

**The connection between a few drops of water found on the floor of the rotunda at the US Capitol and a Hopkinsville native**

*Presented by Taylor Hayes to the Hopkinsville Athenaeum Society  
December 5, 2025*

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary, fellow Athenaeum members and fellow presenter ... I want you to know how important you and this group are to me. Right now, I am missing my grandson's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration this evening. Furthermore, while I am always a fan of a Pioneer's meal, I am also missing the soft opening of the Crusty Pig restaurant literally across the street where Hayden is celebrating his special day.

But you see where my priorities rest. There is some irony in this connection with my grandson, his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday and my chosen paper topic this evening. The subject of my paper knew his career passion at the early age of 12 and recent travels with my grandson indirectly led to the research for this paper.

As some of you know, I have more or less been Hayden's father figure much of his life. Despite our nearly 50 years age difference, we've developed a special bond that's led to many escapades since he was an infant. Now that he is older and given his affinity for social studies, geography and now history ... our trips take on a bit more substance. A key element to our trips includes learning some historical context of the city or the area we visit.

Last year a trip to Philadelphia was a real eye-opening experience for both of us. It was our first visit to the City of Brotherly Love where we visited a number of the major historical sites like Independence Hall ... The Liberty Bell ... Museum of the American Revolution ... the National Constitution Museum ... The Franklin Institute ... The US Mint and the list goes on. We even made the famous Rocky jog up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Ole Pops here was totally exhausted ... Yes by the job but also after this six-day trip ... but experiencing Hayden's excitement about seeing in person what he was learning in school was priceless.

He wanted more ... a lot more. Over the following months he began sharing ideas for our next big trip. We ultimately decided on Washington DC and the research began. I got excited.

I've lost count the number of times I've been to DC ... for work and play. This was going to be a 'PLAY' trip for sure. No lobbying. No meetings. No herding a group from one place to the next. No seminars, workshops or conventions. This was about an 11-year-old and his grandfather taking in the sites, broadening our minds, eating well, taking in a DC United game and enjoying one another's company.

One thing that never changes for me when traveling to DC is the euphoric feeling I get when seeing our capital flying in, traveling over the Potomac River and seeing the historic architectural buildings and monuments that play a role in our country's greatness.

The US Capital building is special for sure. No matter how many times I see it or from whatever direction or at any time of day or time of year, I am in awe of its splendor. Designed in a neoclassical style to evoke the ideals of ancient Greece and Rome, the iconic "Walter Dome" atop the Capitol is recognized around the world as a symbol of American strength, freedom and democracy.

Sadly ... outside of visiting Senator Mitch McConnell's office in the Capitol on several occasions and a quick walk in the rotunda, I have not taken time to tour the capital nor learn more about this architectural triumph. This was a "MUST" for Hayden. We were fortunate to have Congressman Comer's staff and press assistant, Savannah Darnell, as our personal guide. At the time she was a Murray State University senior interning for the congressman. The tour included some far corners of the building away from the larger groups including a visit to the Hall of the House of Representatives. Savannah's knowledge of the capital was impressive. Hayden's engagement with Savannah and inquisitiveness inspired me to want to learn more myself.

Through my casual reading and research, I became captivated about how a few drops of water found on the floor of the rotunda from the dome high above the US Capitol back in 1999 became connected to a Hopkinsville native ... The topic of tonight's paper.

Imagine that Mr. Turner ... **A Hoptown Connection** found at the US Capitol to which I am sure there are many to be found with a little effort.

Those drops set in motion what became known as the U.S. Capitol Dome Restoration project in which a Hopkinsville native, Eugene Poole, Jr., was named the jurisdiction executive and the senior project executive in 2008.

Eugene Poole, Jr., was born in his home where the Hopkinsville Post Office is now located. He was the oldest of six siblings, whose parents were Eugene Poole, Sr. and Juanella Frankie Lynch Poole. His father was a social worker at Western State who passed in 1978. His mother was a homemaker and beautician who passed in 2021 at the age of 96. One set of his grandparents were Charlie (a tailor on Main Street) and Olive Lynch. And if you have not already started to ask yourself if there is a family connection to our very own Wendell Lynch, the answer is yes, they are first cousins.

[My apologies on the front Wendell... I am sure there will be many interesting pieces of trivia about your cousin that will be missed in this paper as there was only so much, I could learn, retain and share after my two plus hour conversation with him along with rounds of emails.]

My conversation with Eugene was intriguing, making me hunger to learn more about the US capital as well as Eugene himself that would be good topics for future papers.

His parents and teachers poured into him a sense of morality and responsibility that would later propel his career in ways he could never have dreamed.

Eugene attended Virginia Street Baptist Church where Ms. Strickland, the minister of music, was a grounding guidance for him. Then his teachers, Ms. Cavanaugh - Belmont Elementary, Ms Yannich - a Math teacher at Highland Elementary, Mr. Koffman - a middle school coach and social studies teacher, Mr. Levi Peterson - a celebrated retired educator at HHS known for his compassion and stern discipline and Dr. Kevin Felton - a retired Sociology professor at Hopkinsville Community College were mentors in the development and shaping of his character, the importance of responsibility, never giving up and significance of leaning in to your passion.

Eugene is now passionate about being a mentor himself, passing it forward to students where he often shares, *“If you have a dream and it’s something that you want to do, in spite of what the naysayers are saying, in spite of what the haters are saying, just stick to it. Just stick to your dream.”*

AS A SIDE NOTE ... of an ironic interest ... Eugene’s first job was the same as mine ... a youth route carrier delivering the Kentucky New Era. While there is a three-year age difference and our routes being in different parts of town (his in the Highland area and mine in the Mooreland Drive and South Virginia Street area), I can’t help but think our paths may have crossed a time or two when we turned our collections in to Charlie Dorroh, the circulation manager, on Saturday mornings. Who knows.

Eugene graduated from HHS in 1978, Hopkinsville Community College in 1980 with an Associate in Science, and the University of Kentucky in 1985 with a B.A. in Architecture.

He knew as young as age 12, he wanted to be an architect. Popsicle sticks, toothpicks, cardboard, or any material would do for Eugene as a child as he was always curious and precocious about how things fit together. He was always curious about the ‘built’ environment as he calls it. Considered a serious student in high school, Eugene liked to build scale models of Kentucky churches. Then in college most of his waking hours were spent designing and constructing models in the studio and working in the wood shop.

He joined the Air Force ROTC during college and upon graduation, Eugene was propelled into a valuable military career, entering as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the field of design. His first assignment was at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. His service took him throughout the U.S. and overseas to Japan, Korea, Saipan, England, Germany and to Guam, his last assignment at Andersen Air Force Base.

He quotes, *“As an Air Force officer I was an architect during my entire Air Force career and experienced an enormous level of responsibility and accountability as I managed millions of dollars of construction and executed all types of new construction, renovations, upgrades, retro-fits, demolitions,*

*building reassignments, restorations and horizontal construction for the Department of Defense."*

Simply put ... the Air Force afforded Eugene the opportunity to be in charge of the design process and to be able to oversee the construction process right off the bat at an early stage in his career. He credits this being a huge blue chip to help him in his career going forward.

Eugene served with distinction in the Air Force from 1985 to spring of 1993 when he took early retirement from the military at the rank of Captain. His last station was in Guam where he remained, opening a private architect practice. This is where he gained valuable knowledge about building preparations for hurricanes and the harsh weather exposure effects to concrete. In 2002, he returned to the States, becoming the Chief Architect at Columbus Air Force Base in Columbus, Mississippi. This is where his professional research and detail planning approach caught the attention of ... as he said, "a lot of DC Brass" when they were on base for a major event he had overseen. Someone was impressed by his work and within days of the group's departure he received a call encouraging him to apply for a position at the AOC ... the Architect of the Capitol.

**Let me digress for a little history and contextual purposes about the AOC. The agency referred to as the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) finds its origins dating to the founding of the federal capital. It is both the name of the U.S. legislative branch agency responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Capitol campus, as well as the title for the leader of the agency.**

The Residence Act of 1790 established Washington, D.C., as the seat of the national government and authorized a Board of Commissioners to "provide suitable buildings for the accommodation of Congress." The commissioner hired Pierre Charles L'Enfant to develop a city plan and Andrew Ellicott to survey the boundaries of the 100-square-mile federal district.

In 1792, Dr. William Thornton's depiction of a grand, two-winged structure topped by a central dome won a public competition for the design of the U.S. Capitol Building (U.S. Capitol). Today, Thornton is credited as the first "Architect of the Capitol." Construction of the U.S. Capitol began when

President George Washington set the building's cornerstone in 1793, and seven years later, in 1800, Congress convened in the building for the first time.

During the 1850s and 1860s, a new position, the Architect of the Capitol Extension, oversaw the cast-iron dome construction and the addition of the north and south extensions to the building. In 1867, Congress combined the responsibilities of the Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds with those of the Architect of the Capitol Extension. Between 1874 and 1892, the grounds surrounding the U.S. Capitol expanded.

During this period, in 1876, Congress established the Architect of the Capitol as a permanent office under the legislative branch of the federal government.

As the size of the Capitol campus continued to expand, so did the AOC's mission and responsibilities. During the 20th century, the agency assumed responsibility for the operation, maintenance and preservation of most of the buildings and grounds around Capitol Hill to support the expanding needs of Congress.

Today the agency is responsible for the maintenance, operation, development, and preservation of over 17 million square feet of buildings and more than 553 acres of land throughout Capitol Hill.

**So Eugene's connection to the AOC started** when his career work to date had grabbed the attention of some very important people in Washington and within the AOC. There were literally hundreds of applications for only a handful of architect positions within the AOC. After submitting his application, he received a call requesting that he travel in for a personal interview. As he shared, "I flew to the East Coast for a mere 10-minute interview and received the call three days later that the position was mine." He was a little shocked and stunned, but also quite excited about this next move on his career path.

Eugene was a bit modest when I asked him what may have put him in the limelight on being selected over hundreds of applications. Based on conversation and my readings, I surmise there are several contributing assets ... the grounding of his character and integrity, his overly attentiveness to detail and planning, and his passion for the profession. Though what I believe

that may have propelled Eugene to a different realm is his tenacious pursuit of understanding the complete context about a project along with its influence on the people and purpose.

Little did Eugene know at the time his indoctrination to working in D.C. and his very first project would be the United States Capitol Dome Restoration Project. This was a full-on rehabilitation of the rotunda, the outer dome, the inner dome and the interstitial space between the inner and outer dome.

Since those few drops of water were discovered on the Rotunda floor in 1999, several years of study and numerous pilot projects were initiated to extensively assess the overall condition of both the interior and exterior dome shells. The project design required many trade professionals and industries coming together to fully assess, vet and define the project scope requirements. In 2008, Eugene was brought in and assigned project manager. His responsibility was to coordinate the findings and manage all the various phases of the U.S. Capitol dome project, including the interim painting phase and the two-year Dome Restoration Design Revalidation.

NOW ... consider the Capitol dome to be the largest cast iron dome in the world. It has been referenced as a unique beast, being a perfect marriage of material and technique of the time. Beyond the iconic nature, remarkable ingenuity of construction, and history — the dome, in which the Statue of Liberty could fit without its base, ultimately sits atop a working office space visited by millions annually from around the world. The ability to balance these needs with the work essential to the health of the dome is one of many challenges the AOC must tackle to which Eugene was to oversee.

In speaking to an architect class at UK, Eugene shared, "Our main goal was to ensure that we performed the work in a responsible manner that is consistent with industry standards while also protecting the existing historical fabric, performing great historic preservation, minimizing any impact to the daily business of Congress, and keeping the project safe for all workers and consultants."

REMEMBER ... this was Eugene's first project working for the AOC. While he was a bit scared and overwhelmed, he was confident his upbringing, training and career experience was why he was chosen and given this opportunity. On

day one he was given a stack of books and tasked to come to work every day to read and understand the documents. He knew he had to truly grasp what the project was all about before developing and initiating design protocol subsequently leading to drafting the statement of work and execution which took nearly four years.

In 2012, he managed procurement actions for the issuance and award of the complete restoration of the U.S. Capitol dome. As he shared with me, he vividly recalls signing off on the statement of work on 12/12/12, his daughter's birthday. (My grandson was 7 days old at this time.) The \$60+ Million project was completed in 2016 just prior to the 45<sup>th</sup> president's inauguration scheduled for January 2017.

Now I ask you to pause and contemplate all of this ... the timeline, the minute details involved and overarching magnitude of responsibility for this task before the work on the dome even started. It is hard to imagine. Eugene shared the most complicated and sometimes most difficult aspects of the work in this position are harnessing the project scope reach and ensuring fiscal responsibility without losing the integrity of the project all while working in a politically charged atmosphere. That is surely what I call a convoluted mouthful to say ... much less think about. Everything requires continuous value engineering to justify the cost while ensuring the necessary functions are provided.

My thoughts about this preparation and working within these fiscal and political parameters are ... What a testament to the hiring committee for recognizing the professional qualities Eugene brought to the position; What a testament to his mentors through his life that grounded him in his character and integrity; What a testament to his personal tenacity to lean into his passion, never to give up; and while I can't say I really know Eugene at a real personal level, What a testament to his humble patience I sense through this simple research I've done.

**The dome project itself was the first** significant exterior renovation of the dome since 1959. The execution under Eugene's management and planned scope of work began after the 2013 inauguration and was to be accomplished in three phases over three years.

The Exterior included repair of iron exterior cracks by metal stitching in which there were over 1000 cracks were found, removal of 150 years of built-up paint to reveal intricate details, preparation of iron substrate, and repainting exterior dome shell with high performance epoxy coating system.

The Interior included upgrading the electrical, mechanical, fire alarm, communications and lighting systems in interstitial space of the dome.

The Rotunda work included the removal of 150 years of built-up paint from the inner dome coffers to reveal details of 1850s iron work that expresses the masterful levels of artistry during that era.

I am no architect nor engineer but I became mesmerized reading about all of this. In my research one of the more fascinating reads was about a small unit of men called the Dome Keepers. Also referred to as the Men in Black, they are head quartered beneath the Capitol with a full fledge sheet metal shop accessible only by a secure elevator. Their sole mission is to battle the forces of wind, water and wildlife to protect and preserve this most important American icon.

Eugene will tell you the most rewarding part of his job is the visual actualization of the work being performed and the three-dimensional results of those efforts. He said, "It is extremely gratifying to design a project, then, watch that project become a reality."

While he may have never imagined taking on leadership of the U.S. Capitol Dome Restoration project, Eugene was honored to do so.

He shared in an article published in 2016, "In 1985 when I was in college at UK, if anyone were to have told me that I would, (in the future), become the project manager for the iconic Dome Restoration project and be the jurisdiction executive for the U.S. Capitol building, I would have laughed and said, 'No way!'; but, here I am, and it's simply awesome! It is an awesome honor to serve as an ambassador for the United States Capitol building and a tremendous responsibility. Restoration of this historic building is the pinnacle of my professional career."

**In conclusion I want to share a few interesting notes about Eugene Poole, Jr ...**



- Eugene continues to serve as Chief Jurisdiction Executive Architect and steward of the U.S. Capitol Building. He is the first African American in the country to serve as US Capitol Jurisdiction Executive.
- The aggregate total of Eugene's professional career accomplishments, including the capital complex construction and management programs, is approaching \$6 billion.
- Eugene is an ordained preacher and a former professor of religion and philosophy. He holds two bachelor's degrees, four master's degrees and a Doctoral degree in ministry he finished in 2024 from Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C.
- Eugene was inducted into the 2020 Hall of Distinguished Alumni at the University of Kentucky on October 1, 2021.
- Eugene has overseen the inauguration ceremonial plans for three presidents ... Obama, Trump and Biden and is currently overseeing the inauguration ceremony set for the second term of Trump. He said the planning begins nearly two years out.
- Eugene is a motivational speaker. He is also a frequent guest speaker and presenter at the Phelps Architecture Construction and Engineering High School in Washington.

- Eugene is a self-taught accomplished artist with an international following. An article published in the Kentucky New Era in 2000 shared his story of becoming an artist. It was after he retired from the Air Force when this passion kicked. One of his pieces hangs prominently in Dr. Alissa Young's office at HCC. In recent years he has found himself immersed in creating life size quilts depicting historical black figures. His first and only exhibit to date of his quilts was this past spring during the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kentucky Derby. The exhibit showcased quilts of the black jockeys who were the prominent riders in the early years of the Kentucky Derby.



- Eugene lives in District Heights, Maryland, continuing to serve as the jurisdiction executive and the senior project executive of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

I have pages upon pages of notes, numerous articles and two hours of audio to reference I can pull information for another entire paper on Eugene and his work as chief jurist within the Architect of the Capitol. There is no doubt Eugene's upbringing, studies and work experience made him the perfect fit to take on such a monumental restoration and serve in this capacity. I can't wait to meet Eugene in person where I hope to be lucky enough to garner a personal tour of the US Capitol by the man who found himself in this unique position after a few drops of water were found in the rotunda of the US Capitol in 1999.

To learn more interesting facts about the US Capitol as well as other buildings and landmarks overseen by the AOC, I highly recommend perusing through the AOC website at <https://www.aoc.gov/>

## SUMMARY VERSION

### **The connection between a few drops of water found on the floor of the rotunda at the US Capitol and a Hopkinsville native**

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After a trip to Washington DC with his 11-year old grandson, Taylor Hayes was inspired to learn more about the US Capitol and Kentucky connections. In his readings and research, he learned how a few drops of water found on the rotunda floor in 1999 from the upper levels of the dome would become a connection with a Hopkinsville native. Those few drops set in motion what became known as the U.S. Capitol Dome Restoration project. This would be the first significant restoration project of the dome since 1959. In 2008 Eugene Poole, Jr., was named the jurisdiction executive and the senior project executive to oversee the project. He is the first African American in the country to serve as US Capitol Jurisdiction Executive. His position fell under the Architect of the Capitol, the federal agency overseeing all the buildings and grounds around Capitol Hill serving the federal government.

Eugene Poole Jr. was the eldest of six children of Eugene Pool Sr. and Juanella Frankie Lynch Poole. He graduated from Hopkinsville High School in 1978, Hopkinsville Community College in 1980 and the University of Kentucky in 1985 earning an Architect degree. Upon graduation he joined the Airforce serving nine years in the field of design with distinction. His career and work in the Airforce, in private practice in Guam and then as the civilian Chief Architect at Columbus Air Force Base caught the attention of leadership at the Architect for the Capital. His first assignment was U.S. Capitol Dome Restoration project that he oversaw from 2008 until its completion in 2016 just prior to the 45<sup>th</sup> President's inauguration ceremony. Eugene has overseen the inauguration ceremonial plans for three presidents ... Obama, Trump and Biden and is currently overseeing the inauguration ceremony set for the second term of Trump.

Eugene continues as the Chief Jurisdiction Executive Architect and steward of the U.S. Capitol Building. He holds numerous bachelor's and master's degrees and finished his doctoral degree in ministry in 2024. He is also an accomplished artist with an international following.

## SOURCES

- An interview by Taylor Hayes with Eugene Poole, Jr. on September 23, 2024 along with several emails

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- **Poole's Palate** – Article published in the Kentucky New Era February 4, 2001
  - [https://www.kentuckynewera.com/article\\_49ad8516-a8a5-51ee-aa69-8a98c7888ee5.html](https://www.kentuckynewera.com/article_49ad8516-a8a5-51ee-aa69-8a98c7888ee5.html)
- **HHS graduate Eugene Poole, Jr. selected to UK Hall of Distinguished Alumni** Sep 30, 2021 Updated Nov 8, 2021
  - [https://www.kentuckynewera.com/living/article\\_14e814de-dd51-51ad-a5d4-dec24f7f8bd7.html](https://www.kentuckynewera.com/living/article_14e814de-dd51-51ad-a5d4-dec24f7f8bd7.html)

### Articles from the University of Kentucky

- **Hall of Distinguished alumni from the UK Alumni Association**
  - <https://www.ukalumni.net/s/article/Eugene-Poole-Jr#:~:text=Eugene%20Poole%20Jr.%20of%20District%20Heights,%20Maryland.%20is>
- **'UK at the Half': UK Alum Eugene Poole** By Meg Mills Nov. 10, 2021
  - [https://uknow.uky.edu/campus-news/uk-half-uk-alum-eugene-poole#:~:text=LEXINGTON,%20Ky.%20\(Nov.%202010,%202021\)%20%E2%80%94%20For%20his](https://uknow.uky.edu/campus-news/uk-half-uk-alum-eugene-poole#:~:text=LEXINGTON,%20Ky.%20(Nov.%202010,%202021)%20%E2%80%94%20For%20his)
- **Hopkinsville native Eugene Poole Jr. encourages students to 'stick to it'** by Meg Mills and Steve Shaffer Oct. 16, 2022
  - [Hopkinsville native Eugene Poole Jr. encourages students to 'stick to it'](https://www.hoptownchronicle.org/news/2022/10/16/hopkinsville-native-eugene-poole-jr-encourages-students-to-stick-to-it/) ([hoptownchronicle.org](https://www.hoptownchronicle.org))
- **UK Alumnus Helps Return US Capitol to Original Grandeur** By Whitney Hale Nov. 16, 2016
  - [UK Alumnus Helps Return US Capitol to Original Grandeur | UKNow \(uky.edu\)](https://www.uknow.uky.edu/campus-news/uk-alumnus-helps-return-us-capitol-original-grandeur#:~:text=Helping%20to%20ensure%20the%20U.S.%20Capitol%20dome%20returned)
  - <https://uknow.uky.edu/campus-news/uk-alumnus-helps-return-us-capitol-original-grandeur#:~:text=Helping%20to%20ensure%20the%20U.S.%20Capitol%20dome%20returned>
- **Kentucky Alumnus Magazine – profile of Eugene Poole, Jr.**, March 24, 2020
  - <https://issuu.com/kentuckyalumni/docs/eugenepoole>

### Articles from the AOC

- **Dome Keepers** By Matt Guilfoyle | March 13, 2010
    - [Dome Keepers | Architect of the Capitol \(aoc.gov\)](https://www.aoc.gov/explore-capitol-campus/blog/dome-keepers)
    - <https://www.aoc.gov/explore-capitol-campus/blog/dome-keepers>
  - **2017 Phelps School Award published** February 9, 2017
    - <https://www.aoc.gov/about-us/news-notice/2017-phelps-school-award>
  - **The Architect of US Capital: Who We Are**
    - <https://www.aoc.gov/about-us/who-we-are>
  - **The History of the AOC**
    - <https://www.aoc.gov/about-us/history>
  - **Capitol Hill Facts Quiz**
    - [Capitol Hill Facts | Architect of the Capitol \(aoc.gov\)](https://www.aoc.gov/explore-capitol-campus/capitol-hill-facts#:~:text=The%20U.S.%20Capitol%E2%80%99s%20length,%20from%20north%20to%20south)
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- **But First They Were Black** (article) By Julie Wilson, May 2, 2024
    - Honoring the Jockeys Who Put Derby on the Map
    - <https://www.story-magazine.com/post/but-first-they-were-black>

## MISC TRIVIA about the US Capitol:

- Every state has two representative statues in the US Capitol. What 2 represent Kentucky?
  - Statue of Henry Clay, Bronze, by Charles Niehaus, 1929, located in the National Statuary Hall
  - Statue of Ephraim McDowell, Bronze, Charles Niehaus, 1929, located in the Capitol Visitor Center
- Henry Clay is one of the top 5 most mentioned/portrayed people in the U.S. Capitol Building
- The Old Senate Rotunda features tobacco flowers as a nod to KY's tobacco industry
- Some of the more notable Kentucky links who spent time at the capital:
  - Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865: President of the forming United States during the Civil War. A Lawyer and the 1860 Republican nominee for U.S. President.
  - Henry Clay 1777-1852: Politician and Statesman; also known as the "Great Compromiser." He was elected to the Kentucky General Assembly and went on to become a member of the U.S. Senate, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.
  - Ephraim McDowell 1771-1830: Noted Doctor and Surgeon. In 1809, he performed a groundbreaking surgery to remove a 22-pound ovarian tumor from Jane Todd Crawford, who was mistakenly thought to be pregnant.
  - Jefferson Davis 1808-1862: Born in Fairview, Ky. He served as a member of the US House of Representatives and of the U.S. Senate. He served as the Secretary of War who was in charge of the construction of the Capitol Extension during the time the Statue of Freedom was commissioned. He went on to become the President of the Confederacy during the Civil War.
  - Alben W. Barkley 1877-1956: He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1913 until 1927. He served in the U.S. Senate from 1927 until he became vice president in 1949. Member of House of Representative 1918-1927 / Member of Senate 1954 -1956.
- There are 36 columns inside the Rotunda. Every other one has a down spout inside.
- President Ronald Reagan's statue designed by architect James McCreery, includes a narrow band of concrete pieces from the Berlin Wall, the scene of the 1987 speech in which Reagan demanded of the Soviet Premier, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"
- TRUE or FALSE – There are bullet holes in the ceiling of the Hall of the House of Representatives. TRUE – The holes still visible are from the gunfire that erupted on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on March 1, 1954, when four Puerto Rican nationalists shot at random from the spectators' galleries, shouting "Viva Puerto Rico libre!"—"Long live free Puerto Rico!" Five members of Congress were injured, one seriously.
  - <https://blogs.loc.gov/headlinesandheroes/2020/05/1954-shooting-at-the-u-s-capitol/>
- Paint color: The company producing the paint for the dome is Sherwin Williams. The color is aptly named "Dome White".

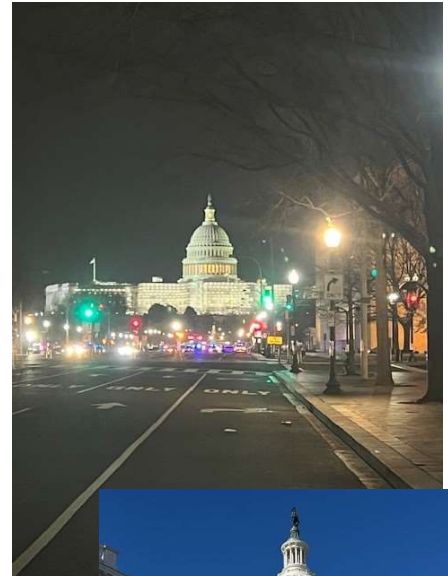


To learn more interesting facts about the US Capitol as well as other buildings and landmarks overseen by the AOC, I highly recommend perusing through the AOC website at <https://www.aoc.gov/>



**Taylor and Hayden Hayes trip to the US Capitol in April 2024.**

**Tour guide was Savannah Darnell with Congressman James Comer's office**



**Citizens for Fort Campbell Advocacy trips February 2023 and 2024**





**Eugene Poole, Jr.**

- Quilt exhibit at the Kentucky Derby 2024
- Outside the capitol during the renovation
- Phelps School working and mentoring students

