

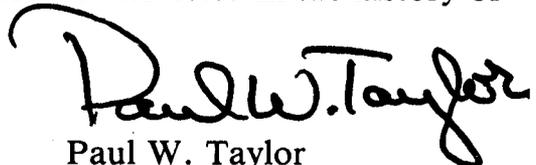
Foreword

At a ceremony on 21 February 1885, President Chester Arthur dedicated the newly completed Washington Monument "to the immortal name and memory of George Washington." A century has since passed, and the white shaft remains the most distinctive feature of the capital skyline.

The monument was many years in the making. Disputes over design, difficulties in raising funds, and the construction itself all added years to the process. The delays ended when a small civilian-military team from the Corps of Engineers, led by Colonel Thomas L. Casey, took over construction management.

The Corps of Engineers had a long association with the monument, during and after construction. Even before the Civil War, Engineer officers provided advice on the soundness and stability of the foundation. Later Casey, who was then officer in charge of public buildings and grounds, took over and saw the monument to completion. Casey's successors managed and maintained the monument for nearly 50 years until establishment of the National Park Service.

This history marks the monument's centennial and pays tribute to the men of the Corps of Engineers who carried out the project, among them Bernard Richardson Green, George W. Davis, and most notably, Thomas L. Casey. This book should be of interest to people associated with the Corps of Engineers or those who are otherwise interested in the history of engineering in the United States.



Paul W. Taylor
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Chief of Staff