

In July 2010....



Chaplain Todd DuBord (www.NationalTreasures.org) again visited the Washington Monument in July 2010 and the new capstone replica display, at the top inside of the monument. It is now permanently mounted on the wall and off the ground (so that it can't be moved around), with a new display sign restoring the sentence that explains the Laus Deo etching. The actual capstone is also now turned out from the wall so that visitors can see the inscription "Laus Deo," which is now visible to the eye for examination and education (below photo).

Washington Monument Cast Aluminum Tip (Reproduction)

The builders searched for an appropriate metal for the apex that would not tarnish and would act as a lightning rod. They chose a rare metal of the time, aluminum.

This reproduction is oriented as the original sits outside atop the Washington Monument.

You are facing the west side, which reads:

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.

The east side, facing away from you, reads:

Laus Deo
[Praise be to God (Latin)]

The new display sign re-adds the description of "Laus Deo"



A close up of the Washington Monument capstone replica display turned out from the wall so that visitors can now see and read the inscription, "Laus Deo" ("Praise be to God")