel Harding. August 8, 1923, following a memorial service in the Rotunda. U.S. Senator from Ohio, March 4, 1915, to January 13, 1921, when he resigned, having been elected President. President of United States March 4, 1921, until his death. Died August 2, 1923, in San Francisco, California, after adjournment of the 67th Congress, 4th Session. No resolution.


Unknown Soldiers of World War II and the Korean War. May 28–30, 1958. Chosen to honor and perpetuate the memory of the heroes who gave their lives while serving overseas in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II and the Korean War, and whose identities were unknown. Authority for use of the Rotunda granted by House Concurrent Resolution 242, 85th Congress, 2d Session, agreed to March 6, 1958.


Authority for use of the Rotunda granted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate. No resolution.


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