

VETERANS MEMORIALS IN GROTON, CONNECTICUT

Town Hall

Location: Town Hall lobby at 45 Fort Hill Road, Groton, CT

GIS: Lat 41.3455 Long -72.0334

This memorial is a large bronze tablet on the entry wall. "Dedicated to Those Who Served in the war 1917-1919." There are 324 names listed, including four who died.

Memorial Plaza between Groton Public Library and Senior Center

Location: West side of State Route 117, south of I-95 Exit 88, and 0.1 miles north of U.S. Route 1, Fort Hill Road.

GIS: Lat 41.3487 Long -72.0302

This plaza includes three large, light grey granite stones dedicated May 26, 1984. The three stones are connected by two granite benches to form a continuous whole. The left Stone is inscribed World War I - World War II, and the right stone is inscribed Korea – Vietnam. The central stone is inscribed "The citizens of Groton, Connecticut have not forgotten the courage, valor, and sacrifice of their veterans of all wars."

A fourth stone was dedicated November 16, 1997, as the Twentieth Century memorial stone. This stone has a carved inscription that reads "Dedicated by the Town of Groton in honor and memory of those who lost their lives in the service of our nation." It shows the insignia of six Armed Services, including the Merchant Marine, without captions. It lists the names of 67 persons who died in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Old Mystic

Location: Triangle at the intersection of River Road, Shewville Road and State Route 27.

GIS: Lat 41.3915 Long -71.9616

Rough cut granite monument labeled "Old Mystic – Our Boys and Girls who Served in World War II." There are 122 names listed, including two deaths.

Mystic

Location: Intersection of West Main Street (U.S. Route 1) and Library Street in Mystic.

GIS: Lat 41.3538 Long -71.9734

Polished pink granite monument with the carved inscription "1917-1918." The bronze tablet, headed "In Commemoration of Loyal Service" lists 269 names from Mystic, Old Mystic and West Mystic, plus three names noted separately as Red Cross. The granite frame is topped with a bronze eagle, and there are wings on each side of the tablet.

This memorial was dedicated on November 11, 1928. An airplane circled over the site and dropped poppies during the dedication event. (*Westerly Sun*, Nov. 13, 1928.)

Noank

Location: Intersection of Elm Street (CT Route 215) and Brook Street.

GIS: Lat 41.331 Long -71.9922

Stone monument labeled "Noank Remembers." The central aspect of this monument is a niche that contains a bell inscribed U.S.S. Venango 1944. Inscribed on the front granite surface are the words: "Honoring the men and women of this community who served in the armed forces of the United States for the cause of liberty."

There are also extensive inscription on the reverse side under "Killed in Action"
David Palmer, Groton Heights, Sept. 6, 1781.

Pvt. Raymond Coon, Jr., Rapido River, Italy, Jan. 22, 1944, 143rd Infantry 36 Division
Bruce D. Palmer, S2C, U.S.N., USS Juneau, Guadalcanal, Nov. 13, 1942.
1st Lt. William F. Phelps, Hanover, Germany, Nov. 26, 1944, 853rd Squadron 8th Air Force

National Submarine Memorial

Location: At the intersection of Thames and bridge Streets, just south of where the Amtrak railroad bridge lands.

GIS: Lat 41.3626 Long -72.0834

This is a complex, oval-shaped site at the intersection of Bridge Street and Fairview Avenue, immediately south of the point where the I-95 Gold Star Bridge reaches Groton.

The memorial site is identified by a granite stone at the east end, inscribed "national Submarine memorial." The stone shows the seal of the Submarine Service and the words, "Dedicated to our Shipmates on Eternal Patrol."

There are 52 low granite tablets surrounding much of the site, each tablet bearing the name and number of a lost World War II submarine and its terminal events, dated from 12/10/41 to 8/6/45. At the center of the site is the sail from SS 249, USS Flasher, built in Groton in 1943. Facing Flasher's sail is a memorial stone with two bronze plaques for USS Triton SS 201, named "Connecticut's Memorial Submarine." At the west end, there is a granite stone with the inscription "US Submarine Memorial. To perpetuate the memory of over 3600 gallant shipmates who gave their lives aboard the 52 submarines lost in World War II. Dedicated by Submarine Veterans of World War II." The names and dates of the 52 submarines are shown on a bronze tablet.

On the south side of the site is the Wall of Honor, a granite stone flanked by five black, polished granite stones inscribed with the names of lost submariners. The central stone carries the words. *"In grateful memory of those submariners who died in the service of their country during World War II. They stand in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die so that freedom might live. Their final resting places are known only to the almighty. Their family, friends, living shipmates, and future generations should know they will always be remembered. Walk softly, walk softly, stranger, you stand on hallowed ground. December 7, 1941 – September 2, 1945."*

Fort Griswold Area (Four memorials)

City of Groton Memorial

Location: SW of the obelisk, facing Park Ave.

GIS: Lat 41.3548 Long -72.0796

Grey Granite monument facing south to Park Ave. It bears the seals of the Army, Navy and Maine Corps. The text states "The City of Groton successor to the Borough of Groton has not forgotten the courage, valor and sacrifices of its veterans of all wars." Below the inscription is the seal of the City of Groton (a political subdivision of the Town of Groton).

Civil War Monument

Location: SE of the obelisk, facing south to Park Avenue.

GIS: Lat 41.3549 Long -72.0787

Atop the monument is a statue of a soldier in full relief, holding a rifle at rest. Below the sculpture is a band on all four sides listing Port Hudson, Gettysburg, Drury's Bluff and Fredericksburg. The inscription states *"Erected by Robert A. Gray and dedicated to the memory of His Brave Comrades who offered their lives for their country in the war of 1861-*

1865." Below the inscription is the central art feature of the State of Connecticut seal with its Latin motto: "*Qui transtulit sustinet.*" (He who transplanted still sustains.)

Obelisk: The Groton Monument

Location: In the center of a park at Park Avenue and Monument Street, north of the entrance to Fort Griswold.

GIS: Lat 41.3550 Long -72.0795

This site includes rest rooms and a small stone museum operated by the State of Connecticut. In season the obelisk is opened, and visitors can climb to the top and its observation portals by way of the interior steps.

The plaque above the entrance reads "This Monument was erected under the patronage of Connecticut A.D. 1830, and in the 55th year of Independence of the United States of America. In memory of the brave Patriots who fell in the battle of Fort Griswold, near this spot, on the 6th of September A.D. 1781 when the British under the Command of the Traitor Benedict Arnold burned the towns of New London and Groton and spread desolation and woe throughout this region."

Visitors may learn that, based on the year its construction was begun, in 1827, this is the **first and oldest patriotic monument in the United States**. The formerly open top level of the obelisk was enclosed in a different color of stone in 1881.

Fort Griswold – Entrance

Location: At the corner of Park Avenue and Monument Street

GIS: Lat 41.3547 Long -72.0802

Bronze tablet mounted in the gatepost at the entrance to Fort Griswold, a Connecticut State Park. The plaque reads "To Defenders of Fort Griswold Sept. 6th 1781" Killed: 87 names, including Lt. Col. William Ledyard, Commanding. Wounded and Paroled: 35 names Prisoners Taken Away: 28 names Escaped: 13 names Released: William Latham, Jr. 12 years of age