



Lake Almanor Community Church

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Dear Mrs. Bomar:

My wife and I led a tour group of 55 Californians to the Washington, D.C. area in early June of 2007. One of the sites we visited on June 4 was the Washington Monument, in which we beheld what we believe to be, at very least, an unnecessary withholding of information to the public or, at most, an intentional one about its religious history and dedication.



(Source of photo unknown at time)

I apologize for my delay in writing, as I wanted to respond to you as soon as we returned to California, but I was caught up in several summer emergency situations with my pastoral position, then I was invited on a trip to Iraq with Chuck Norris in September during which we visited 15 bases there.

Before going to the Washington Monument, I read online all about it at the National Park Service (NPS) website. (<http://www.nps.gov/archive/wamo/home.htm>) Particularly of interest to me was the capstone,

about which the NPS website (<http://www.nps.gov/archive/wamo/history/chap5.htm>) says the following, as quoted from "A History of the Washington Monument (1844-1968)" by George J. Olszewski (1971):



Setting the aluminum capstone (from NPS website) on Dec. 6, 1884

SETTING THE CAPSTONE

To complete the obelisk, the aluminum capstone weighing 100 ounces, the largest single piece of aluminum cast to that time, was placed atop the pyramidion on Saturday, December 6, 1884. Colonel Casey was elated at meeting his deadline for completion of the Washington Monument.

Prior to delivery of the capstone in Washington, it was placed on exhibit at Tiffany's in New York City where it was placed on the floor and persons could have the dubious prestige of "jumping over the top of the Washington Monument." Engraved on the four sides of the capstone was the official record of the construction of the monument.

The west face read: "Corner Stone laid on bed of foundation, July 4, 1848. First stone at height of 152 feet laid August 7, 1880. Capstone set December 6, 1884"; and the east face read "LAUS DEO." [Praise be to God] The north and south faces contained names of the commission and the key men in the work of completion. Although weatherbeaten, the inscription is still visible.

The laying of the capstone was appropriately celebrated. At the top of the monument, a special scaffolding had been constructed where the principals involved with the construction of the monument could stand. As thousands of eyes were trained upward toward the pinnacle, a 60-mile-per-hour wind was blowing, and the footing was dangerous. According to S. H. Nealy's sketch of the ceremony, P. H. McLaughlin, project superintendent, placed the tip on the pyramidion as the rigger, James Hogan, released an American flag to signify the completion to

the cheers of the crowd below and the booming of cannon brought from Fort Myer, Va., especially for the occasion. Also on the top platform were Bernard R. Green, civil engineer, Capt. G. W. Davis, assistant project engineer, Colonel Thomas Lincoln Casey, Chief project engineer, and Lewis O'Brien, foreman.

Specifically those highlighted or thanked on each side of the capstone were the following (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Monument)

The four faces of the pyramidal point all bear inscriptions:

North Face	West Face	South Face	East Face
JOINT COMMISSION AT SETTING OF CAPSTONE. CHESTER A. ARTHUR. W. W. CORCORAN, Chairman. M. E. BELL. EDWARD CLARK. JOHN NEWTON. Act of August 2, 1876.	CORNER STONE LAID ON BED OF FOUNDATION JULY 4, 1848. FIRST STONE AT HEIGHT OF 152 FEET LAID AUGUST 7, 1880. CAPSTONE SET DECEMBER 6, 1884.	CHIEF ENGINEER AND ARCHITECT, THOS. LINCOLN CASEY, COLONEL, CORPS OF ENGINEERS. found here Assistants: GEORGE W. DAVIS, CAPTAIN, 14TH INFANTRY, BERNARD R. GREEN, CIVIL ENGINEER. Master Mechanic. P. H. MCLAUGHLIN.	LAUS DEO. [Praise be to God (Latin)]

The replica of the capstone

Obviously one cannot view the capstone atop the Monument, so the NPS has made a replica and placed it for all to see within the Monument on the 2nd floor from the top, where there is a mini-museum and one catches the elevator to descend to the ground. I somehow walked right by the replica in my first visit to D.C. (2006) so was anxious to check it out in my second visit (2007).



(Source of photos unknown at time)

One of four sides of the capstone etched with dedication words A view of two sides of the capstone

Upon reaching the top of the Monument and joining another part of our group already up there, the Principal of our school rushed to me and said, “You must have been mistaken about one side of the capstone reading LAUS DEO (“Praise be to God”) in Latin.” I asked puzzled, “Why’s that?” She replied, “Because it’s no where on the replica.”

I took a quick look around and out the four windows looking toward the White House (north), Lincoln Memorial (west), the Jefferson Memorial (south), and the Capitol (east). Then I walked downstairs and began to stare intently at the replica. I looked through the glass box that encased the capstone, and I read the inscriptions on all THREE visible sides—with the names of the engineers, architects, builders, words of dedication, etc.



(Source of photo unknown at time)

As the capstone replica sits today (2007) in the 2nd floor from the top of the Washington Monument

I then realized the fourth side of the capstone base was pressed so tightly up against the wall that one could no way read what was inscribed upon the 4th side of the capstone facing the wall. So I pressed my head firm against the wall above the replica and tried to catch an angle of light, while squinting to see any writing at all. I could barely make out some etching looking down from that bird’s eye view, but there was simply no way I would have known what it said unless I already knew the saying was there--“Laus Deo.” So surely I thought, if the one side of the replica is hidden from public sight, they have certainly written something about it. There was no description of “Laus Deo” on the front side of the replica stand. There was also no description of “Laus Deo” on the large information display on the wall in back of the replica. There was nothing there, absolutely NOTHING—no way for any visitor to ever know that the words, “Laus Deo” (“Praise be to God”), were inscribed on the original capstone!

So I sought a ranger with the National Park Service in the Monument and asked, “Why are the words ‘Laus Deo’ on the replica of the capstone hidden from view?” She smiled at me and said, “It’s not a conspiracy or anything.” Interesting first answer I thought! I replied, “I didn’t say anything about conspiracy. I was just wondering why all the sides of the replica are not shown to the public?”....[What

she said next and what I discovered about revisions to the LAUS DEO display led to over 200,000 upset Americans contacting the National Park Service and a *Fox News* “Live” report at the Washington Monument, and most of all the changing of the LAUS DEO sign and display!]....

*To read the exciting ending to this story, see actual photos of how the wording and position of the LAUS DEO display was changed, and hear how this “monumental omission” turned into a “secret monumental restoration,” [go to this website’s online store to download the whole story and research with colored photos for only \\$2.95](#) or you can [download all four revisionist stories and research with colored photos for \\$9.95](#) (titled collectively, “*Uncovering Christian Revisionism in America*,” which includes 106 pages of documentation on the revisions at Jamestown, Monticello, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Washington Monument, plus bonus materials on how the famous urban legend debunking website, www.snopes.com, made biased liberal changes against Todd’s research in their article on the U.S. Supreme Court-Ten Amendment/Commandment debate).*