

CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ



Cultural and Historical Attractions



Welcoming Guests for Three hundred years!

Annual Events

SUNDAY BEFORE MOTHER'S DAY:
Partners in Preservation Annual Plant Sale: at the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, North Wildwood. www.wildwoodnjhistory.com

MAY: 3RD SATURDAY
Armed Forces Day at the Tower: Cape May Point. www.capemaymac.org

MEMORIAL DAY:
Memorial Day ceremonies, free lunch: at the Stone Harbor Life Saving Station/American Legion, Stone Harbor. www.stephencludlampost331.org

JUNE 14TH:
Flag Day Ceremony: Stone Harbor Life Saving Station/American Legion, Stone Harbor. www.stephencludlampost331.org

JUNE: 2ND SATURDAY
Olde House Tour: Avalon Historical Society, Avalon. www.Avalonhistorycenter.org

JUNE: 3RD SATURDAY
Annual Antiques and Craft Fair: Greater Cape May Historical Society, Wilbraham Park, West Cape May. www.capemayhistory.org

JULY: 3RD SATURDAY
Annual Clamshell Pitching Tournament: Avalon History Center, Avalon. www.Avalonhistorycenter.org

AUGUST 7TH:
National Lighthouse Day: Celebrate at these lighthouses:
Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, North Wildwood. www.herefordlighthouse.org
Cape May Lighthouse, Cape May Point. www.capemaymac.org

OCTOBER: 3RD WEEKEND
The Lighthouse Challenge of NJ: The following sites participate:
Cape May Lighthouse: Cape May Point. www.capemaymac.org
Hereford Inlet Lighthouse: North Wildwood. www.herefordlighthouse.org
Tatham Lifesaving Station: Stone Harbor. www.stephencludlampost331.org
US Life Saving Station 30: Ocean City. www.uslifesavingstation30.org

NOVEMBER: 1ST SATURDAY
Candlelight Walk: Historic Cold Spring Village, Cold Spring. www.hcsv.org

NOVEMBER 11TH:
Veterans' Day Ceremonies: Stone Harbor Life Saving Station/American Legion, Stone Harbor. www.stephencludlampost331.org

DECEMBER: 1ST FRIDAY
Annual Holiday Church, Bed & Breakfast & House Tour:
Partners in Preservation, North Wildwood. www.wildwoodnjhistory.com
Annual Christmas Tree Lighting: Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, North Wildwood. www.herefordlighthouse.org

DECEMBER: 1ST SATURDAY
Holiday Open House: Avalon History Center, Avalon. www.Avalonhistorycenter.org
Wassail Day: Historic Cold Spring Village, Cold Spring. www.hcsv.org

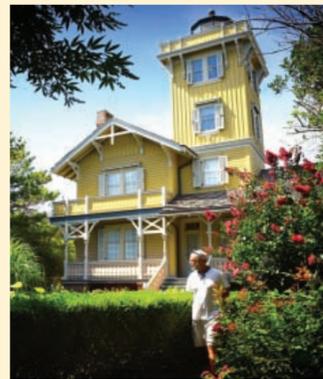
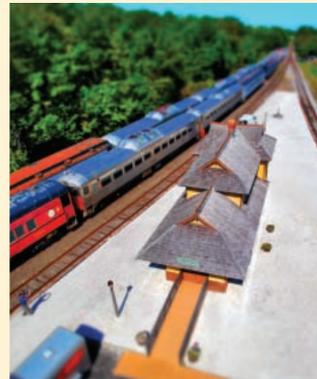
DECEMBER: FIRST THREE SATURDAYS
Christmas Candlelight House Tour: Cape May. www.capemaymac.org

Cultural and Historical Attractions CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ

Cape May County's heritage lies within the farming and fishing industry, with settlers coming to the area more than 325 years ago to fish the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware Bay and farm the fertile soil of the mainland. Today tourism drives the economy and fishing and farming remain part of the appeal that brings visitors back year after year. Learn about the rich history of Cape May County through the many museums and historic sites listed in this brochure.



FUNDING HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION, DEPARTMENT OF STATE.



CAPE MAY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM,
PUBLIC INFORMATION & CULTURE AND HERITAGE
CAPE MAY COUNTY CULTURE & HERITAGE COMMISSION
CAPE MAY COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
4 Moore Rd, DN 135, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210

WWW.CMCCULTURE.NET

CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ



1. AVALON HISTORY CENTER
2. CAPE MAY LIGHTHOUSE
3. CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ARTS
4. DENNIS TOWNSHIP OLD SCHOOL HOUSE MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER
5. THE DOO WOP PRESERVATION LEAGUE MUSEUM
6. EMLÉN PHYSICK ESTATE
7. ENDICOTT REARDON FAMILY MUSEUM
8. FORGOTTEN WARRIORS MUSEUM
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19. SEA ISLE CITY MUSEUM
20. THE AMERICAN LEGION, STEPHEN C. LUDLAM, POST 331 TATHAM LIFESAVING STATION
21. STONE HARBOR MUSEUM
22. TUCKAHOE RAILROAD STATION
23. TURTLE GUT INLET PARK
24. US LIFE SAVING STATION 30
25. WILDWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY GEORGE F. BOYER MUSEUM
26. WORLD WAR II LOOKOUT TOWER

County History

INDIAN HERITAGE: The first people to inhabit Cape May County were Paleo Indians, who were followed by the Lenape. The Lenape lived in small camps along the shore in the summer, and inland the rest of the year.

EUROPEAN EXPLORATION: In 1609, Henry Hudson was sailing and spotted the Delaware Bay. He turned in, but ran aground. He turned back out to sea and continued north to discover the North (Hudson) River. In 1620 Captain Cornelius Jacobsen Mey sailed into the Delaware Bay, naming the north cape, Cape Mey. Later, English speaking settlers changed the spelling to May.

ENGLISH SETTLEMENT: Around 1685, the first permanent settlement was founded. The abundance of whales in the Delaware Bay attracted fisherman. The first settlement was established on the banks of the Delaware Bay in what was called Portsmouth or New England Town, today called Town Bank. Quaker settlers built houses and started farms in the northern end of the county.

FOUNDING OF CAPE MAY COUNTY: Cape May County was formally created on November 12, 1692, by an Act of the General Assembly of the Province of West New Jersey. It was among the four counties formally created.

EARLY INDUSTRIES: The primary industry of early settlers was fishing, particularly whaling. Off season, they farmed. They also had salt works for the preservation of food, mills for processing the wheat into flour, and saw mills to produce lumber. Although residents no longer "go whaling," or build large ships, farming and fishing are still important industries in the county. Small farms cater to the demand for fresh produce at local restaurants and the fishing fleet ranks second among the fleets on the East Coast.

RESORT BEGINNINGS: Cape Island (now Cape May) grew in popularity as resort beginning in the late 1700's. In the early days, most visitors traveled by steamship or coastal schooners. With the coming of the railroad, the number of visitors greatly increased and the other islands were developed.

BARRIER ISLAND SETTLEMENTS: Until the 1880's, the barrier islands were used by farmers to graze their sheep and cattle and were the sites of lifesaving stations. By the late 1800's, the improvement of the roads across the wetlands, along with rail service, greatly increased the popularity of the barrier islands.

WAR YEARS: During the Revolutionary War, Cape May County sent two militias to the Continental Army, however, its greatest contribution was providing privateers to attack British supply ships. During both World Wars, Cape May County was the site of military encampments as the entrance to the Delaware Bay was an important strategic location. Two Navy bases, Naval Air Station Wildwood and Naval Air Station Cape May trained pilots and stood guard over the sea operations while Fort Miles guarded the entrance to the bay with lookout towers and gun emplacements.

1. AVALON HISTORY CENTER
215 39th St, Avalon NJ 08202. 609-967-0090.
www.avalonhistorycenter.org

The Avalon History Center features iconic exhibits from Avalon's yesteryear. Visitors can explore and learn about the fascinating history that surrounds this island by viewing photographs, artifacts, and ephemera from Avalon's past. Have you seen pictures of the island after the Storm of '62? Want to show your kids or grandkids Avalon's long-gone businesses, like Sullivan's or the Bongo Room? The History Center has it all and is open year-round. Be sure to check the website, or follow on Facebook, for the latest in acquisitions, family-fun programs, and upcoming special events! Free admission.



2. CAPE MAY LIGHTHOUSE
215 Lighthouse Ave., Cape May Point NJ 08201. 609-884-5404.
www.capemaymac.org



Learn about our rich maritime history and enjoy an unparalleled view of the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean with a climb to the top of the Cape May Lighthouse. The present tower, which is the third documented lighthouse at the southern tip of New Jersey, has been an aid-to-navigation for mariners and attraction for visitors since it was built in 1859. More than 2.5 million visitors have climbed the lighthouse since it opened to the public in 1988. For those who choose not to climb,

the Oil House on the grounds contains a fully accessible Visitors' Orientation Center and Museum Shop carrying souvenirs, books and maritime items.

3. CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ARTS
717 Franklin St., Cape May NJ 08204. 609-884-7525.
www.centerforcommunityarts.org

CCA's Community History Program is dedicated to discovering, preserving and presenting the African American history of Cape May County. The Program creates annual exhibits and panel discussions in partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, presents tours during Cape May's tourist season and by appointment, and administers the growing John T. and Janet D. Nash Archives of African American History. Tours include the African American Heritage Walking Tour of Cape May and the Underground Railroad Trolley Tour.



4. DENNIS TOWNSHIP OLD SCHOOL HOUSE MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER
571 Petersburg Rd., P.O. Box 204, Dennisville, NJ 08214. 609-861-1899.
www.DennisTwpMuseum.org



Our museum is devoted to the collection of artifacts, historic documents, and memorabilia as well as early photographs of our eight villages which are: Belleplaine, Clermont, Dennisville, Eldora, Northwest Dennis, Ocean View, South Dennis and South Seaville. The Museum is Handicapped Accessible and A.D.A. Compliant.

5. THE DOO WOP PRESERVATION LEAGUE MUSEUM
4500 Ocean Ave., Wildwood NJ 08260. 609-729-4000.
www.doowopusa.org

The Doo Wop Preservation League was formed to preserve the mid-century architecture and spirit of Doo Wop in the Wildwoods. Visit the Doo Wop Museum and enjoy memorabilia from the era. Stop for a quick lunch or snack at the 1950's lunch counter. Relive the thrill of the Wildwoods in the 1950's & 1960's and see the best of Wildwood's Doo Wop architectural landmarks while your guide recounts the popular culture of the era on one of our Doo Wop Tours, including the popular music of the day. A visit or tour is great for all ages.



6. EMLÉN PHYSICK ESTATE
1048 Washington St., Cape May NJ 08204. 609-884-5404.
www.capemaymac.org



A visit to the Physick Estate today offers a look back at our Victorian past as evidenced by its architecture, decorative arts, customs, and the lives of one particular Cape May family, the Physicks. The estate was completed in 1879. The Physicks' distinctive home illustrates their changing tastes as well as the particulars of the Victorian lifestyle in Cape May. A tour of the 15 beautifully restored rooms gives you a glimpse into the lives of this Victorian-era Cape May family.

The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities operates the estate as a Victorian historic house museum and offers guided tours year-round. The four-acre estate also includes the Carriage House Museum Shop, the Carroll Gallery with year round exhibits and the Carriage House Cafe & Tearoom.

7. ENDICOTT REARDON FAMILY MUSEUM
3036 S Shore Rd., Seaville NJ 08230. 609-624-0600. www.ermuseum.com

The Endicott-Reardon Family Museum provides a history of life in mid-twentieth century America, with emphasis on family life, traditions, and artifacts. For over 100 years The Endicott and Reardon families lived in this area and lovingly preserved, documented and archived aspects of their lives and life in the region. Come experience the story of the Endicotts and Reardons and their collections from earlier times. Enjoy exhibits relating to life, work, community and the greater world.



8. FORGOTTEN WARRIORS MUSEUM
529 Forrestal Rd., Cape May Airport, Rio Grande NJ 08242. 609-374-2987



The Forgotten Warriors Museum features memorabilia, authentic artifacts and powerful displays about the conflicts in Korea and Viet Nam, all cared for and displayed with pride and reverence. Tucked away in the Cape May County Airport, it's worth the trip. A very emotional experience for veterans of those conflicts. You will find it's well-worth the time. Visiting Forgotten Warriors is something you will never forget!

9. FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township, 859 South Shore Rd., Palermo, NJ
www.uppertwphistory.org

The Friendship School, maintained by the Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township, opened in 1831 and is believed to have been in use until about 1865, when it was replaced by a larger building. The one room school served students in the Palermo section of the Township. Also on the property are the Seaville School privy, c. 1900, and a coal and storage shed, c. 1900, from the grounds of the Palermo Elementary School. They are open for school tours. To schedule a tour, contact the Historical Preservation Society.



10. J.W. GANDY FARMSTEAD
Historic Preservation Society of Upper Township, 26 Tyler Rd. (Rte 616),
Greenfield NJ 08250. www.uppertwphistory.org

The J.W. Gandy Farmstead, maintained by the Historic Preservation Society of Upper Township, was built in 1815. From 1815 to 1950, the house sheltered, and the land supported, generations of farmers, mariners, ship-builders, weavers, preachers and public office holders. John Wesley Gandy was a farmer, minister, constable and district superintendent of schools and was a manager of the Cedar Swamp Meadow Company. The Society has created a period farmstead, including the farm house and various outbuildings. The house is open for special events, but the public is welcome to visit the site, which includes interpretative signage, during daylight hours.



11. MEMUCAN HUGHES COLONIAL HOUSE
Greater Cape May Historical Society, 653 1/2 Washington Street (next to City Hall),
609-884-9100. www.capemayhistory.org



The Memucan Hughes Colonial House is the headquarters of the Greater Cape May Historical Society. The house, circa 1730, was originally a tavern and the family house of Revolutionary War Patriot Memucan Hughes. The front room features a tavern room, a second room depicts a colonial era cooking room. A meeting room added in the 1930's is a research and changing exhibit room. In a town of homes built in the Victorian style, the colonial house is a unique house that features Cape May's earliest history.

12. HEREFORD INLET LIGHTHOUSE & GARDENS
111 N. Central Ave., North Wildwood, NJ 08260. 609-522-4520
www.herefordlighthouse.org

The Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, designed by Paul J. Pelz in 1873, is a working lighthouse as well as a museum. Visitors will learn about the structure's history and get a glimpse into the life of a lighthouse keeper in the late 19th & early 20th centuries. Period rooms in the lighthouse recreate the lighthouse keeper's work and home. There is also a gift shop on the first floor of the Lighthouse. A park surrounding the building overflows with numerous flower gardens that have won many awards.



13. HISTORIC COLD SPRING VILLAGE
720 Route 9, Cape May NJ 08204, 609-898-2300. www.hcsv.org



Historic Cold Spring Village is New Jersey's largest living history museum. Its 27 restored antique buildings are located on 22 wooded acres adjacent to an eight-acre farm field which is reserved for heritage farming. Visitors are introduced to rural life in southern New Jersey in the early 19th century through active demonstrations of 19th century trades and crafts by knowledgeable historically clothed interpreters, exhibits of collections, and a variety of family oriented special programs. Cold Spring Brewery opened at the Village in

2016 in a heavy timber frame barn. The brewery uses contemporary techniques inspired by historic recipes to allow visitors to enjoy a taste of history.

14. HOLLY BEACH PARK
Partners in Preservation, Andrews Ave. between Pacific & NJ Aves., Wildwood NJ 08260.
www.wildwoodnjhistory.com

A one room schoolhouse was built here in 1892 for 10 students. It was also used for church services and as City Hall when Wildwood was incorporated in 1895. A larger school was built in 1896, called the Andrews Avenue School. After it was torn down, the ground was dedicated as a park. The park now contains the school bell, a maypole, the Mimi house and a fishermen's memorial. The park is open to the public.



15. THE MUSEUM OF CAPE MAY COUNTY
504 Route 9 North, Cape May Court House, NJ 08210. 609-465-3535.
www.cmcmmuseum.org



Representing the history of the entire County of Cape May, a tour of The Museum of Cape May County is like a walk through a cornucopia of history. Rooms teeming with acquisitions demonstrate the resiliency and elegance of our county's population - from its indigenous people, through its early settlers, to those who forged us into the vibrant county we are today. Housed in a building that has been continuously inhabited since 1704 as well as a historic barn and carriage

house, each room of The Museum of Cape May County is devoted to a subject or time that will hold you spellbound as you make your way through our county's past.

16. NAVAL AIR STATION WILDWOOD AVIATION MUSEUM
500 Forrestal Rd., Cape May Airport, Rio Grande NJ 08242. 609-886-8787.
www.usnasw.org

Naval Air Station Wildwood (NASW) Aviation Museum is a non-profit museum located at the Cape May Airport inside historic Hangar #1. Commissioned in April 1943, NASW served as an active dive-bomber squadron training facility during World War II. Today, Hangar #1 has been restored and transformed into an Aviation Museum that houses a number of aircraft, engines, special exhibits, and educational interactive displays. The museum invites visitors to explore aviation, New Jersey, military and WWII history through "hands-on," fun and educational activities for the entire family! Bring the kids and travel back in time to this 92,000 square foot sampling of the 1940's (and don't forget your camera!)



17. OCEAN CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1735 Simpson Ave., Ocean City NJ 08226. 609-399-1801.
www.ocnjmuseum.org



The Ocean City Historical Museum has been delighting, inspiring and educating visitors to Ocean City, NJ since 1964. A non-profit museum dedicated to the history of Ocean City, it exhibits all things pertaining to Ocean City's past. The Museum is open year-round to the public, free of charge. The Museum also provides programming on topics of Ocean City and national history. The gift shop at the Museum sells related books and souvenirs. We hope you visit soon.

18. THE SAM AZEEZ MUSEUM
610 Washington Ave., Woodbine NJ 08270. 609-861-5355.
www.thesam.org

The Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage celebrates the history of the wave of immigration at the end of the 19th century that brought Russian Jewish settlers to the area known as Woodbine to be developed as an agricultural colony. Housed in the historical Brotherhood Synagogue, the Museum is focused on hate and prejudice reduction and education. Designated as the Cape May County Teaching Center for the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, the Museum provides both onsite and in-classroom programming to students from 5th through 12th grades. Students are encouraged to learn about the past, exchange ideas in the present, and work towards a harmonious future. From its beginning, Woodbine remains as a living example of the values and ideals of its founders.



19. SEA ISLE CITY MUSEUM
4800 Central Ave., Sea Isle City NJ 08243. 609-263-2992.
www.seaislemuseum.com

Welcome to the Museum! - the repository of Sea Isle City's 135 year history. We have an eclectic array of artifacts on display, ranging from a hundred-year-old trolley bell to a jet pilot's flight suit from the 1970s. Our research material includes thousands of photographs, maps, books, pamphlets, and personal remembrances, plus collections on specialized subjects such as The Storm of 1962 and the history of Sea Isle railroads, which played a critical role in the development of the city. We invite visitors to browse through our displays and collections, or sit and research any desired subject at leisure. It's free - and there's no time limit.



20. THE AMERICAN LEGION, STEPHEN C. LUDLAM, POST 331 TATHUM LIFESAVING STATION
117th Street and 2nd Avenue, Stone Harbor, NJ. 609-368-2294.
www.stephencludlampost331.org



The American Legion, Stephen C. Ludlam Post 331, is the oldest building in this beautiful community. It was built in 1895 as a Life-Saving Station and is a National Historic Register structure. In addition to being a Legion Post, it is also a museum honoring the Life-Saving Service, the Coast Guard and all of the military services with a variety of artifacts, art works and displays. Visits are welcomed and encouraged during the summer months and the 3rd weekend

in October for the Lighthouse Challenge of NJ, to learn more about the important work of the Life Saving Service and US Coast Guard, as well as those who served our country in all the branches of the Armed Services. Each year, the public is welcome to participate in ceremonies and luncheons on Memorial Day, Flag Day and Veterans Day.

21. STONE HARBOR MUSEUM
9410 Second Ave., Stone Harbor NJ 08247. 609-368-7500.
www.stoneharbormuseum.org

Visiting our museum, you will have fun viewing our collection of vintage bathing suits, a Cheetah Cat sailboat built here at the Deschamps boatyard, old photos of Stone Harbor and displays on the early days of the island community, the trains, boat yards, churches, schools, 96th Street, the beaches, as well as old maps and many binders full of photos and articles for research or just enjoyment. You can also watch videos of oral histories and a featured video "Stone Harbor Stories," the history of Stone Harbor in pictures and prose. Visit our museum and learn about our fascinating history.



22. TUCKAHOE RAILROAD STATION
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Twp., Railroad Ave & Mill Rd.,
Tuckahoe, NJ 08250. www.uppertwphistory.org



The Tuckahoe Station was built in 1894, in the Queen Anne style. The coming of the railroad was an economic boon to the village of Tuckahoe, as it was the main junction to Cape May County's seashore communities. The station is currently maintained by the Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township and is open on select dates. Trains run from the station on special occasions. Check the Society website for specific details.

23. TURTLE GUT INLET PARK
Partners in Preservation, Miami and New Jersey Aves., Wildwood Crest NJ 08260

The Battle of Turtle Gut Inlet (June 29, 1776) was an important, early naval victory for the Continental Navy. In the early hours of June 29, pursued by the British, the brig Nancy, loaded with gunpowder and supplies for the Continental Army, headed for the nearby Turtle Gut Inlet, where she ran aground in shallow water. By late in the morning of June 29, most of the gunpowder had been removed. The crew created a long fuse running from the gunpowder kegs remaining in the hold to the deck and over the side. The fuse was lit as the crew abandoned ship. The British quickly boarded Nancy, but by then the fuse had reached the hold and the gunpowder exploded resulting in the death of seven British sailors. Learn the entire story of the Nancy with a visit to Turtle Gut Inlet Park.



24. US LIFE SAVING STATION 30
4th Street & Atlantic Ave., Ocean City NJ 08226.
www.uslifesavingstation30.org

Built in 1885-86, U.S. Life Saving Station 30 served the U.S. Life Saving Service for 30 years and the U.S. Coast Guard Station #126 for 20 years after that. It was saved from demolition in 2010 and is being restored as a living history museum in Ocean City, depicting the life of the Lifesaving Service and the men who served at this station. It is the only Life Saving Station left in New Jersey that was rebuilt according to the Service's distinctive 1882 type design. Call John Loeper to arrange a tour at 609-398-5553.



25. WILDWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY GEORGE F. BOYER MUSEUM
3907 Pacific Ave., Wildwood NJ 08260. 609-523-0277.
www.z.com



The George F. Boyer Museum and the Wildwood Historical Society offer vintage photos, artifacts and memorabilia relating to the Wildwoods from the 1800's to the present. There are special sections dedicated to the police and fire departments, the beach patrol, and history-making residents. There are local newspapers dating back to 1897, books on entertainment, transportation, old hotels and houses and the Boardwalk. Learn the real history of rock 'n' roll and its beginnings in Wildwood.

The museum includes a research library available to the public. The price of admission is a donation.

26. WORLD WAR II LOOKOUT TOWER
Sunset Blvd., Lower Township NJ 08204. 609-884-5404.
www.capemaymac.org

Fire Control Tower No. 23 is New Jersey's last remaining restored World War II tower, part of the immense Harbor Defense of the Delaware system known as Fort Miles. Built in 1942, the tower was one of 15 towers that helped aim batteries of coastal artillery, stretching from North Wildwood, NJ, to Bethany Beach, DE. Fire Control Tower No. 23 is on land now part of the Cape May Point State Park. The Tower includes original wooden ladders, the watch room and viewing platform at the top. There are interpretive panels along the walkway and at every level in the Tower. The 3rd level of the Tower features a "Wall of Honor" with then-and-now photographs of over 100 area World War II veterans. In 2012, an "All Veterans Memorial" was erected on the deck at the base of the Tower.

