

# Changing Faces

## Your State Hero in the U.S. Capitol

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**T**here's an exciting change occurring in the U.S. Capitol in our nation's capital of Washington, D.C. — and YOU and YOUR STUDENTS can become involved in the story. But before I can tell you how to play a role, I need to provide the plot!

### Pride in the Union

The story begins in 1864, while our nation was still experiencing the agony of the Civil War. Congressman Justin Morill of Vermont sponsored a bill inviting every state to send two statues of noteworthy individuals from that state for permanent display in the expanded U.S. Capitol. A new wing of the House featuring a larger House Chamber was also constructed from 1851-61. Maybe you have seen photographs of the Capitol's massive dome under construction during the war. Lincoln felt it was very important to continue the building process as a strong symbol of the Union's endurance. The plan called for the donated statues to be placed in the old House of Representatives chamber, which henceforth would be called National Statuary Hall. States began making contributions in 1870, but it took 100 years before every state had at least one famous "hero" in the collection. By 1990, 45 states had reached their quota of two statues, and finally by 2005, all 100 statues were in the Capitol when Nevada and New Mexico gave their gifts. (SIDEBARA) Because of the weight and size of the statues (many of them are solid marble or granite), they are no longer confined to National Statuary Hall. When you enter the new Visitor's Center (opened in 2008), and as you tour the Capitol, you'll see the statues in many locations. It's fun to see how many you recognize and fun to try to find the two from your home state. End of story, right? Wrong! And here is where the plot thickens and your role begins.

### To Begin Anew

In 1999, Congressman Todd Tiahrt of Kansas made a stunning

proposal — to replace one of Kansas' statues! WHAT? How could anyone suggest removing a "hero" — where would the old statue go? And why would anyone even bring up such an absurd proposal? It's actually amusing how the idea surfaced. The Representative noticed that the toes of the Will Rogers statue from Oklahoma were all shiny. The statue of this beloved 1930s humorist and cowboy was made of bronze, and people rubbed his foot for good luck as they walked past it. But no one stopped to look at either of Kansas' statues because, quite frankly, nobody knew who they were! So, what to do? Would Congress allow a state to take such a bold step? The citizens from Kansas decided not to wait; they forged ahead in the hope Congress would accommodate their request. And who did Kansas want to honor? He's the man who grew up in Abilene and whose boyhood home and presidential library are located there today — Dwight David Eisenhower. As a general, he led the Allied invasion of Europe known as D-Day (June 6, 1944), and was later elected to be the 34th president of our country. And who would "Ike" replace? Kansas decided to retire George Washington Glick, a former governor who had been enshrined in the Hall in 1914.

### The Next Chapter

In 2000, Congress passed the following law: "Any state may request the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement of a statue the State has provided for display in Statuary Hall in the Capitol of the United States ..." KANSAS WON! In 2003, for the first time since its inception, a new statue replaced an existing one, as Eisenhower moved in and Glick moved out. That action has started the ball rolling, and the effort is now picking up momentum. In 2009, two other states replaced statues: Alabama selected Helen Keller, who replaced Jabez Lamar Monroe Curry (given in 1908);

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Po'pay was born around 1630 in the San Juan Pueblo, in what is now the state of New Mexico; his given name, Popyn, means "ripe squash" in the Tewa language. As an adult he became a religious leader and was responsible for healing as well as for his people's spiritual life. He also knew of his people's suffering under Spanish settlers, who forced them to provide labor and food to support the Spanish community. The Spaniards also pressured them to give up their religion and way of life and to adopt Christianity—those found practicing their religion were tortured and sometimes executed. In 1675 Po'pay and 46 other Pueblo leaders were convicted of sorcery; he was among those flogged, while others were executed. In 1680 Po'pay organized the Pueblo Revolt against the Spanish. According to legend, to coordinate the timing of the uprising, he and his followers sent runners to each pueblo with knotted deerskin strips. One knot was to be untied each day, and the revolt would begin on the day the last one was untied. However, the Spaniards arrested two of the runners, and the pueblos were quickly notified to accelerate the revolt. The attacks began on August 10, two days before the last knot would have been untied. The Spaniards took refuge at Santa Fe; the besieging Indians cut off their water supply but soon permitted them to leave the area. The Pueblo Revolt helped to ensure the survival of the Pueblo culture and shaped the history of the American Southwest. In 1997, the New Mexico Legislature selected Po'pay as the subject of the state's second statue for the National Statuary Hall Collection and created the New Mexico Statuary Hall Commission, whose members were appointed by Governor Gary Johnson. Four sculptors were selected to create maquettes, and Cliff Fragua was awarded the commission in December 1999. It will be the seventh statue of a Native American in the collection; the others are King Kamehameha I, Will Rogers (who had Cherokee ancestors),

Sakakawea, Sequoyah, Washakie, and Sarah Winnemucca. The seven-foot-high statue was carved from pink Tennessee marble (making it the only colored marble in the collection) and stands on a three-foot-high pedestal comprised of a steel frame clad in black granite. It is the first marble statue contributed to the collection since that of South Dakota's Joseph Ward, which was given in 1963; the other statues given since that time have been bronze. Its acceptance marked the first time at which every state in the Union has been represented by two statues in the collection. In addition, Po'pay is historically the first person represented in the collection to be born on what would become American soil. No image or written description of Po'pay is known to exist. Sculptor Cliff Fragua describes the statue thus:

*In my rendition, he holds in his hands items that will determine the future existence of the Pueblo people. The knotted cord in his left hand was used to determine when the Revolt would begin. As to how many knots were used is debatable, but I feel that it must have taken many days to plan and notify most of the Pueblos. The bear fetish in his right hand symbolizes the center of the Pueblo world, the Pueblo religion. The pot behind him symbolizes the Pueblo culture, and the deerskin he wears is a humble symbol of his status as a provider. The necklace that he wears is a constant reminder of where life began, and his clothing consists of a loin cloth and moccasins in Pueblo fashion. His hair is cut in Pueblo tradition and bound in a chongo. On his back are the scars that remain from the whipping he received for his participation and faith in the Pueblo ceremonies and religion.* 🏹

*Fragua, an Indian from Jemez Pueblo, studied sculpture in Italy, California, and New Mexico; he created his first stone sculpture in 1974.*



SOURCE: Architect of the Capitol, [www.aoc.gov/cc/art/nsh/popay.cfm](http://www.aoc.gov/cc/art/nsh/popay.cfm)



**Sakakawea (1788? – 1812)**  
North Dakota  
Bronze by Leonard Crunelle  
Given in 2003  
CVC Emancipation Hall



**Washakie (1800? – 1900)**  
Wyoming  
Bronze by Dave McGary  
Given in 2000  
CVC Emancipation Hall



**Jeannette Rankin (1880 – 1973)**  
Montana  
Bronze by Terry Mimnaugh  
Given in 1985  
CVC Emancipation Hall

# Images from the Capitol



**COLORADO**  
**JOHN L. "JACK" SWIGERT, JR.**  
 1931-1982  
 ASTRONAUT, APOLLO XIII  
 CONGRESSMAN ELECT, 1982

**John L. Swigert (1931 – 1982)**  
 Colorado  
 Bronze by George and Mark Lundeen  
 Given in 1997  
 CVC Emancipation Hall



**MOTHER JOSEPH**  
 A SISTER OF PROVIDENCE  
 1823 — 1902  
 SHE MADE MONUMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
 TO HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION AND  
 SOCIAL WORK THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST  
 STATE OF WASHINGTON  
 FELIX DE WELDON  
 SCULPTOR

**Mother Joseph (1823 – 1902)**  
 Washington  
 Bronze by Felix W. de Weldon  
 Given in 1980  
 CVC Emancipation Hall



**JUNIPERO SERRA**  
 CALIFORNIA

**Father Junipero Serra (1713 – 1784)**  
 California  
 Bronze by Ettore Cadorin  
 Given in 1931  
 National Statuary Hall

## SIDEBAR B

# And The Winner Is...

Per the charge of the National Statuary Collection Study Committee, the Ohio Historical Society has finalized the public vote of Ohioans for their choice to replace the statue of William Allen in the National Statuary Hall Collection. On behalf of Ohio Historical Society Executive Director Burt Logan, we thank you for the opportunity to engage the public in this educational activity. We are delighted that nearly 50,000 Ohioans of all ages participated in this effort. The final results (48,736 votes) are listed below:

Nominee	Adults	Students	Total	Percent
Thomas A. Edison	9,329	5,504	14,833	30.4%
Wright Brothers	6,463	7,352	13,815	28.3%
Jesse Owens	2,101	2,931	5,032	10.3%
William M. McCulloch	3,329	522	3,851	7.9%
Ulysses S. Grant	1,234	1,853	3,087	6.3%
Harriet Taylor Upton	1,675	912	2,587	5.3%
Harriet Beecher Stowe	1,030	1,300	2,330	4.8%
Judith A. Resnik	453	1,035	1,488	3.1%
Albert B. Sabin	522	676	1,198	2.5%
James Mitchell Ashley	46	469	515	1.1%

SOURCE: Legacy for Ohio, [www.legacyforohio.org](http://www.legacyforohio.org)

California now has President Ronald Reagan, who replaced Thomas Starr King (given in 1931).

More states are considering action, such as Arizona, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio. For example, visit [www.legacyforohio.org](http://www.legacyforohio.org) to learn about that state's process to replace one of their statues. You will find an amazing list of Ohioan heroes, one of whom might be represented in the Capitol within the next five years. (SIDEBAR B) Kansas is also acting to replace its other statue! And I am helping in my state of Pennsylvania to replace one of our two statues with a great hero of the 20th century.

### Your Choice Here

Now it is time to cast you in a role in this show. Your part is to determine whether your state should become involved. You and fellow residents of your state can research the accomplishments of the two people whose statues currently represent your state. Are they still worthy of this high honor? Are there other people connected with your state who may be more deserving of this national recognition? Actually creating a new statue would require a lot of work and money, but anyone can begin the investigation. Visit the National Statuary Hall website to learn how to start, at [www.aoc.gov/cc/art/nsh/index.cfm](http://www.aoc.gov/cc/art/nsh/index.cfm). You'll find a listing of all 100 statues, so you can learn about the two from your home state. Included in the one-page biography of each state hero is a photograph of the statue. Information about replacing a statue and even a sample replacement agreement document are also available as a PDF. This website is a valuable resource for lots of classroom activities relating to heroes and geography, state history and representative government.

### The Real Deal

As anyone in the classroom knows, connecting historical learning to a real situation magnifies that learning tremendously. Helping students understand that they can indeed play a role in policy-making is invaluable. Think of the applause you could earn in addition to the academic goals reached. And think of the "opening night" debut if your hero actually some day occupies a position in the U.S. Capitol. Sounds like a standing ovation could be in your future as you contribute to the nation's Hall of Fame! Don't forget to contact your local media channels to have them showcase your efforts to change history! 📺

### Notes

1. When you attend the NCSS Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., be sure to visit the U.S. Capitol — where this whole story will come alive for you. The conference will be held on December 2-4, 2011. Learn about your visit to the Capitol at [www.visitthecapitol.gov](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov).

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Edison with his phonograph in 1878.

# The U.S. Capitol —The Building Where Democracy Happens

The United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., is a symbol of the American people and their government, the meeting place of the nation's legislature. The Capitol also houses an important collection of American art, and it is an architectural achievement in its own right. It is a working office building as well as a tourist attraction visited by millions every year.

Construction of the U.S. Capitol began in 1793. In November 1800, the U.S. Congress met in the first completed portion, the north wing. In the 1850s, major extensions to the North and South ends of the Capitol were authorized because of the great westward expansion of our nation and the resultant growth of Congress. Since that time, the U.S. Capitol and its stately dome have become international symbols of our representative democracy.

The U.S. Capitol Visitor Center is the newest addition to this historic complex. At nearly 580,000 square feet, the Visitor Center is the largest project in the Capitol's more than two-century history and is approximately three quarters the size of the Capitol itself. The entire facility is located underground on the east side of the Capitol so as not to detract from the appearance of the Capitol and the grounds designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1874.

## Online Resources

- Visit the U.S. Capitol website and click on the About link ([www.visitthecapitol.gov/AboutTheCapitol/](http://www.visitthecapitol.gov/AboutTheCapitol/)) to learn about the evolution of the Capitol, the Capitol Visitor Center, the Architect of the Capitol, and Congress.
- See beautiful images and watch informative videos at [www.aoc.gov/cc/multimedia.cfm](http://www.aoc.gov/cc/multimedia.cfm).
- Learn about Philip Reid, the enslaved American who played a key role during the construction of the Statue of Freedom atop the Capitol dome, in the September 2008 issue of *Middle Level Learning*, a free PDF at [www.socialstudies.org/system/files/ml124PhilipReid.pdf](http://www.socialstudies.org/system/files/ml124PhilipReid.pdf). Members of NCSS have access to all of the back issues of *MLL* at the online Publications Archive, [www.socialstudies.org/publications/archive](http://www.socialstudies.org/publications/archive).

