



The SOLDIERS' AND SAILOR'S MEMORIAL ARCH, at Trinity St. approach to the Capitol, was designed by Sylvester Bissell in 1885. A medieval arch, 30 feet wide, supported by free-stone round towers at either end, each over 100 feet high and 63 feet in circumference, the structure is enlivened by a terra-cotta frieze representing Civil War soldiers in action.

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch is located in Bushnell Park. The arch was dedicated on September 17, 1886 in honor of the 4,000 Hartford citizens who served in the Civil War, including 400 who died in Union uniforms.

Look closely just below the towers at the arch's terra cotta frieze, which depicts Civil War scenes. The arch also features statues that represent the occupations of those who journeyed from Connecticut to give their lives in defense of the Union and a plaque honoring the 128 African Americans from Hartford who fought on the Union side.

Each Thursday from May through October, the public is invited to venture inside the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch and to climb its 96 steps for views of the park and the city. Guided tours are offered from noon until 1 p.m., and while they are free, donations are requested.

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