

Washington Monument Milestone

The Fourth of July this year (2018) marked the 170th birthday of the Washington Monument.

Congressman Abraham Lincoln was among the guests who attended the laying of the cornerstone in 1848. By the time of completion, President Lincoln had been dead for 23 years.

Money problems, followed by the Civil War, resulted in the project stalling out at just 150 feet. For nearly 25 years, not a single stone was laid. In 1878, the effort was resumed, and it reached its completed height of 555 feet in 1888.

The monument was built, of course, to commemorate George Washington's roles as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army and the first President of the United States. The structure is made of marble, granite and bluestone gneiss, a high-grade metamorphic rock.

The world's largest freestanding stone building now reaches into the sky because of perseverance, defined by *Merriam-Webster* as "continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition."

At a time when life expectancies were much shorter than today, these diligent people stayed the course, even though it took the majority of their lifetime (40 years) to finish.

When you and I are tempted to quit, take a minute to remember the Apostle Paul's challenge: *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up* (Galatians 6:9 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter