

The Mardasson Memorial

The Memorial is shaped as a gigantic five-pointed American star with a 66 foot (20 meter) wide circular atrium at the center. The story of the Battle of the Bulge is inscribed on the 10 panels of the atrium while all of the American military units that participated in the battle are commemorated on the outer walls of the star. The names of the 50 states circumvent the top of its 39 foot (12 meter) high walls. A spiral staircase takes visitors to the top of the Memorial, offering a panoramic view of the fields of battle. Beneath the Memorial is a crypt decorated by mosaics from the French artist Fernand Leger. At the very center of the Memorial is a memorial stone that bears an inscription in Latin that reads “The Belgian People Remember Their American Liberators.”

Private Belgian citizens donated the funds that made the Mardasson Memorial possible, and construction began in 1946. The Memorial was inaugurated on July 16, 1950 in the presence of General Anthony C. McAuliffe. Today, the Memorial serves not only as a witness to the sacrifices made during the Battle of the Bulge, but it also serves as the stage for important commemorations of the battle such as the annual Memorial Day ceremonies.

